

DENGUE WARNING SIGNS

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

Watch out for dengue warning signs!

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

- Severe and continuous headache
- Joint and muscle pain
- Diarrhoea
- Present vomiting
- A sharp rise in temperature
- Disorientation
- Bleeding from gums or nose, blood in stool, urine or vomit
- Redness on the face

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

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PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK FALLOUT

Decide on mode, targets and timing of India's response: PM Modi to armed forces

Chairs meeting with top defence establishment



JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APR 29 (KNO)

In the aftermath of Pahalgam terror attack, which left 26 persons, mostly tourists dead, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given complete operational freedom to the armed forces to decide on the mode, targets, and timing of India's response.

According to the details available with the news agency PM Modi on Tuesday chaired a meet-

ing with the top defence establishment, including Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and the chiefs of three services.

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan was also part of the meeting, which was held amid India weighing its options for countermeasures following the Pahalgam terror attack.

Prime Minister Modi sent a strong message: "It is our national resolve

to deal a crushing blow to terrorism," he said, adding, "The fight against terror remains a top national priority."

He expressed "complete faith and confidence in the professional abilities of the Indian Armed Forces" and reiterated the government's full support.

Pertinently, soon after the Pahalgam terror attack, PM Modi had vowed to pursue the terrorists behind the

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CM reviews summer preparedness for Jammu division

Emphasizes proactive approach, minimising response time to exigencies

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 29 (KNO)

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday underscored the importance of robust inter-departmental coordination to ensure uninterrupted essential services and swift response mechanism during the upcoming summer season across Jammu division.

Chairing a high-level review meeting, the Chief Minister assessed the readiness of various departments to address challenges likely to emerge during the summer months.

Advisor to the Chief



Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary Education Shantmanu, Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) Jal

Shakti Shaleen Kabra, ACS to Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Administrative Secretaries of various departments, Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Managing

Director JPDCL, Commissioner JMC, Deputy Commissioners of all districts of Jammu division, representatives from BRO and other concerned depart-

ments attended the meeting both in person and virtually.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister conducted a department-wise review of summer preparedness, covering Jal Shakti (PHE, Irrigation & Flood Control), Health & Medical Education, Power Development Department (PDD), Public Works (R&B), Fire & Emergency Services, Forest, JPDCL, JMC, and others.

Highlighting the need to minimise public inconvenience during heatwave conditions, Omar

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60 Pak women, children living in J&K deported

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 29 (KNO)

In the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 people, mostly tourists dead, nearly sixty Pakistani women and their children, most of them married to former Kashmiri terrorists, were deported to Pakistan

through Wagah border on Tuesday.

According to the details available with the news agency, the families, gathered from districts including Srinagar, Baramulla, Kupwara, Budgam, and Shopian, were escorted in buses to Punjab for handover to

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Tension continues on LoC as India, Pak armies exchange gunfire for fifth day

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 29 (KNO)

Pakistani troops continued unprovoked firing across the Line of Control (LoC) for the fifth consecutive night in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Tuesday.

In the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday, the Pakistan Army opened fire using small arms at Indian positions in sectors opposite Kupwara and Baramulla districts in north Kashmir, as well as the Akhnoor sector in Jammu, Lt Colonel Suneel Bartwal, PRO (Defence), Northern Command, as reported by the news agency, said the Indian Army responded in a measured and effective manner.

This series of incidents began Thursday night, hours after India announced the suspension of the Indus Water Treaty following the killing of 26 civilians in

Residents say ceasefire brought normalcy, now fear return of conflict

Security forces on high alert; drones, surveillance systems deployed

rity grid along the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir has been placed on high alert. The Army and Border Security Force (BSF) are conducting round-the-clock patrols and maintaining strict vigilance. They are also deploying advanced surveillance technology, including high-tech drones and other monitoring equipment, to track any movement across the border.

The repeated ceasefire violations have caused concern among residents in border villages. Schools have started preparing students for potential emergencies by conducting mock drills and evacuation exercises.

"We are training children on how to take shelter quickly and where to gather in case of firing," said Mohammad Younis, a school principal in the Tangdhar area.

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PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK

PM Modi to chair four meetings today, review security preparedness

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APR 29 (KNO)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to chair four back to back meetings in the National Capital on Wednesday to review security preparedness in wake of the Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 people, mostly tourists, dead.

According to the details available with the news agency Prime Minister Modi will chair the Cab-

net Committee on Security (CCS) - the country's highest decision-making body on national security - meeting at around 11 am. It will mark the second round of discussions at the highest level since the Pahalgam attack. Security preparations are likely to be discussed at this meeting.

Pertinently, PM Modi had chaired the CCS meeting a day after the Pahalgam terror strike and had

announced a series of measures targeting Pakistan.

In the CCS meeting the government decided to put the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 in abeyance with immediate effect. The integrated check post at Attari was closed with immediate effect. Pakistani nationals who had entered India through valid endorsements were asked to return before May 1, 2025.

It was decided that Pakistani nationals will no longer be allowed to travel to India under the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme (SVES). All previously issued SVES visas are deemed cancelled. Pakistani nationals currently in India under SVES visas were asked to leave the country within 48 hours.

Other decisions included declaring the Defence, Military, Naval, and Air Advisors in the Pakistani

High Commission in New Delhi as persona non grata and were given one week to leave India.

Officials said that after chairing the CCS meeting, PM Modi will also lead the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs (CCPA). Besides the Prime Minister, the CCPA comprises Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah, Road Transport Minister

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HEAT WAVE IN KASHMIR

Srinagar records all-time 2nd hottest April day at 30.8 C

Pahalgam witnesses all-time hottest April day at 27.8 C

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 29 (KNO)

Amidst the dry weather conditions, several areas across Kashmir have witnessed heat wave with Srinagar, the summer capital of the region, recording the all-time second-hottest April day at 30.8 degree Celsius on Tuesday.

According to the news agency, Pahalgam, famous tourist destination, recorded an all-time highest April day at 27.8 degree Celsius, breaking the previous record of 27.4 degree Celsius, recorded on April 04, 1979.

Qazigund, a gateway of south Kashmir, has recorded a maximum temperature of 29.4 degree Celsius while Kupwara recorded



29.2 degree Celsius, the data reads.

As per the details, Kokernag recorded a day temperature of 28.2 degree Celsius and Gulmarg; a famous ski-resort, recorded 22.2 degree Celsius.

Pertinently, the weatherman had predicted a dry spell from April 27 and had stated that there is a

possibility of a heat wave at a few places across J&K for the next few days.

Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that the weather is expected to remain generally dry from tomorrow upto May 1. He added that there is a possibility of light rain and thundershower at

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Major rejig in administration: 96 JKAS officers transferred

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 29 (KNO)

The Jammu and Kashmir government on Monday issued transfer and posting orders for 96 JKAS officers across a wide array of departments.

The order issued by the GAD, a copy of which lies with the news agency, reads Rakesh Magotra transferred as Special Secretary, Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment. Naseer Ahmad Wani posted as Special Secretary, Public Works (R&B) Department. Vir Krishan Dhar appointed as Additional Secretary, Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction.

Dhananther Singh shifted to Health and Medical Education Department as Additional Secretary. Sonali Arun Gupta

becomes Additional Secretary, J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages. Atul Gupta posted as CEO, Tourism Development Authority, Billawar-Duggan.

Jagdish Chander transferred to Housing and Urban Development Department as Additional Secretary. Harbans Lal posted to Finance Department as Additional Secretary.

Mohammad Ashraf appointed as Secretary, Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission. Rajeev Magotra posted as Additional Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department. Sanjeev Rana transferred to Hospitality and Protocol Department as Additional Secretary. Sukriti Sharma appointed Registrar, GCET, Jammu.

Umar Shafi Pandit

posted as Principal, Revenue Training Institute, Srinagar. Deepak Dubey becomes Joint Director, Information, Jammu. Pardeep Kumar appointed Additional Secretary, Tourism Department. Abdul Rashid Dass transferred as Registrar, District Anantnag.

Syed Naseer Ahmad posted as Secretary, Srinagar Development Authority. Girdhari Lal appointed Deputy Excise Commissioner (Distilleries), Jammu. Mir Nasrullah Hilal posted as CEO, Tourism Development Authority, Pahalgam. Kaiser Ahmad Bhawani appointed CEO, Tourism Development Authority, Kishtwar.

Mita Kumari transferred to Industries and Commerce Department as Additional

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Sanjay Parihar, Shahzad Azeem appointed as judges of J&K High Court



Sanjay Parihar

Shahzad Azeem

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 29 (KNO)

The President of India on Tuesday appointed senior judicial officers, Sanjay Parihar and Shahzad Azeem as judges of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

In a notification, a copy of which is in possession of news agency, the president appointed Sanjay Parihar and Shahzad Azeem as judges of the

High Court of J&K and Ladakh.

"In exercise of the power conferred by clause (1) of Article 217 of the Constitution of India, the President is pleased to appoint S/Shri (i) Sanjay Parihar and (ii) Shahzad Azeem to be Judges of the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court with effect from the date they assume charge of their respective offices."

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Sat Sharma urges BJP cadre to ensure ground-level implementation of Modi Govt's welfare schemes

J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, 29TH APRIL, 2025:

Sat Sharma, President, J&K BJP and former Minister, emphasized the dual responsibility of the party, supporting national security efforts while also being deeply committed to grassroots development and welfare.

Sharma was addressing an organizational meeting of senior party activists at Swarn Vihar, Durga Nagar, Jammu,

Nand Kishore BJP District President, Jammu North, Rajiv Pandita, President, Kashmir Displaced District, Chan ji Bhat, senior leader, Ravish Mengi General Secretary, Jammu North, Pankaj Padha, Mandal President, Rohit Ganjoo, Mandal President, Kapil Singh Chib, Ex Corporator, Jaid



deep Sambyal, senior leader and others attended the meeting.

"While the Modi government is working with full might to curb terrorism, neutralize terrorists, and crack down on sympathizers of terrorism to ensure lasting peace in the region, it is the prime duty of the BJP cadre to work for the basic needs of society and the implementation of public welfare schemes at

the ground level" said Sat Sharma, while addressing the meeting.

Sat Sharma highlighted the transformational impact of various central government schemes such as PM Awas Yojana, Ujjwala Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, and the Jal Jeevan Mission. He urged the party cadre to act as a bridge between the administration and the public, ensuring that

the benefits of these initiatives reach every eligible citizen.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Antyodaya', uplifting the last person in the queue, can only be realized when we, as party workers, remain fully engaged with the people at the grassroots," Sharma stated. "Our responsibility does not end at policy formulation or announcement. We

must personally ensure effective delivery and awareness of these welfare measures."

Sharma stressed that it is the moral and political duty of every BJP worker to monitor implementation, assist in beneficiary identification, and report any lapses or delays. He also directed district and mandal Presidents to conduct awareness drives, camps, and door-to-door outreach programs to inform citizens about available schemes and help them with enrollment processes.

Sharma concluded by reaffirming the BJP's unwavering commitment to both national integrity and social justice, calling on party members to remain vigilant, active, and compassionate in serving the people.

DC Poonch hands over house key to 500th PMAY-U Beneficiary



J1 NEWS SERVICE

POONCH, APRIL 29

The District Administration Poonch marked a significant milestone under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) as Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal today handed over the house key to the 500th PMAY Urban beneficiary Lokesh Kumar,

a street vendor by profession, resident of Ward No. 04 Poonch.

The Deputy Commissioner commended the homeowners for effectively utilizing Government support and expressed satisfaction with the scheme's grassroots impact.

The beneficiary also expressed gratitude to the

government for the initiative, which has significantly improved his living conditions.

The DC also reviewed the overall progress of PMAY(U), including the new phase, PMAY 2.0. He directed concerned officials to ensure timely completion of under-construction units and expedite the survey process including organization of awareness camps.

He emphasized transparency, beneficiary satisfaction, and quality construction as key pillars of the scheme's success.

Officials from Municipal Council Poonch and planning departments besides beneficiaries were present at the events.

DC Reasi chairs Vidyalaya Management Committee meeting at JNV

J1 NEWS SERVICE

REASI, APRIL 29

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Reasi Nidhi Malik today chaired a meeting of the Vidyalaya Management Committee (VMC) at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV), Reasi.

The meeting aimed at reviewing key infrastructure and academic issues and devising action plans for further improvement of the institution.

The Principal of JNV welcomed the Chairperson and committee members and presented a comprehensive overview of the school's academic and infrastructural achievements, along with pressing issues needing administrative intervention.

During the meeting, several critical agenda points were discussed, including the need for alternate



water connections, uninterrupted 24x7 power supply, safety and security enhancements, and the procurement of solar lights.

The DC directed a thorough audit of all JNV buildings to ensure safety standards and compliance. She also instructed the Jal Shakti Department to conduct water quality testing and explore the feasibility of alternative water sources.

Taking note of the infrastructural needs, the DC asked the Public Works Department (PWD) to inspect the site and prepare a detailed estimate for the

construction of a protection wall around the school premises. Additionally, the Tehsildar was directed to demarcate the Vidyalaya land and submit a report within a week.

To support holistic development, the DC suggested the identification of a suitable location within the campus for a multipurpose hall and asked the Principal to prepare and submit a Detailed Project Report (DPR) within a week.

The DC also emphasized the importance of science education for girls and directed the Chief Education Officer (CEO) Reasi

to identify nearby girl students and motivate them to enroll under the Vigyan Jyoti scheme, which aims to empower girls in the field of science and technology.

In line with environmental sustainability, the DC instructed the Principal to sensitize students on waste segregation. She advised that organic waste be disposed of in compost pits while inorganic waste be collected and handed over to ragmen for appropriate disposal.

The DC also inspected the classrooms, hostel building, mess, playground, and other facilities on campus. She instructed the school staff to maintain high standards of hygiene and cleanliness throughout the institution.

ADC Rakesh Kumar, CPO Narinder Kumar, CEO, CMO, XENs were also present during the meeting.

Secretary, DLSA Ganderbal holds maiden review meeting of LSUM & LSUC

J1 NEWS SERVICE

GANDERBAL, APRIL 29

A significant maiden review meeting of the members of Legal Services Unit for Persons with Mental Illness and persons with Intellectual Disabilities (LSUM) and Legal Services Unit for Children (LSUC) was today held in the Office Chamber of Secretary DLSA Ganderbal.

The meeting chaired by Secretary, DLSA Ganderbal, Sheikh Babar Hussain, aimed to discuss and review the implementation of the NALSA (Child-Friendly Legal Services for Children) Scheme, 2024 and NALSA (Legal Services to Persons with Mental Illness and Persons with Intellectual Disabilities) Scheme, 2024 for providing legal services to children and persons with mental illness & intellectual disabilities.

Secretary, DLSA under-



scored the critical role of Legal Services Units in safeguarding the rights of two key vulnerable groups including children and persons with mental illness and intellectual disabilities.

Addressing the members of the Legal Services Unit for Children (LSUC), Husain highlighted the need to ensure children have access to expert, specialized and competent legal services. He stressed that legal services units should provide age-appropriate and multi-disciplinary legal services tailored to the unique needs of children.

He emphasized conducting outreach programs to identify and assist vulnerable children, spreading awareness about their rights, entitlements, and legal remedies, and fostering a child-friendly environment within the justice system.

Secretary DLSA stressed collaboration with communities, educational institutions, government departments, and NGOs to strengthen the ecosystem for implementing laws and policies safeguarding children's rights.

In a parallel effort, Sec-

retary DLSA assigned the members of the Legal Services Unit for Mentally Ill & Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (LSUM) with the responsibility of ensuring free & competent legal services in order to cater to the specific and unique needs of persons with mental illness and intellectual disabilities.

Through these initiatives, DLSA Ganderbal aims to make a meaningful difference in the lives of these vulnerable groups, ensuring their rights are protected and their voices are heard within the justice system.

The meeting concluded with a commitment to work together to promote access to justice for persons with mental illness, intellectual disabilities, and children in Ganderbal and this move shall be taken to the remotest part of the district.

BOMIS holds closing ceremony Under-17 Inter-School Badminton Tournament boys and girls

J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, APRIL 29

Birla Open Minds International School, Jammu, hosted the closing ceremony of the much-anticipated Under-17 Inter-School Badminton Tournament for both boys and girls on Tuesday, 29th April 2025. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students across various schools, showcasing their athletic spirit and talent on the court.

The grand closing ceremony was graced by Shri Satish Sharma, Hon'ble Minister of Youth Services and Sports, as the Chief Guest. His presence added great value and encouragement for all the budding sports stars present at the event.

The ceremony commenced with a warm welcome of the Chief Guest, Shri Satish Sharma, followed by a speech by students highlighting the importance of sports in education and overall development. A vibrant dance performance set an energetic tone for the day.

The school's Chairperson, Dr. Panna Manhas Choudhary addressed the gathering "I am proud to witness our students shine with such confidence and



talent today. Events like these reflect the holistic vision we uphold at BOMIS. She further added that school focuses on such activities to keep them away from drugs and toxic environment. My heartfelt congratulations to all participants and gratitude to everyone who made it a success."

The event was further elevated by an inspiring address by the Principal, Ms. Aparana Kohli, who emphasized the significance of sports in shaping discipline, determination, and teamwork among students. She stated, "At Birla Open Minds, we believe in nurturing every aspect of a child's growth - academic, emotional, and physical. Tournaments like these empower students to push boundaries, embrace chal-

enges, and celebrate victories with humility." She also thanked all the participating schools, coaches, and staff members for making the tournament a grand success.

The school took pride in felicitating the winners and participants of the badminton tournament. Of the final matches played today, Boys single match played between APS Samba vs Heritage, Heritage won the match. Girls double match played between APS Samba vs Heritage, APS Samba won.

Certificates of appreciation were also presented to Birla Open Minds students who showcased commendable performances. Furthermore, national-level players of football, cricket, wushu and taek-

wondo were honoured for their achievements.

Zuish Saheel, Umair Nissar and Vivek were felicitated for playing in football nationals, Devasya Sharma for playing in basketball nationals and Aahana Sharma for playing in Cricket nationals. Vardaan Verma won gold medal in Wushu state championship, Kumail won silver in Wushu state championship, Farhan, Tayab and Wasiq won bronze in Wushu state championship. Shaheel and Farhan won gold in Wushu district championship, Kumail won silver in Wushu district championship; Atif, Shivansh and Yatish won bronze in Wushu district championship. Zaad Ziya Wani was felicitated for playing nationals in taekwondo.

In addition, students excelling in the Science Olympiad Foundation (SOF) and winners of the Inter-School Show and Tell competition were recognized. A special felicitation of the Chief Guest was also held to express gratitude for his continued support to youth sports initiatives.

The audience was then addressed by the Chief Guest, Shri Satish Sharma, who lauded the school's efforts in promoting sports at the grassroots level. He said, "Events like these are the foundation for developing not just athletes but strong, disciplined citizens of tomorrow. I am truly impressed by the talent showcased today and urge every student to remain committed to both academics and physical fitness. My heartfelt congratulations to all the winners and participants." He also emphasized the government's ongoing support for youth sports initiatives and infrastructural development in schools across the region.

The event concluded with the inauguration of the newly constructed basketball court, a testament to the school's commitment to holistic development and sports infrastructure.

DLSA Srinagar organises awareness programme, free legal aid, welfare schemes at GGHS Chanapora



J1 NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, APRIL 29

To educate students about their legal rights and the various welfare schemes available to them and their families, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, organised an awareness programme on free legal aid and social welfare schemes at Government Girls High School (GGHS), Chanapora.

The event was held under the guidance of Shazia Tabassum, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority and under the Supervision of Tasleem Arief, Chairman

DLSA (Principal District & Sessions Judge) Srinagar, and Sajad Ur Rehman, Sub-judge/Secretary DLSA Srinagar.

Para Legal Volunteer, Saima, who served as the resource person for the programme sensitized students about the importance of free legal aid, how to access it, and the broader role of the DLSA in ensuring justice for all, especially for the marginalized sections of society.

She also highlighted key social welfare schemes that could significantly benefit students and their communities, encouraging them to spread awareness

within their families and neighbourhoods.

The main objective of the awareness programme was to empower young minds with knowledge of free legal services and to instill in them an understanding of the various government welfare initiatives aimed at promoting social justice and inclusivity.

The programme was well-received by the students, who participated enthusiastically and expressed their eagerness to contribute to building a more informed and just society.

MD JJM for pacing up execution of Water Supply projects in Kupwara

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APRIL 29

Mission Director (MD), Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) J&K, Khurshid Ahmad Shah today chaired a meeting to review the implementation of JJM in district Kupwara.

The meeting was apprised about the various components under execution through a powerpoint presentation. As per the figures, the district comprises 355 villages with 1, 56,179 rural households out of which 1, 29,755 households have been provided with Functional Household Connections (FHTC's).

MD directed the concerned officers to speed up the pace of execution of water supply schemes so that the remaining 26,000 odd households are provided with FHTC's soon. The meeting was informed about the failure of nine bore wells due to no or less discharge, impeding the progress in scheme completion.

Shah sought response from the Executive Engineer, Ground Water



Division, Srinagar who informed the chair that letter of intent for these wells has been issued and the contractor has mobilized the machinery.

MD directed the Executive Engineer, Ground Water to personally monitor the drilling of these bore wells in coordination with Superintending Engineer, concerned.

While reviewing the timelines for various works, MD inquired about non-starter of General Service Reservoir's (GSR's) in the Keran sector. He was assured that the allotments have been issued, and with the improvement of weather the works on

these GSRs will be started within a week's time.

MD directed the Executive Engineers to certify all Har Ghar Jal (HGJ) reported villages as a large number of HGJ reported villages remain uncertified. He directed Superintending Engineer, Hydraulic Circle Kupwara to personally monitor the certification of reported HGJ villages.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Superintending Engineer, (Hydraulic) circle Kupwara, Executive Engineers of field divisions, AEEs and JEs besides their counterparts from the Mechanical wing through virtual mode.

Kishtwar Admin organises awareness drive against drug abuse at village, panchayat level

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, APRIL 29

Under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan, the District Administration is intensifying its grassroots outreach to address drug abuse through a people-focused awareness drive held at the village and panchayat levels.

This widespread campaign, spanning all 13 administrative blocks of the district, has drawn active involvement from various segments of the community, including residents, students, teachers, youth groups and local influencers.

The central goal of the drive was to educate citizens about the harmful impact of drug misuse and to inspire collective efforts toward achieving a drug-free environment.

Pertinently, every Monday awareness sessions are being organized across different panchayats, featuring resource persons appointed by the administration which are from



Health, Police, Education and Rural Development Department, among others.

The sessions aim to maintain continuous engagement and provide meaningful education on the dangers of drug abuse directly to rural

populations.

Today's focus was on conducting these awareness drives in educational institutions, making schools and colleges the epicenters of change and learning.

Throughout the day, dedicated nodal officers

and Nodal agencies led impactful information-sharing activities in multiple villages across all 13 Blocks of Kishtwar District.

The overall events were organized under the guidance of DSWO Kishtwar Zubair Ahmed.

Power Shutdown

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APRIL 29

According to the Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL, in order to carry out branch cutting, shutdown of 33KV Nehalpora Gulmarg line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Tangmarg, Kulhama shall remain off while power supply to Tangmarg, Kulhama and adjoining areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on 10 & 14 May, 2025.

Also in this connection, 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Gulmarg, Khyber, Babareshi, Cable Car shall remain off while power supply to Gulmarg, Khyber, Cable Car Baba Reshi and adjoining areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on 17 May, 2025.

Similarly in order to facilitate branch cutting, the shutdown of 33KV Magam Kongamara line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Kunzer, Dhobipora, Kongamara, Ahmadpora shall remain off while power supply to Kunzer, Dhobipora, Kongamara, Ahmadpora and adjoining areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on 08 & 19 May 2025.

Budget proposals envisage strengthening of grassroots level infrastructure, rapid development: Dy CM

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 29

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, today chaired a meeting to review the progress on Capex Budget 2024-25 works besides discussing formulation of the Capex Budget Action Plan for 2025-26 fiscal.

Minister for Health & Medical Education, Sakina Itoo, Minister for Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Javed Ahmad Dar, Minister for Transport, Satish Sharma, Advisor to CM, Nasir Aslam Wani, Secretary PWD, Bhupinder Kumar besides senior officials of the concerned department attended the meeting.

A detailed discussion was held on budget proposals aimed at strengthening grassroots level infrastructure, ensuring rapid growth and development.

The Dy CM emphasized



that the planning process should be integrated at departmental and district level to incorporate the whole government approach. He asserted that the focus of the department should be on completion of ongoing works rather than starting a large number of underfunded works. "The time-

line for completion of new works taken up for execution during the financial year 2025-26 should be between one or two years, except mega projects in which the department can extend the timeline up to three years" he added.

Surinder Choudhary said that the work plan of the department should

be based on tangible outcomes which should indicate the number of works to be completed and number of people to be benefited. He exhorted upon the department to ensure that the directions issued are strictly adhered to and feedback/priorities from the elected representatives as indicated

during budget meetings, as feasible, shall be captured while framing the annual work plans. He also issued strict instructions to the higher authorities to take firm action against the contractors who cause unnecessary delays in project completion.

Javed Ahmad Dar, Sakina Itoo, Satish Sharma

and Advisor to CM Nasir Aslam Wani also contributed their valuable suggestions for better functioning of the department in terms of finalizing works and their execution. They also apprised of some crucial works in their constituencies which needs utmost priority and completion at the earliest.

Earlier, Secretary PWD presented a comprehensive overview of the proposed Capex Budget through a detailed Power-Point Presentation, highlighting key projects and financial allocations.

He highlighted the previous financial year's achievements including 3410 Km road length macadamized under various sectors, 2763 works completed under UT Capex, 769 Km road length blacktopped under PMGSY, 498 schemes completed under road sector and 47 bridges completed under various schemes.

DC Kupwara reviews progress of PM Surya Ghar - Muft Bijli Yojana



J1 NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, APRIL 29

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan, today chaired a detailed review meeting to assess the implementation progress of the PM Surya Ghar (Muft Bijli Yojana) in the district.

Speaking on the occasion, DC laid strong emphasis on proactive coordination among all departments to ensure speedy processing of applications and maximize outreach of the scheme.

She directed the concerned to organize joint awareness camps involving KPDCL, vendors, bankers, and other stakeholders to guide the public and facilitate smooth execution of the scheme at the grassroots level.

It was revealed in the meeting that a total of 788 applications have been received, out of which

729 have been found technically feasible. So far, 278 vendors have been selected and 26 solar rooftop systems (SRTs) have already been successfully commissioned.

To further accelerate the implementation, DC instructed officers to clear all pending cases within a set timeframe. She also proposed a village-wise roster for awareness programs to be conducted at key government offices such as DC Office, RDD, Education, Health and other departments.

A monthly target of 1000 installations was fixed for Kupwara and Handwara sub divisions, with a clear framework for documentation and monitoring.

The meeting, held at the DC Office Meeting Hall, was attended by the CPO, EO MC Kupwara, LDM, officers from KPDCL, and other concerned stakeholders.

DLSA Srinagar convenes meeting of Legal Aid Defence Counsels, reviews their functioning

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APRIL 29

To assess and enhance the functioning of the Legal Aid Defence Counsel System, ensuring quality legal representation for underprivileged sections of society, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar Tuesday convened a comprehensive Legal Aid Defence Counsels (LADC) review meeting.

The meeting was held under the guidance of Shazia Tabassum, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority and under the supervision of Tasleem Arief, Chairman of the DLSA (Principal District & Sessions Judge) Srinagar.

The meeting was chaired by Tasleem Arief, Chairman, DLSA Srinagar/Principal District & Sessions Judge, Srinagar and



witnessed the participation of all Legal Aid Defence Counsels associated with

DLSA Srinagar. The meeting focused on streamlining the workflow,

addressing practical challenges faced by counsels, and reiterating the impor-

tance of professional ethics and dedication towards assigned cases.

During the meeting, newly appointed Legal Aid Defence Counsels were provided valuable guidance, making the session particularly enriching for them. Discussions centered around best practices, case management techniques, and the significance of effective client communication.

The interaction fostered a platform for sharing experiences, clarifying procedural doubts, and reinforcing the role of defence counsels in strengthening access to justice for all.

The meeting concluded with a strong commitment from all participants to uphold the principles of legal aid and work with renewed

zeal towards ensuring justice delivery for marginalized sections.

DLSA Srinagar reaffirmed its resolve to continue organizing such review sessions regularly to maintain high standards of legal aid services in the district.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice

Sr.DEN-I/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date **20.05.2025 up to 15:00 Hrs.** Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. In place of Earnest money deposit, "Bid Security Declaration" is to be submitted or prescribed format as available in document section on the portal.

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System	Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
Open	Works	Single Bid System	25.04.2025	06.05.2025	20.05.2025/15:00 Hrs.

S.N.	Tender No.	Details of Tender
1	05-2025-26-ADEN-JRC	Rebuilding of existing 0.91m Arch Bridge No. 35 at KM 6/6-7 with 1.00x 1.35m RCC Box on JRC-HSX Section under ADEN-JRC.
		Advertised Value (Rs.) 58,95,206.43/-
		Earnest money (Rs.) 1,17,900.00/-
		Validity of Offer 60 Days
		Period of Completion 06 Months

Similar nature of work:- "Construction of bridge/Limited height subway with box pushing/pipe pushing."

Note1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.
Tender Notice No:- 05-2025-26-ADEN-JRC Date: 28.04.2025

1258/2025

Serving Customers With A Smile

Kavinder slams Mehbooba Mufti for opposing deportation of Pak Nationals

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 29

Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta has come down heavily on PDP Chief Mehbooba Mufti for describing the deportation of Pakistani nationals married to Indian citizens as “inhumane.” Terming her statement as highly irresponsible and insensitive, Kavinder said that at a time when the nation is mourning the brutal killing of 26 innocent Hindu tourists in the recent Pahalgam terror attack, such remarks only serve to demoralize the efforts being made to secure the nation.

“In the wake of the horrific Pahalgam attack, where 26 innocent pilgrims lost their lives to Pakistan-sponsored terrorism, Mehbooba Mufti should have stood with the Government of India in its firm action against foreign nationals residing illegally. Instead, she chooses to sympathize with those whose presence poses a potential security risk,” he said in a statement issued here today.

The senior BJP leader added that the deportation of Pakistani nationals, even those married to Indian citizens, is a justified and sovereign step taken by the Central Government in the interest of national security. “These

individuals have lived here for decades without valid citizenship or documentation. In today's security environment, such unregulated presence cannot and should not be tolerated,” he asserted.

The former Deputy Chief Minister further emphasized that even the Legislative Assembly has expressed solidarity with the decision of the Centre, acknowledging that extraordinary situations demand tough measures. “We cannot afford any leniency that could allow sleeper cells or radical elements to operate under the guise of domestic ties. The safety of our citizens must remain paramount,” he said.

Online portal for submission of Examination Forms for June 2025 TEE closed, Late Fee of Rs.1100/- implemented

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 29

The online portal for submission of online examination forms to appear in the June 2025 Term-end examination without any Late Fee has closed on 28.04.2025. IGNOU commenced the exam form submission for all UG, PG, Diploma, and Certificate level courses under the Online & ODL mode from 14th March, 2025. The examinations are likely to commence from 2nd June 2025. From April 29, 2025 onwards, a late fee of Rs.1100/- will be applicable in addition to

the examination fee of Rs.200/- per course. Earlier the last date for online submission of examination forms was 20th April, 2025 which was extended till 28th April, 2025 without Late Fee.

The examination forms are to be submitted through the Student Portal on the Samarth Platform. Students shall be required to login to their student account at <https://ignou.samarth.edu.in>. If a student is already registered on the Student Portal, he/she may login to submit the examination form. If the student is not registered,

he/she needs to first register on the portal by clicking NEW REGISTRATION and following the instructions. In case of any difficulty in registering on the Student Portal, students may seek assistance from the Regional Centre by dropping a mail on rcjammu@ignou.ac.in. The University reserves the right to reschedule/cancel examinations/papers at any time in all the Examination Centre across the Country or in any particular Examination Centre/ State due to any exigency or any other reasons.

For any query regard-

ing non-receipt of the control number or about status of Examination Form, students are advised to send email to (termendexam@ignou.ac.in) or contact over phone no. 011-29572209.

Regional Centre Jammu has established 32 Examination Centres spread across all ten districts of the Jammu region with Examination Centre at each of the ten district Headquarters so that the students do not have to travel longer distances for appearing in the exams”, said Dr. Sandeep Gupta, Regional Director, Regional Centre Jammu.

Three OGWs of LeT arrested in Hajin: Police

JJ NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, APR 29 (KNO)

Three Over Ground Workers (OGWs) of Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) were arrested on Tuesday in Hajin area, police said.

Bandipora police had received a specific information regarding movement of some OGWs of terrorist outfit LeT in Hajin area, a police spokesman said in a statement issued to the news agency.

Acting on this information a joint Naka was established at Shahgund Nursery, by Bandipora police along with CRPF 45 Bn and 13 RR Army.

During Naka Checking three suspected persons who were coming from Khusarpora towards Shahgund, while seeing police party they tried to flee from the spot, but were nabbed tactfully.

Upon questioning the said persons disclosed their identities as Shahzad Ahmad S/o Mohammad Khalil, Danish Ahmad Parray S/o Gh Mohammad Parray and Ather Iqbal S/o Gh Mohammad Rafique all residents of Hajin and further confessed that they were working as OGWs of terrorist outfit LeT.

Upon their personal search, incriminating material (illegal arms and ammunition) including Chinese Hand Grenade (02 No.'s), 7.62 MM Magazine, (01 No.), 7.62 MM, live rounds (17 No's) were recovered from their possession, police said.

UPSC announces result of written part of Combined Defence Services Examination (I) - 2025

JJ NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 29 APR

On the basis of the results of the COMBINED DEFENCE SERVICES EXAMINATION (I), 2025 held by the Union Public Service Commission on 13th April, 2025, 8516 candidates with the following Roll Numbers have qualified for being interviewed by the Service Selection Board of the Ministry of Defence, for admission to (i) Indian Military Academy, Dehradun 160th (DE) Course commencing in January, 2026 (ii)

Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala, Kerala, Course commencing in January, 2026 (iii) Air Force Academy, Hyderabad (Pre-Flying) Training Course (219 F(P)) commencing in January, 2026 (iv) Officers Training Academy, Chennai 23rd SSC (Men) (NT) (UPSC) Course commencing in April, 2026 and (v) Officers Training Academy, Chennai, 37th SSC Women (Non-Technical) (UPSC) Course commencing in April, 2026. The candidature of all the candidates, whose Roll Numbers are shown in the lists below,

is provisional. In accordance with the conditions of the admission to the examination, they are required to submit the original certificates in support of age (Date of Birth), educational qualifications, NCC (C) (Army Wing/ Senior Division Air Wing/ Naval Wing) etc. claimed by them to IHQ of MoD (Army) / Dte Gen of Rtg (Rtg A) CDSE Entry for SSC male candidates and SSC women entry for female candidates West Block III, R. K. Puram, New Delhi-110066 in case of IMA/ SSC first choice candidates

and IHQ of MoD (Navy DMPR (OI & R Section), Room No. 204; 'C' Wing, Sena Bhawan, New Delhi-110011 in case of Navy first choice candidates and PO3 (A)/Air Headquarters 'J' Block, Room No. 17, Opp. Vayu Bhawan, Motilal Nehru Marg, New Delhi-110 106 in case of Air Force first choice candidates by the following dates failing which their candidature will stand cancelled. The original Certificates are to be submitted not later than 01st January, 2026 for IMA & INA, not later than 13th November, 2025 for AFA

and not later than 1st April, 2026 in case of SSC course only. The candidates must not send the original Certificates to the Union Public Service Commission.

Candidates who qualified in the written exam and given their first choice as Army (IMA/OTA) are required to register themselves on the recruiting directorate website www.joinindianarmy.nic.in in order to enable them to receive call up information for SSB interview. Those candidates who have already registered on the recruit-

ing directorate website are advised not to register again.

In case, there is any change of address, the candidates are advised to promptly intimate directly to the Army Headquarters/Naval Headquarters/Air Headquarters as the case may be.

For any further information, the candidates may contact Facilitation Counter near Gate “C” of the Commission, either in person or on telephone numbers 011-23385271, 011-23381125 and 011-23098543 between 10:00 hrs to 17:00 hrs on any work-

ing day. In addition for SSB/ interview related matter the candidates may contact over telephone no. 011-26175473 or joinindianarmy.nic.in for Army as first choice, 011-23010097 /Email: [officer-navy\[at\]nic\[dot\]in](mailto:officer-navy[at]nic[dot]in) or joinindiannavy.gov.in for Navy/ Naval Academy as first choice and 011-23010231 Extn. 7645 / 7646 / 7610 or www.career-indianairforce.cdac.in for Air Force as first choice. Candidates can also obtain information regarding their result by accessing UPSC website <http://www.upsc.gov.in>

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Decide on mode...

attack and their patrons to the "ends of earth" and inflict the harshest punishment on them "beyond their imagination".

Terrorists had gunned down tourists, who were from different parts of the country, at Baisaran in Pahalgam on April 22.

In the past, the PM Modi led government carried out surgical strikes inside Pakistan after the terror attack on army soldiers in Uri in 2016 and the Balakot air strike after the killings of CRPF personnel in Pulwama.

Following the terror strike in Pahalgam, India has taken a series of measures targeting Pakistan, including putting in abeyance the Indus Waters Treaty and downgrading the diplomatic ties. KNO

CM reviews summer...

Abdullah stated, “Coordination between all line departments is vital to ensure uninterrupted essential services to citizens during summer months.”

He further stressed the importance of a swift response mechanism amid rising temperatures and the possibility of heatwave, water shortages or power outages.

“Response time to any kind of exigency should be minimised,” he asserted.

Engaging directly with Deputy Commissioners, the Chief Minister reviewed district-level preparedness and urged them to prioritise timely, effective response to weather-related challenges.

He emphasised the need to keep personnel ready and machinery in working condition to ensure the uninterrupted functioning of essential services.

“Preparedness is not just about having systems in place but ensuring that those systems work seamlessly when put to the test,” Omar Abdullah noted, adding that preparedness must be proactive rather than reactive.

While commending field-level officers for their proactive planning, he called upon them to maintain a constant state of readiness and ensure grievance redressal mechanisms remain accessible and effective for public facilitation during emergencies.

Divisional Commissioner Jammu delivered a detailed presentation highlighting preparations for the upcoming summer season, with a focus on the availability of drinking water, electricity supply management, and medical emergency response strategies.

The meeting was informed that in respect of forest fire management, high-risk districts like Nowshera, Jammu and Reasi have been prioritized with 175 control rooms and awareness drives. Water supply preparedness would include vulnerability mapping, infrastructure maintenance, and deployment of tankers, while IEC campaigns to deal with heatwave effect are being conducted.

It was informed that Power infrastructure is being strengthened through transformer upgrades, pruning of tree branches and activation of emergency teams. It was given out that the Health Department has stocked essential supplies, operationalized Heat Stroke Rooms, and mandated daily reporting of heat-related illnesses.

Divisional Commissioner also informed the meeting that Schools in the summer zone will follow revised timings from May 1, and the school bag policy is in effect. Irrigation canals have been desilted, and flood control rooms activated, with mitigation plans in place for vulnerable districts, he said.

JMC has readied monsoon rescue units, upgraded drainage equipment, and deployed water sprinklers and coolers for heatwave relief, he told the meeting.

He added that BRO and PMGSY have mapped landslide and flood-prone sites, ensuring machinery is in place for rapid response.

The Chief Minister directed departments to activate control rooms, maintain buffer stocks of essential supplies, and deploy quick response teams to vulnerable areas.

He also instructed the deployment of an adequate number of water tankers in areas prone to shortages. Additionally, he directed the ACS Jal Shakti to install GPS trackers on all water tankers to ensure accountability and oversight of their field operations.

The Chief Minister also called for timely maintenance of key roads, particularly the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, Mughal Road, and other vital routes. KNO

60 Pak women...

Pakistani authorities.

Many of the women had entered Kashmir under the 2010 rehabilitation policy for former terrorists.

Eleven Pakistani nationals who had entered India on valid visas nearly 45 years ago in Mendhar, Poonch, were also sent back.

Pertinently, after the Pahalgam terror attack Union Home Minister Amit Shah had directed heads of the States and Union Territories to identify and remove and deport Pakistani citizens from their respective States and UTs immediately. KNO

Tension continues...

Meanwhile, authorities on Tuesday announced the closure of several tourist destinations near the LoC, including Gurez, Keran, Tangdhar and Uri. These places had seen a rise in tourist footfall since the February 2021 ceasefire agreement between India and Pakistan.

“The administration has decided to shut down tourism in these areas until the situation becomes clear,” a government official said.

Locals said the ceasefire pact of 2021 had brought a period of calm to the region, allowing people to resume normal life. That sense of security is now under strain.

“Since 2021, we have been living peacefully,” said Nizakat Ahmad, a resident of Uri. “We fear the shelling may return. We have already lost people in the past.”. KNO

PM Modi to chair...

Nitin Gadkari, Health Minister JP Nadda, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, and other senior ministers.

The Cabinet's Economic Affairs Committee will meet thereafter, followed by a cabinet meeting. KNO

Srinagar records...

isolated places on May 2 and May 3.

The MeT has, however, stated that there is a possibility of generally hot & dry weather over Jammu division with heat wave at isolated places for the next few days and advised people to stay hydrated & drink plenty of water, fluid & stay indoors and avoid working in the open during peak hours (12-3 pm). KNO

Major rejig in...

Secretary. Mushtaq Ahmad Chowdhary posted as General Manager, DIC, Kathua. Anshuman Singh

appointed Additional Secretary, Science and Technology Department.

Zaheer Abass Bhat becomes Deputy Director, Rural Sanitation, Jammu. Naser Ali posted as Joint Director, Industries and Commerce (M&P), Jammu. Preeti Sharma appointed Joint Registrar, Cooperatives (Special), Jammu. Bilal Mukhtar Dar posted as CEO, Tourism Development Authority, Sonamarg.

Abhishake Abrol transferred as General Manager, DIC, Jammu.

Vikas Dhar Bagati appointed Registrar, District Kathua. Shabnam Rashid becomes Deputy Commissioner, State Taxes (Stamps), Kashmir. Tinna Mahajan posted as Deputy Excise Commissioner (Accounts), Jammu.

Malik Waseem Ahmad posted as General Manager, DIC, Pulwama. Nazia Hassan posted as General Manager, DIC, Anantnag.

Manisha Koul becomes Registrar, District Samba. Mohammad Imran Khan posted as CEO, Tourism Development Authority, Wullar-Manasbal.

Zahid Rashid Khan appointed General Manager, DIC, Budgam. Varinder Gupta becomes Registrar, District Reasi. Kuldip Raj transferred as Additional Secretary, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department. Parvaiz Ahmad Naik appointed CEO, Urban Development Agency, Jammu.

Najwan Nazki posted as Deputy Labour Commissioner, Kashmir. Mir Zahida becomes CEO, Urban Development Agency, Kashmir.

Zaheer Ahmad Kaifi posted as Programme Officer, ICDS Project, Kulgam. Deebah Khalid Peer appointed Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Srinagar.

Mohammad Ashraf posted as Deputy Secretary, Power Development Department.

Syed Nadeem Iqbal Andrabi transferred to Finance Department as Deputy Secretary.

Gulzar Ahmad Bhat appointed Deputy Secretary, Industries and Commerce Department. Vikas Sharma becomes Deputy Director, Estates, Jammu.

Hilal Ahmad Bhat posted as Deputy District Election Officer, Bandipora. Mohammad Rafeeq Bhat transferred to Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department as Deputy Director. Mohd. Rafiq becomes District Mineral Officer, Rajouri.

Shabir Ahmad Hakak posted as Sub-Registrar, Kangan and will also hold charge of Sub-Registrar, Ganderbal. Sheetal Pandita transferred as Deputy Secretary, School Education Department. Bashir Ahmad Bhat posted as Special Officer, Atufq, J&K.

Muzaffer Hussain Wani becomes Deputy Secretary, Public Works (R&B) Department.

Danish Rasool Mir posted as Project Officer, Wage Employment (ACD), Jammu. Riaz Ahmad transferred to JKTDC, Jammu as General Manager. Mohd. Hanief shall await adjustment in General Administration Department.

Mudasir Hussain Famda posted as Project Officer, Wage Employment (ACD), Baramulla.

Sham Lal Abrol becomes Collector, ERA, Jammu. Aijaz Ahmad Shigon posted as Personnel Officer, PCCF Office. Tarun Sharma transferred as Deputy Director, Motor Garages, Jammu.

Hamidullah Mir posted as Sub-Registrar, Kulgam. Altaf Hussain Bhat appointed Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Ganderbal. Fayaz Ahmad Bhat posted as Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Anantnag. Shafiq Ahmad Wani becomes Project Officer, Wage Employment (ACD), Anantnag.

Iqbal Hussain Mir appointed Personnel Officer, Directorate of School Education, Kashmir. Irfan Ali Khan transferred as Deputy Secretary, Public Works (R&B) Department.

Arshad Hussain Ganai posted as Deputy Secretary, Public Grievances Department.

Ch. Mohd. Nawaz appointed Deputy Director, District Employment Centre, Rajouri.

Suhayb Ahmad Wani posted as Deputy Secretary, Social Welfare Department. Diksha Bamba becomes Deputy Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department. Naveed Hussain Badroo posted as Custodian Evacuee Properties, Kashmir. Javaid Ahmad Malik becomes Deputy Secretary, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department.

Saima Sharief Khan posted as Assistant Commissioner, State Taxes Department, Jammu. Abdul Majeed Rather appointed Project Officer, Wage Employment (ACD), Ganderbal. Ashwani Hansa posted as Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Udhampur. Ashu Kumari transferred as Deputy Director, Information, Jammu.

Anissa Nabi becomes Chief Sports Officer, J&K Sports Council.

Angel Kotwal posted as Sub-Registrar, Akhnoor. Shalini Raina transferred as Sub-Registrar, Marh. Arshi Rasool appointed Sub-Registrar, Srinagar (East), also holding Srinagar (West). Tahira Tabasum posted as Deputy Secretary, Cooperatives Department.

Murtaza Rashid posted as Deputy Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department.

Bilal Ahmad Mir appointed Sub-Registrar, Khanshab and Budgam.

Kavita Pandoh posted as Sub-Registrar, Jammu (North-I). Sania Haq Khan becomes Assistant Commissioner (General), Jammu.

Arjumand Yaqoob posted as Deputy Director, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Kashmir. Malvika Sharma posted as Deputy Director, ICDS, Jammu.

Namaz Nahin Tabasam Shah appointed Assistant Commissioner, State Taxes Department, Jammu. Sugandhi Banotra becomes Assistant Settlement Officer, Jammu. Tahir Ahmad Magray transferred as Deputy Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department.

Syed Farhana Asgar posted as Deputy Secretary, Culture Department. Auqil Nuvaid becomes Project Officer, Wage Employment (ACD), Rajouri. Tanvi Gupta transferred to Finance Department for posting as ERO/ CTO.

Shivana Akhter posted as Under Secretary, State Election Commission, Jammu. Disha Gupta transferred as Administrative Officer, Government Medical College, Udhampur. KNO

Sanjay Parihar...

reads the notification, issued by Union Ministry of Law & Justice.

The Supreme Court Collegium headed by Chief Justice of India Justice Sanjiv Khanna, in its meeting held on April 16, 2025, had approved the proposal for their appointment as judges of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh.

With these appointments, the strength of judges in J&K High Court has gone upto 15 against the sanctioned strength of 25 judges- 19 permanent judges and six additional judges.

Born on December 19, 1968, in Palmar, Kishtwar, Sanjay Parihar began his judicial career on December 1, 1997. Over the years, he has held key positions, including Principal District and Sessions Judge, Jammu, and Special Judge for Anti-Corruption (CBI cases), handling several high-profile cases.

Shahzad Azeem, who entered judicial service on August 5, 2011, has served as Director of the J&K Judicial Academy and Registrar General of the High Court. KNO

NMBA: Baramulla Zones rally for Drug-Free Society through Zonal Level Open Volleyball Tournaments

JINNEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, APRIL 29

As part of its unwavering commitment to promote a healthy and drug-free society and on the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Youth Services and Sports (YSS), Baramulla, in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department Baramulla, launched Zonal Level Open Volleyball Tournaments under the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) across various zones of the district.

Today, Zone Dangerpora hosted a spirited volleyball match under this initiative at Higher Secondary School Dangerpora. A highly competitive match was played between Cluster Tujjer and Cluster Dangerpora, reflecting the enthusiasm and active participation of youth in spreading the message of a drug-free lifestyle through sports.

Simultaneously, Zone Sopore began its NMBA Volleyball tournament at Boys Higher Secondary School Sopore.



Adding to the momentum, Zone Singpora Pattan also joined the campaign by organizing an open volleyball tournament at High School Malmooch Pattan. The event attracted vibrant participation, showcasing the strong grassroots-level support for the NMBA initiative. Furthermore, Zone Uri concluded its leg of the NMBA Volleyball Tournament with six local teams participating in an energetic and disciplined competition. The final match crowned Nambla Club as

the winners of the tournament, earning appreciation from spectators and officials alike.

These tournaments not only emphasize the role of sports in building healthy communities but also serve as powerful platforms for spreading awareness about the detrimental effects of drug abuse among youth.

The Youth Services and Sports Baramulla reaffirms its dedication to empowering young people through such purposeful initiatives in coordination with key government departments.

DIC Shopian organizes awareness programme under RAMP initiative



JINNEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, APRIL 29

District Industries Centre (DIC) Shopian today organized an awareness-cum-outreach programme under the RAMP (Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance) initiative at Government Polytechnic College, Shopian.

The event witnessed participation from key stakeholders, including

the Polytechnic College, and aspiring entrepreneurs.

The participants were sensitized on the importance of UDYAM Registration and its vital role in empowering business establishments and promoting industrial growth.

A comprehensive PowerPoint presentation was delivered during the session, detailing the UDYAM registration process, associated benefits, and various government support mechanisms available to MSMEs.

Speakers emphasized the need for collaborative efforts to tap flagship schemes and initiatives aimed at accelerating enterprise development.

On the occasion, officials of DIC encouraged participants to take advantage of available government schemes and financial assistance to strengthen and scale their business ventures.

The programme concluded with an interactive session, where participants' queries were addressed.

the General Manager DIC Shopian, Lead District Manager Shopian, Principal of Government Polytechnic College Shopian, District Coordinator CSC Shopian, faculty members of the Polytechnic College, and officials of DIC Shopian.

Over 120 beneficiaries participated in the programme, comprising existing MSME owners, trainees and pass-outs of

Annual Rank Cum Felicitation Ceremony of NCC Naval Wing held at MAM College, Jammu



JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 29

Maulana Azad Memorial College, Jammu, hosted its Rank Cum Felicitation Ceremony for the session 2025-26, celebrating the achievements of its NCC Naval Wing Cadets. The event was a vibrant celebration of discipline, leadership, and dedication displayed by the NCC cadets where in Dr. Sheikh Aijaz Bashir, Director Colleges, Higher Education Department, J&K was the Chief Guest, and Commander Tej Ram Sharma graced the occasion as Guest of Honour. The ceremony commenced with a traditional lamp-lighting, invoking blessings for the successful conduct of the event followed by a lively cultural program that added color to the occasion.

In her inaugural address, Professor Archana Kaul, the Principal of the College extended a warm welcome to the She lauded the NCC cadets for their commendable achievements and contribution to the institution while as Tej Ram Sharma, (Commanding Officer 1 J&K Naval Wing Srinagar), addressed the cadets, congratulating the rank holders and meritorious cadets for their outstanding achievements. He expressed his appreciation for the event, noting the exemplary performance of the cadets from Maulana Azad Memorial College and their contribution to the NCC.

Later on the annual report was presented through a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation by SCC Neha Sharma, showcasing the college's

NCC Naval Wing activities and achievements over the past year. Following this, cadets who had demonstrated exceptional performance were felicitated. New rank of Senior Cadet Captain Rank was conferred to Sourav Singh Sombria, Cadet Captain Rank to Simran Sharma and Dimple Singh, Petty Officer Rank was conferred to Pooja Mandal and Rishant Satti where as Leading Cadet Rank was Awarded to Omesh Singh Bougal, Prince Singh, Neha Devi and Deepika Bali.

Chief Guest Dr. Sheikh Aijaz Bashir, Director Colleges, Higher Education Department, J&K, in his address, congratulated the newly appointed rank holders and extended his best wishes to the outgoing cadets. He highlighted the importance of NCC in student life and motivated the cadets to continue their dedicated service. Dr. Sheikh Aijaz Bashir also commended the Principal for organizing a well-coordinated and impactful event and urged the cadets to uphold the values of the NCC.

In his concluding remarks, Mohd Ashraf, CTO of the Naval Wing, expressed his gratitude to Dr. Sheikh Aijaz Bashir, Director Colleges, Commander Tej Ram Sharma, faculty members, non-teaching staff, support staff, and cadets for their support and participation, which contributed to the grand success of the event. He congratulated the well-deserved rank holders and encouraged them to move forward while upholding the values of leadership, integrity, and service instilled through the NCC.

SP College organizes seminar to commemorate 'World Book, Copy Rights Day'

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APRIL 29

Department of Library & Information Science S. P. College Srinagar organized a one day seminar on the theme 'Read your way: Printed Books vs E-Books' on the occasion of World Book and Copy Rights Day today at S P College Auditorium.

Principal S P College cum Seminar Chief Patron, Dr. Bashir Ahmed Sheikh addressing the seminar stressed that everyone should read hard copies as well as e-books to shape better human development to serve society.

He further explained Reading books is important because it expands knowledge, enhances cognitive function, stimulates imagination, and develops empathy. It also improves vocabulary, writing skills,

and critical thinking, contributing to personal and professional growth. Reading can also be a source of entertainment and relaxation, offering a break from daily stressors.

HOD Department of Library and Information Science Kashmir University, Dr. Sumeer Gul was invited as KeyNote speaker of the event. Dr. Gul presented a detailed paper on celebrating World Book & Copy Rights Day and explained that by celebrating this day humans connect their souls with the books and their authors as well.

In his address to the gathering, he said World Book Day is a global event to promote the love of reading and the importance of books. It aims to encourage people of all ages to discover the joy of reading, celebrate authors and illustrators, and raise

awareness about the power of books to shape our understanding of the world.

The second guest speaker Librarian Govt. Degree College Womens Baramulla, Dr. Ruman Gull spoke on a broader topic 'Printed books vs e-Books'. He explained the importance of both and said aim should be reading to achieve academic and professional objectives. He briefed the gathering that the choice between e-books and printed books is largely a matter of personal preference, with each format offering distinct advantages. e-Books excel in portability, convenience, and cost-effectiveness, while printed books provide a more tangible, immersive reading experience.

Librarian GDC Sogam, Aashiq Hussain Wafai, invited speaker, spoke on a

topic 'How to assist physically challenged and blind library users' and provided detailed information on tools which can be used to serve physically challenged library users.

Earlier, Librarian S P College Srinagar, Dr. M Iqbal Bhat explained why UNESCO is organizing World Book Day every year on 23rd April, he informed audience that 23rd April is death anniversary of William Shakespeare, Miguel de Cervantes and Inca Garcilaso and this is the reason UNESCO chose this date to pay tribute to these authors.

He provided information on bestselling authors around the world and informed the audience that good authored books can help people in earning a good amount of money also and gave examples of bestselling authors

like William Shakespeare whose four billion books have been sold worldwide, Agatha Christie 02 billion copies, Danielle Steel 800 million copies etc.

A book titled 'Basics in Library and Information science' authored by Dr. M Iqbal Bhat (Seminar Organizer) was also released on the occasion, and the review of book was presented by Dr. Ruman Gul (Librarian GCW Baramulla), he informed audience that book is covering the whole syllabi of MD Library & Information Science paper offered in Cluster University affiliated Colleges.

The second session of seminar was attended by student participants from S P College Srinagar, Govt. Degree College for Womens, Srinagar, Amar Singh College, Srinagar and AAA Memorial College

Bemina. Eight students spoke at the seminar in which four students spoke in favour of printed books and four students spoke in favour of e-Books.

To watch the performance of student speakers, two jury members Dr. Mudasir Khazir (Librarian GDC Khansahib and Iqbal Ahmed Khan (Jr. Librarian S. P. College) ranked the students on the basis of their performance.

1st position went to Tashif Amin (Amar Singh College), 2nd position to Sara Koul (Womens College M.A Road Srinagar) and 3rd position to Sania Mukhtar (Amar Singh College, Srinagar), all the three top student speakers were awarded with cash prize by Principal S P College Srinagar and certificates were given to all participants.

CP Ganga, Gharu Ram hold Public Darbar at BJP headquarters

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 29TH APRIL, 2025.

In a continued effort to ensure prompt redressal of public concerns, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders Chander Parkash Ganga, MLA from Vijaypur Assembly Constituency, and Prof. Gharu Ram, MLA from Suchetgarh, held a Public Darbar at the BJP Headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Public Darbar witnessed the participation of numerous deputations and individual citizens hailing from different areas to bring attention to the issues affecting their daily lives.

Among the primary concerns raised by the attendees were unscheduled and prolonged power cuts, irregularities in ration supply under the public distribution system, scarcity of clean drinking water in many localities, and delays in execution of essential developmental works such as road repair,



drainage systems, and sanitation.

Chander Parkash Ganga and Prof. Gharu Ram Bhagat gave a patient and empathetic hearing to all grievances presented during the Darbar. Taking immediate action, the leaders issued written communications to the concerned departments and officials on the spot. These letters emphasized the urgency of the matters raised and pressed for timely redressal in the interest of public welfare.

Listening to the grievances, Chander Parkash Ganga highlighted the BJP's unwavering commitment to the welfare of the people. He stated, "The BJP has always believed in listening to the voice of the common man. Our objective is to take people's issues directly to the corridors of power and ensure their swift resolution. We are a party that thrives on public trust, and it is our duty to live up to that trust through prompt and efficient action."

Prof. Gharu Ram echoed similar sentiments and underlined the significance of such public interaction platforms. "Public Darbars like this one act as a vital bridge between the citizens and their representatives. They not only allow the public to voice their concerns freely but also help us as leaders stay connected with the ground realities. This two-way communication is essential for good governance and effective policy-making," he said.

DC Kishtwar reviews key development projects, emphasizes inter-agency coordination

JINNEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, APRIL 29

Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Rajesh Kumar Shavan today conducted a comprehensive review of ongoing and proposed development works in Kishtwar town and its peripheral areas.

During the meeting, the DC directed the PWD, PDD and PHE departments to work in close coordination with the GREF authorities for the joint survey and timely submission of a proposal for constructing a central drainage system from Malipeth to Kuleed Chowk along the NH244.

The initiative aims to address longstanding drainage issues and improve civic infrastructure in the town.

The progress on the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the iconic Clock Tower projects at Harra Pond and Dak Bungalow Chowk was also reviewed. These projects, proposed under the Town Beautification Plan, are expected to become prominent landmarks upon completion.



The PWD authorities informed the DC that the DPR for these projects will be submitted within the next two days.

The DC stressed the importance of effective

inter-departmental coordination to ensure the timely execution of development initiatives and urged all concerned departments to maintain close communication for efficient project delivery.

The meeting was attended by Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Kishtwar, Sunil Sharma; AEE PWD Kishtwar, Irshad Naik; besides other concerned AEEs and representatives from GREF.

EDITORIAL

Balancing security and tourism in Kashmir

In the shadow of the recent terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir administration has moved swiftly to suspend tourist activity in 48 out of the 87 destinations across the Valley. While the move may appear drastic on the surface, it reflects a pragmatic response to a rapidly evolving security landscape – one that demands both urgency and foresight. The closures, which affect regions such as Gurez Valley in Bandipora, Yousmarg and Doodpathri in Budgam, and Aharbal and Kousarnag in Kulgam, are meant to safeguard lives, especially in remote areas where round-the-clock security presence is simply unfeasible. With tourist activity soaring in recent years – last year alone saw a record 2.36 crore visitors – the Valley has emerged not only as a vital economic hub but also as a symbol of the region's gradual return to normalcy. But peace is fragile in Kashmir. The attack in Pahalgam serves as a grim reminder that stability can be disrupted in an instant. For a place that has so carefully built its tourism narrative over the past few years – welcoming trekkers, pilgrims, and global travellers alike – such violence threatens to undermine not only public safety but also hard-won economic and social gains. The administration's decision, though painful for stakeholders in the tourism industry, is both prudent and temporary. Prioritizing security is not just a governmental obligation; it's a prerequisite for sustainable tourism. No traveller, domestic or foreign, should be placed at risk for the sake of keeping numbers high or business afloat. In high-altitude or remote locations, where infrastructure and response mechanisms are thin, any miscalculation can prove fatal. What is needed now is clear communication from the authorities, not only to allay the fears of tourists but also to support the livelihoods dependent on tourism. The government must work in tandem with local tour operators, hospitality providers, and district administrators to ensure that alternative destinations with adequate security remain accessible. It must also be transparent about the criteria for reopening closed areas, so that the public does not lose confidence in both the safety and management of tourism in the Valley. Moreover, the situation calls for strategic long-term planning. The popularity of offbeat destinations – often in sensitive areas – suggests a need to revisit how these regions are promoted, patrolled, and prepared. A blend of tourism development and robust security infrastructure will be essential in the coming years. The recent advisory issued in Kupwara requiring prior permission to visit border areas is a step in the right direction, encouraging controlled access without shutting the door completely. Tourism in Kashmir is more than just an economic asset – it is a powerful agent of hope and healing in a region long marked by conflict. To protect it, we must first protect the people who make it possible: the hosts, the guides, the locals, and the visitors. The temporary closures, though regrettable, are a necessary pause – one that can lead to a stronger, safer, and more resilient tourism ecosystem in the Valley.

Akshaya Tritiya: A Day of Eternal Prosperity

RAVI ROHMETRA
Social Worker & Writer

One of the best things about a diverse country like India is that it has so many festivals. And each one has some significance and usually a lot of history behind it. Among these is Akshaya Tritiya, a widely celebrated festival. It is also known as Akha Teej in some parts of the country. It is one of the most auspicious days to start something new, big or even buy something. Akshaya Tritiya 2025 is celebrated during the Vaishakha month's Shukla Paksha, on Tritiya Tithi. It is a great day from the moment it begins till it ends. Read on to find out more about this day, its significance and how it is celebrated.

The word Akshaya in Sanskrit means something that never ends or is eternal in nature. This is a symbol of auspiciousness and goodness. So, on this day, you are expected to purchase gold, buy a new house or make the big decisions of your life. That is because, such purchases or decisions are likely to bear fruit.

Buying gold and silver is considered as highly auspicious on this day. These metals signify Goddess Lakshmi. It is believed that if you make an investment in gold or silver on this festival, then the Goddess will bless you with wealth and prosperity in abundance. This is a key Akshaya Tritiya significance that you need to know.

In case you are plan-

ning on performing Griha Pravesh on this day, you need not worry about a muhurtam. You can enter the new house at any time during the day. Also, making donations to charities on this day is also said to bring about many positive outcomes in the life of the donor. Furthermore, if you start a business on the day of Akshaya Tritiya, then it will certainly flourish. Many people also feed cows on this day to wash away their sins.

In addition, it is considered sacred to chant the Lord's name, observe a fast or pursue spiritual or religious beliefs on this day. Many people choose to pray to Lord Vishnu and his beloved Goddess Lakshmi and receive their divine blessings.

There are many mythological stories associated with Akshaya Tritiya and why they make this occasion special. Some of them are listed below.

One of the most well-known stories related to the day of Akshaya Tritiya is the story about Krishna and Sudama. The two of them were childhood friends. When they were young, Sudama had eaten Krishna's share of a meal. He remembered this even as he grew up, but he was not well off. Sudama needed financial assistance and decided to go to his friend for help. He carried a fistful of rice to give Krishna, in the hopes that he could ask for his help. However, Krishna was elated on seeing his old friend and treated him no less than a king. Feeling

overwhelmed by all this hospitality, Sudama could not muster the courage to ask him for anything and simply walked back home. But when he reached his house, it was filled with gold and riches.

Another story associated with Akshaya Tritiya is about Draupadi and the Pandavas. When the Pandavas were in exile, they had to forage for whatever food they could find in the forest. So, when Sage Durvasa visited their hut for a meal, Draupadi had to turn him away because there was no food in the house. Krishna learnt about this and immediately came to the rescue of his friends. He turned their food pot, which was empty, into an Akshaya Patra. This means that the vessel always had food. By helping them out, Krishna saved Draupadi and the Pandavas from Sage Durvasa's wrath.

Here is another mythological story related to this day. King Bagiratha wanted his ancestors to attain Moksha, which translates to salvation. He prayed to the almighty Ganga to flow over the dry riverbed and help make this a possibility. The day she descended on earth and helped the king's ancestors attain salvation is considered as Akshaya Tritiya.

Lord Vishnu's sixth avatar, Lord Parasurama, was born on the day of Akshaya Tritiya. According to Hindu scriptures, he was the person who got back possession of the land from the mighty seas. The stories don't end

here. Lord Ganesha is said to have written the epic Mahabharata on the day of Akshaya Tritiya. It was dictated by Ved Vyas.

Here's another story that might intrigue you. When it comes to Hindu gods, Kubera has a special position. He is considered as the banker for all heavenly needs. And it is believed that he was a huge devotee of Lord Shiva and worshipped him every day. Pleased by his devotion, Lord Shiva granted him the position of banker on the day of Akshaya Tritiya. Goddess Lakshmi was also blessed on this very day by Lord Shiva to become the custodian of wealth and prosperity.

In addition, the Rath Yatra that is held at Puri's Jagannath Temple in Odisha, annually, starts on this very day. All in all, as far as Hindu mythological stories go, Akshaya Tritiya's importance cannot be ignored, especially if you are looking to usher in prosperity, good fortune and wealth this year.

In the Hindu calendar, there are some days that do not feature in it and sometimes there are extra days too. However, Akshaya Tritiya is one day that is always present on this calendar.

If you regularly involve yourself in charitable causes, this is a good day to do charity. It is said that you will receive blessings if you help the less fortunate on this day.

Hindus often consult their astrologers for an auspicious day (muhur-

tam) to perform a big task like griha pravesh, wedding, buying a new car, etc. There are three lunar days in the year that are considered auspicious. One is the New Year, which comes between the months March and April. The second is between October and November, which is the day of Vijaya Dashami. And the final one is Akshaya Tritiya. This day occurs between the months of April and May.

This day is also considered auspicious for farmers. On Akshaya Tritiya, the head of the family undertakes the task of sowing seeds and pray that they end up with a bountiful harvest. It is a day full of hope and happiness.

In Jainism, people observe many fasts on this day. One of them is called Varshitap. This involves year-long fasting where people fast on alternative days. They break this fast by drinking a glass of sugarcane juice. And guess which day they choose to break this fast? Yes, it's Akshaya Tritiya!

This is one festival that is celebrated almost all over the country. Akshaya Tritiya is as widely celebrated as the festival of Diwali. However, these four states observe this festival in the grandest manner - Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and West Bengal.

Each of these states follows different customs and rituals. In Odisha, people start building chariots for the annual Rath Yatra while people in West Bengal make huge invest-

ments in gold and silver. In Maharashtra, women pray for the long life of their husbands. They pray to Goddess Gauri and make offerings like fruits and sweets.

Uttar Pradesh observes many more rituals. At Vrindavan's Banke Bihari Temple, the deity's feet are shown and people from all over the region visit this temple for a glimpse of the Lord's feet. In this region, Akshaya Tritiya is considered as the very first day of God's creation. So, people consider it as a very sacred day to start anything new in their lives. Lord Krishna idols in temples are covered with sandalwood paste. This is then followed by offering aamras, cucumber, juice as well as laddus that are made with sattu, which is a mixture of cereals and ground pulses, to the deities.

You can visit any of the above places and experience this festival in its full glory. You might end up having more fun than you imagined.

Hopefully, you enjoyed reading this article, which is filled with everything associated with Akshaya Tritiya. In 2024, consider celebrating this auspicious day by doing something special and good, like helping the needy, offering prayers, doing a puja, or investing in gold or silver. You can also go for a major purchase like a new house or car. And remember that if you do good for others on this day, you will earn divine blessings and add to your good karma.

Rekindling spirituality in public service

KANISHK

Spirituality in public service is a quiet force – a subtle, transformative presence that elevates action beyond duty and policy. It is not dramatic or ceremonial; rather, it is the silent essence that gives meaning to governance. Without it, public service risks becoming mechanical, devoid of soul. With it, even routine work becomes an act of purpose, a service imbued with deeper intent.

At its heart, public service is a commitment to something larger than the self. It seeks to uplift the vulnerable, amplify the voices of the unheard, and bring dignity to the weary. This service calls for more than expertise or efficiency – it requires a vision born from character, moral clarity, and spiritual depth. True public service is not confined to

a role or title.

It manifests in the policymaker, the volunteer, the social worker, the diplomat – all united by a common purpose: the greater good. Leadership, in this realm, cannot rely on knowledge alone. Knowledge is inert until shaped by reflection, compassion, and inner values. Spiritual wisdom breathes life into decisions, offering clarity and courage when doubt or fatigue sets in. Without this grounding, even the most brilliant minds may falter – confusion creeps in, cynicism sets root, and leadership loses its compass. Leadership today is often misunderstood as a position of authority, but real leadership stems from authenticity. It is not found in designations but discovered in one's depth of conviction and steadiness of spirit. Authority may be granted by position, but legiti-

macy is earned through inner alignment. Spiritually grounded leaders do not chase applause – they pursue truth and inspire through vision and integrity. They don't act from ambition, but from an attunement to the pulse of humanity. Such leadership stirs hope, cuts through cynicism, and dissolves indifference. These leaders don't rebel against tradition for the sake of it; instead, they bring discernment and evolution. Their compass is conscience, not ideology. In moments of crisis, they offer stability. Their ethics are not performance, but an extension of their being. They see not division, but interconnectedness – as if all lives are branches of a single sacred tree. This worldview fosters institutions where dignity becomes a right, not a privilege.

Compassion becomes

inclusive, not selective. Governance finds rhythm not in control, but in care. Here, spirituality is not religious dogma but a deep connection to something timeless and meaningful. Today, the world seeks not just knowledge or efficiency, but meaning.

A quiet spiritual awakening is unfolding. This awakening isn't about IQ or even EQ, but a higher dimension – Spiritual Quotient (SQ): the ability to see beyond the immediate, to act with purpose and compassion. Without SQ, institutions crumble under their own weight; fatigue replaces idealism, and burnout overtakes brilliance. When a leader is spiritually aligned, their institutions reflect that purpose. This generates "spiritual capital" – the shared conscience of a community that guides its ethos. When such spiritual clarity guides

governance, it becomes more than administration – it becomes dharma in action. The ancient Indian ideal of Ram Rajya embodied this: a just society led by humility, where governance was sacred, and transformation flowed from values, not mandates. Great nations and institutions outlive their founders when their leaders' spiritual fire seeps into collective consciousness.

It becomes legacy, not just memory. This is no idealistic dream – it is rooted in India's own civilisational wisdom. Indian governance was never purely utilitarian. It emerged from Vedantic insight, where action and spirit were inseparable. Chanakya's Yogakshema envisioned a state that nourished holistic well-being, and his Rajrishi – the philosopher-king – was a leader who blended contemplation with

action. Colonial rule, however, severed governance from spirituality. Administration became technical, education lost its soul, and systems bred compliance over conscience.

That legacy still lingers in our institutions today. But the spiritual embers remain – and they hold the promise of renewal. From the mystical Nasadiya Sukta to the Bhagavad Gita's call to duty, India's heritage calls us to see leadership as sacred service. Let service be a quiet prayer. Let leadership be a steady flame. Let us rekindle, through stillness, a public life that is once again filled with soul.

(The writer is a Central Government Officer, presently serving in the Ministry of Home Affairs. Views are personal)

UCC on the horizon

KALYANISHANKAR

After the controversial passage of the Waqf Bill, the Modi Government plans to implement the equally or even more contentious Uniform Civil Code (UCC) passed last year.

This raises the question of whether it is the right time to push for the UCC amid ongoing protests against the Waqf Bill, which began after the UCC was approved in Parliament last year.

The BJP has released a video recently on the achievements of Modi's first year in his third term and is preparing for the UCC implementation. The video, titled 'Big Moves Under Modi 3.0 – The Journey Has Just Begun...', suggests prioritis-

ing the UCC. The video presents it as an important step towards national integration and gender equality.

Despite being proposed and withdrawn twice in 2019 and 2020, the UCC bill was eventually approved by Parliament last year. For the BJP, the UCC is a crucial part of its political agenda, alongside the completion of the Ayodhya temple and the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir. The UCC is a complex issue.

It has several angles, such as political, legal, legislative, religious, gender, and Constitutional perspectives. The country witnessed angry agitations even during the passage of the law. Just as the Waqf Act creates unrest, the UCC is bound to trigger

nationwide agitations.

It is worth noting that while many countries like France, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Australia have a UCC, others like Kenya, Pakistan, Italy, South Africa, Nigeria, and Greece do not.

Prime Minister Modi defended the implementation of the UCC in Lok Sabha in December last year, stating that the Constituent Assembly, which drafted the Indian Constitution, wanted the Uniform Civil Code to be enacted by an elected Government.

He also highlighted that BR Ambedkar, the chief architect of the Indian Constitution, strongly advocated for a uniform civil code preventing one-sided claims.

The Apex Court also

emphasised the need for a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in 1985 to maintain national unity and recommended a single law for all citizens in 1995. In 2019, the Modi Government reaffirmed its commitment to the UCC.

The Court had also declared Triple Talaq unconstitutional, promoting gender justice. Minority groups feel that personal laws are vital to cultural and religious identities, and implementing a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) could infringe on religious freedom under Article 25 of the Constitution. India currently has separate personal laws for various religious communities, including Hindus, Muslims, Christians, and Parsis, which govern issues like marriage, divorce, and

inheritance. The UCC supporters argue for one law for all citizens.

Moreover, experts warn that the UCC could overstep state legislative authority, challenging the principles of cooperative federalism. The Portuguese Civil Code, introduced in the 19th century, is still in effect in Goa and has not been replaced since the state's liberation.

Early this year, Uttarakhand implemented the UCC for the state. Other BJP-ruled states like Assam and Maharashtra want to push it through.

The BJP may want to replicate this in different states. The challenges of implementing the UCC are many.

While supporters argue for a UCC implementation,

others caution against it, citing the need to respect religious and cultural diversity. The lack of consensus among political parties presents a formidable challenge. Many opposition parties and even some NDA allies, and some communities like the Muslims, have strongly opposed it. Ensuring effective implementation across the vast and diverse India is formidable, as it requires preparations for administration, infrastructure, resources, and significant public awareness and education about the UCC. Implementing the UCC brings up concerns about religious freedom and cultural identity.

While the Supreme Court upholds the constitutional validity of the Uniform

Civil Code, implementing it remains a contentious issue in Indian society and politics. It is a highly sensitive issue in India, with diverse cultures.

Many minority communities are concerned about the potential risks to their religious liberties, highlighting the complexity of the issue.

The Modi Government claims that the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) will secure equal property rights for women, ensuring fair distribution of a deceased person's assets among the spouse, children, and parents. Previously, only mothers inherited the property.

Both parties need to give grounds for divorce. Some communities, like Muslims, are apprehensive that a UCC could undermine this

and the protections that the Constitution has provided. Implementing a UCC due to concerns about losing their cultural identity or traditional practices is a key fear. It will be prudent to address the complexities of the implementation before pushing it through, mainly to avoid law and order agitations at the ground level.

There are already demonstrations against the Waqf Bill, and the intention to implement the UCC will only add to the unrest. Therefore, a balanced approach, ensuring the rights of all communities, is the only way forward apart from mobilising a political consensus.

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

World Health Summit's regional meet to shape global agenda: Ayush Minister

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The World Health Summit (WHS) Regional Meeting, scheduled to take place in New Delhi from April 25-27, is set to provide a vital platform for shaping the global health agenda, with a special focus on the integration and scaling up of traditional medicine systems, the government said on Wednesday.

According to Union Minister of State (independent charge), Ministry of Ayush, Prataprao Jadhav, the WHS Regional Meeting is a timely opportunity to advance global dialogue on traditional medicine.

"The dedicated session reflects growing global interest in holistic health. As we prepare for the 2nd WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit in December, hosted in Delhi and anchored by the WHO-GTMC in Jamnagar, India reaffirms its commitment to global well-being," he



said.

Among the key highlights of the summit is a session titled "Restoring Balance: Scaling up Access to Traditional Medicine for Health and Well-being", which promises to serve as a major milestone for the global traditional medicine sector.

The WHS Regional Meeting will bring together ministers, leading scientists, CEOs, UN officials, and civil society stakeholders to explore innovative, inclusive, and sustainable pathways to achieving health for all.

The session on tradi-

tional medicine will delve into how holistic health systems rooted in ancient wisdom can help meet the growing global demand for person-centred care and contribute to health equity.

Experts will examine opportunities to advance universal access to safe and effective traditional medicine practices by leveraging technological innovations, evidence-based research, and evolving regulatory frameworks.

Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary, Ministry of Ayush, stated, "The WHS

Regional Meeting offers a crucial platform to promote evidence-based traditional medicine within global health discussions. The session on traditional medicine sets the stage for the 2nd WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit in December, supported by the WHO-GTMC and reflecting India's leadership in advancing traditional medicine globally."

As anticipation builds for the 2nd WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit, the WHS Regional Meeting in New Delhi is poised to catalyse critical dialogues and partnerships that will shape the trajectory of traditional medicine in the global health landscape.

It will also amplify India's leadership role in promoting traditional medicine, reaffirming its commitment to global well-being and sustainable health solutions rooted in cultural heritage, said the ministry.

Breast Cancer Risk Drops by 50% with Healthy Plant-Based Eating, Says Study

AGENCIES

Over the years, breast cancer has been among the most common illnesses affecting women. While several factors can cause breast cancer, including age, genetics, family history and hormone exposure, a recent study has found links between plant-based diet and exposure to breast cancer.

Several studies have revealed that plant-based diets are associated with a lower risk of breast cancer in comparison to a Western diet, which is high in processed meats and refined grains.

However, the latest study, published in the Journal of Health, Population and Nutrition, looks at the exposure to breast cancer by distinguishing between healthy and unhealthy plant-based foods. As many as 133 Iranian women with breast cancer and 267 healthy



women were examined for the study.

Healthy plant-based foods include whole fruits, vegetables, whole grains, nuts, and legumes, while unhealthy foods include refined grains, sugary drinks and processed snacks.

The study revealed that

women who consumed a healthy plant-based diet had a 50% lower chance of developing breast cancer. The research also found that the risk of contracting breast cancer was 74% less in postmenopausal women who followed a healthy plant-based diet. Women with a low BMI

(Body Mass Index) were found to have more benefits due to high metabolism and reduced estrogen exposure.

However, researchers did raise concerns over the lack of analysis of the hormone receptor status and reliance on self-reported food data.

New curricula to set a benchmark for quality of healthcare professionals: Centre

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The government on Wednesday launched competency-based curricula for 10 allied and healthcare professions, which are designed to produce globally competent allied and healthcare professionals to address the increasing prevalence of diseases, and the growing demand for allied services.

Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, in collaboration with the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions (NCAHP), have launched the curricula.

Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava underscored the government's steadfast commitment to strengthening capacity building and improving the quality of education and training across all domains of the healthcare sector.

She highlighted that "the comprehensive revi-



sion and standardization of the curricula represent a pivotal step toward establishing consistency in educational content and delivery".

"India is skilling its healthcare professionals not just for India, but for the globe. The curricula launched today will set a benchmark for the quality of healthcare professionals across various faculties," she noted.

Underlining the importance of the professions for which new curriculum has been launched, Srivastava stated that "these professions play a crucial role in preventive, promotive,

curative and rehabilitative healthcare".

This initiative is expected to significantly enhance the effectiveness of skill-based training, better align educational outcomes with industry needs, and promote greater career mobility and professional recognition for allied health professionals nationwide.

She further added that "the success of these curricula depends not only on their design and content but also on the strength of the systems that support their rollout".

"This includes adequate institutional prepared-

ness, faculty training, infrastructure development, and continuous monitoring to uphold quality standards. Digital modules of the curriculum will be crowd sourced to make them available to all for their capacity building so that the vision of Swastha Bharat can be promoted," she mentioned.

Dr Yagna Unmesh Shukla, chairperson NCAHP, stated that "these curricula will ensure uniformity and an important step in the direction of actualizing the vision of 'One Nation, One Curriculum'. It is important to note that this marks the first phase of the curriculum rollout".

Furthermore, the curricula have been carefully realigned with the regulatory standards and provisions outlined in the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions (NCAHP) Act, 2021.

Time to position India as global leader in preventive healthcare: Dr Jitendra Singh

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

With 25 per cent of global cervical cancer deaths occurring in India -- often due to late diagnosis -- there is a critical need for preventive screening strategies, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said on Wednesday, adding that the ultimate goal is to position India as a global leader in preventive healthcare.

Dr Singh convened a joint meeting of Department of Biotechnology (DBT), AIIMS New Delhi, BIRAC, ICMR and industry partners here to review the indigenously developed HPV test kits for cervical cancer screening in India and described it as another milestone in preventive healthcare achieved by the DBT, under the Ministry of Science and Technology.

He drew attention to India ranking fourth globally in cervical cancer-related morbidity, under-



scoring the urgent need for action. He cautioned, however, that HPV is not the sole cause of cervical cancer, but studies have shown a 90 per cent correlation, supporting the case for targeted prevention.

The minister said that the ultimate objective is to enable affordable, accessible, and ideally mass screening for cervical cancer.

The minister said it is now the right time to acknowledge a series of significant milestones accomplished by the team

at DBT and BIRAC, including the development of the first-ever DNA vaccine, which brought India international recognition and restored esteem to Indian science in the field of healthcare.

"The DNA vaccine has projected India as a country capable of leading in preventive healthcare -- a stark contrast to the outdated perception that India neither prioritized preventive, nor even curative healthcare," said Dr Singh.

He also referred to

Nafithromycin, India's first indigenous antibiotic, which has received encouraging feedback.

Dr Singh reiterated that the involvement of the private sector is integral to these success stories, highlighting a "whole-of-science and whole-of-government approach."

Another breakthrough cited was the successful gene therapy trial in hemophilia, which earned a spot in the prestigious New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM). Notably, both the British Medical Journal and NEJM, among the world's oldest medical journals, have acknowledged India's pioneering healthcare research.

The minister coined the term "PPP plus PPP", referring to Public-Private Partnerships both within and beyond national borders, a model successfully adopted by several European nations, particularly in life sciences and healthcare.

SK bioscience wins patent case against Moderna in South Korea

AGENCIES
SEOUL

SK bioscience, the biopharmaceutical arm of South Korea's SK Group, said on Wednesday it has achieved a "final victory" in a patent invalidation case against Moderna, the global developer of the messenger-RNA (mRNA) COVID-19 vaccine.

SK bioscience filed a nullity suit in 2023 challenging Moderna's patent on modified nucleosides, nucleotides and nucleic acids, as well as their uses, the company said in a press release.

Moderna's patent is the only registered patent in South Korea related to mRNA manufacturing technology, reports Yonhap news agency.

SK bioscience had argued the patent "unfairly granted priority rights, which hindered the development of mRNA technology."

The disputed patent



was considered critical in mRNA manufacturing and was relevant to SK bioscience's own work, including its development of an mRNA-based Japanese encephalitis vaccine candidate, GBP560, the release said.

SK bioscience has been developing this vaccine in collaboration with the Coalition for Epidemic

Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), a non-governmental organization founded by American billionaire Bill Gates.

CEPI has provided funding of US\$357 million over the past few years to South Korea's private and academic partners, including SK bioscience.

"If developed, SK bioscience's mRNA vaccines

could be exported to developing countries in Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and Southeast Asia, regions where Moderna has not yet registered patents for its mRNA vaccines," a company spokesperson said.

The Intellectual Property Trial and Appeal Board ruled last month in favour of SK bioscience, a decision the company said will accelerate its efforts in the global race for mRNA vaccine technology.

Moderna did not appeal the ruling within the legal timeframe.

The global mRNA therapeutics market is expected to exceed 84 trillion won (\$58.9 billion) by 2033, according to global market research firm Nova One Advisor.

SK bioscience aims to establish an mRNA vaccine platform that addresses not only pandemics but also a broader range of infectious diseases.

Indian scientists develop optical sensing platform to detect cholesterol

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

A team of interdisciplinary researchers at the Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST) in Guwahati, an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology (DST), has developed an optical sensing platform for cholesterol detection, based on silk fibre functionalised using phosphorene quantum dots, it was announced on Wednesday.

A point-of-care (POC) device has been developed in the laboratory scale for detecting cholesterol using this, according to a Ministry of Science & Technology statement.

It can sense cholesterol in trace amounts, even below the preferred range. It can be an efficient tool for routine monitoring of cholesterol levels in the human body.

The platform developed



for cholesterol detection can help identify early symptoms of diseases like atherosclerosis, venous thrombosis, cardiovascular diseases, heart disease, myocardial infarction, hypertension, and cancer.

The project, led by Neelotpal Sen Sarma, a retired professor; Dr Asis Bala, an Associate Professor; and Nasrin Sultana, a DST INSPIRE Senior Research Fellow incorporated the material -- the silk fibre -- into a cellulose nitrate membrane to create an electrical sensing platform

for cholesterol detection. The synthesised sensors were highly sensitive as well as selective for cholesterol detection. Furthermore, the electrical sensing platform generates no e-waste, a key advantage of the fabricated device.

Both sensing platforms respond similarly to real-world media such as human blood serum, experimental rat blood serum, and milk. The work has been published in the "Nanoscale" Journal, published by Royal Society of Chemistry.

Detecting fatal diseases at their earliest symptoms is essential, as abnormal biochemical markers may sometimes accompany such disorders. Therefore, reliable point-of-care (POC) detection of biomarkers associated with these diseases is necessary for personalized health monitoring.

Cholesterol is an essential lipid in humans, produced by the liver. It is the precursor for vitamin D, bile acids, and steroid hormones. Cholesterol is necessary for animal tissues, blood, and nerve cells, and it is transported by blood in mammals.

There are two types of cholesterol: LDL (low-density lipoprotein), often referred to as 'bad' cholesterol because it can accumulate in the walls of arteries and contribute to severe diseases, and HDL (high-density lipoprotein), known as 'good' cholesterol.

Cantabil Expands its retail presence in Jammu with its two new store launches at Residency Road & Talab Tillo

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 29

Cantabil Retail India Ltd., one of India's leading apparel manufacturers and retailers, has further strengthened its strong presence in Jammu with the launch of its two latest stores at Residency Road and Talab Tillo. Located at RESIDENCY ROAD - Ground Floor, opposite J&K Government Arts Emporium, Jammu-180001 (J&K) spanning across 1130 sq.ft area, and TALAB TILLO-Main Road, Opp. SBI Bank, Talab Tillo, Jammu, covering 2580sq. ft area, stores cater to the evolving fashion needs of growing urban population.

Since, Cantabil is already running Menswear exclusive and Women &



Kidswear exclusive stores at Residency Road, now has launched a brand new exquisite Men & Accessories store with new look

and feel to enhance the great customer experience. However, Talab Tillo outlet is designed as a family-wear store, providing



stylish clothing options for every member of the household.

Expressing his excitement on this expansion,

Mr. Deepak Bansal, Director of Cantabil Retail India Ltd., stated, "We are pleased to expand our presence in Jammu with

the launch of two more outlets by adding Menswear & accessories outlet at Residency Road & a Family-wear store at Talab Tillo. Cantabil has garnered immense appreciation in the mid-premium segment, resonating with customers. With a strong presence across India, we are committed to further expanding our retail footprint in the coming years."

With the latest collections on display, the new stores ensure that customers in Residency Road & Talab Tillo have access to the same contemporary fashion trends available in metropolitan cities. This expansion highlights Cantabil's ongoing dedication to delivering a superior shopping experience and making modern fashion accessible across India.

All Major Tourist Destinations in Kashmir Open, Say Officials

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 29 (KNO)

Authorities on Tuesday confirmed that all major tourist destinations across Kashmir, including Pahalgam, Gulmarg, Sonamarg, Dal Lake, and the Mughal Gardens, remain fully operational and continue to welcome visitors.

A senior official in Tourism department told news agency that tourist activity remains unaffected at key locations, which are witnessing a steady influx of visitors. "Destinations like Pahalgam, Gulmarg, Sonamarg, and other prominent sites are open and secure.

Tourists are moving freely, and all necessary security arrangements are in place to ensure their

safety and comfort," the official said.

He clarified that only some lesser-known offbeat destinations—accounting for merely 4-5% of the overall tourist footfall—have been closed temporarily as a precautionary measure.

"There is no restriction on visiting any of the primary tourist circuits. Tourists are being warmly welcomed, and the local communities, along with administration and tourism stakeholders, are fully facilitating their stay," the official added.

The statement comes amid concerns following a recent isolated incident near Pahalgam.

Officials emphasized that the situation is under control, and there is no cause for alarm. KNO

Movement Kalki participates in Parshuram Jayanti celebration procession, campaign to declare Mother Cow as 'Rashtra Mata'

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 29

Today, on the sacred occasion of Parshuram Jamm Utsav (Birth Celebration), a grand procession was organized in Akhnour in which Movement Kalki played a prominent role. In this special procession, Movement Kalki highlighted Gau Mata (Mother Cow) as Rashtra Mata (Mother of the Nation), which drew tremendous attention and admiration from the public.

For over 190 days, Movement Kalki has been leading a nation-wide awareness campaign demanding the official declaration of Mother Cow as Rashtra Mata. Through peaceful protests, public outreach, and religious programs, the movement is awakening the conscience of society. In today's procession, Gau Mata led the way, followed



by members of Movement Kalki walking in devotion.

Key participants included Core Committee Member Sanjeev Dubey, Legal Advisor Advocate

Someshwar Kohli, Social Worker Vikrant Sharma, Rabia Khajuria, and many other dedicated volunteers of the movement. The public showed deep

appreciation for the tableau, chanting in unison:

"Declare Gau Mata as Rashtra Mata!"
"Establish a Sanatan Board!"

The event was not just a spiritual celebration but a symbol of rising social consciousness. The people resonated with the idea that until Mother Cow is given the status of Rashtra Mata, evils like cow slaughter, animal trafficking, and attacks on Sanatan values cannot be fully stopped.

On this sacred occasion, the attendees expressed their heartfelt belief that Bhagwan Parshuram is still present on this Earth, and his divine message of protecting dharma and annihilating adharm remains as relevant today as ever. The event became a festival of awareness and unity.

Movement Kalki is determined to take this message to every village, every street, and every citizen. This movement is no longer just a demand—it has become a national sentiment.

Indian Army distributes Sleeping Bags to Gujjars, Bakkarwals at Budhal, Rajouri

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, 29 APRIL, 2025

In a continued effort to support and strengthen ties with local communities in remote and high-altitude regions, the Indian Army conducted a humanitarian outreach program by distribution of high-quality sleeping bags to members of the Gujjar & Bakkarwal communities at Budhal in the Rajouri district of Jammu & Kashmir. The initiative aimed to provide essential assistance to these nomadic tribes who frequently endure harsh weather conditions during their seasonal migration.

The sleeping bags, specifically designed for cold climates, will enhance



the comfort and safety of the community members as they navigate difficult terrains in extreme temperatures. This outreach programme reaffirms the Indian Army's commitment to the welfare of local population, especially in remote areas with limited access to basic amenities. Local leaders and resi-

dents expressed heartfelt gratitude acknowledging the Indian Army's constant support and empathetic approach to addressing ground realities. The Indian Army remains dedicated to fostering peace, security and cooperation through sustained civic action and goodwill initiatives in the region.

SMVDSB and UEED join hands for Pollution Abatement and Banganga rejuvenation

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KATRA, APRIL 29

The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) and the Urban Environment Engineering Department (UEED) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the year-2022 to collaborate on the rejuvenation of the Holy Banganga. The joint initiative aims to restore and conserve the Banganga through a comprehensive project approved at an estimated cost Rs.92.10 Crore under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) of Ministry of Jal Shakti, Govt. of India focusing on Banganga beautification by constructing a Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) to improve sewage conditions in & around Banganga area, besides development of bathing ghats, cremation ghats, ecological restoration and promoting sustainable pilgrimage experiences.

Before execution of the works, a joint visit led by Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB accompanied by Jt. Chief Executive Officer & Dy. Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB; Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Katra; Tehsildar & ACF, SMVDSB; a team of officers from the



UEED, Engineering & Sanitation Departments of the Shrine Board and the local residents. The visit aimed to conduct a preliminary meeting with locals to understand their concerns and assess the area for the Banganga rejuvenation project, including the construction of a STP.

The local habitants shared their concerns and suggestions during the meeting, providing valuable insights that would inform the project's design and implementation. The issues highlighted were the removal of sheds adjacent to the Banganga embankments which are currently being used for ponies and are contributing to the flow of horse dung into the holy river, greening of embankments, revival of existing vaticas, commencement of Banganga Arti, track widening and construction of cremation ghat to improve the overall

environment and aesthetic appeal of the Banganga area, while ensuring the sustainability of the project.

The CEO instructed the concerned quarters to share the line diagram of the Banganga rejuvenation project with the stakeholders, ensuring everyone involved has a clear understanding of the project's scope and layout. He also reiterated that a copy of the diagram will also be kept in the office of the Incharge Banganga for reference and review as this will facilitate better coordination, implementation and monitoring of the project.

The team conducted a thorough assessment of the Banganga area, identifying key works required for the project. This assessment helped develop a comprehensive understanding of the project's requirements and

opportunities, enabling the team to plan and execute the project effectively. The assessment also facilitated a sense of ownership and cooperation among the local community, crucial for the project's success and meeting the community's needs and expectations for a more sustainable and beneficial outcome.

Notably, the Shrine Board under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Lt. Governor JK-UT actively initiated works on rejuvenating the Banganga rivulet in Katra. The initiative includes synchronized development and contiguous embankments to enhance the natural environment and visual appeal, as well as desilting and renovation of bathing ghats. Mission-mode efforts have been undertaken to remove waste in a phased manner and a drainage system with interceptor chambers has been constructed to divert polluted water for the overall health of the rivulet.

Additionally, projects like the Banganga Arti and Multimedia Laser Show are being conceptualized to enrich the spiritual and aesthetic experience for pilgrims.

CMF by Nothing launches CMF Phone 2 Pro, Buds 2, Buds 2 Plus, and Buds 2a

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 29

CMF, the sub-brand of London-based technology company Nothing, has today announced four new products - CMF Phone 2 Pro, Buds 2, Buds 2 Plus and Buds 2a.

Nothing has continued its strong start to the year, with the Counterpoint Research Q1 2025 India Smartphone Shipment report naming it the fastest-growing smartphone brand in India this quarter, recording an impressive 156% year-on-year growth. This marks the fifth consecutive quarter that Nothing has maintained its position as the fastest-growing brand. With this achievement, Nothing becomes the only brand in the past decade to reach this milestone in the Indian market.

CMF Phone 2 Pro With a best-in-segment three-camera system, a wonderfully bright display, and a premium design, CMF Phone 2 Pro is the ultimate daily smartphone. At just 7.8 mm thin and weighing only 185 g, it's the slimmest and lightest smartphone Nothing has ever designed - 5% thinner than CMF Phone 1. Available in four colors: White, Black, Orange and

Light Green, each featuring unique finishes and textures.

CMF Phone 2 Pro features an advanced three-camera system, complete with a 50 MP main camera capturing 64% more light than CMF Phone 1. For faraway scenes, the first-in-segment 50MP telephoto lens offers 2x optical zoom and up to 20x Ultra Zoom. To wrap it up, the 8 MP ultra-wide camera provides an expansive field of view, perfect for everything from landscapes to skylines, while the 16 MP front camera is ready to snap your sharpest selfies.

The newly upgraded MediaTek Dimensity 7300 Pro 5G processor delivers 10% quicker processing and 5% improvement in graphics compared to CMF Phone 1. With a 5000 mAh battery that lasts nearly one hour longer than Phone 1, CMF Phone 2 Pro effortlessly powers through two days on a single charge. The device features a stunning 6.77" FHD+ flexible AMOLED display with 1.07 billion colors, Ultra HDR capabil-



ity, and peak brightness of 3000 nits.

CMF Audio The CMF Buds 2025 lineup ranges across multiple price points making it accessible to all. From everyday audio needs to immersive sessions and personalised sound, there is a pair of CMF Buds for every need and music profile.

Pricing and Availability CMF Phone 2 Pro will be available in White, Black, Orange and Light Green colour
8+128 GB - INR 17,999 (Including bank or exchange offers)
8+256 GB - INR 19,999 (Including bank or exchange offers)

As a special introductory offer on 5th May, CMF Phone 2 Pro will be available for as low as INR 16,999 for the 8+128 GB variant and INR 18,999 for the 8+256 GB Variant (including all offers)

Day 1 exchange offer: INR 1,000 exchange bonus and INR 1,000 bank offer (applicable on all leading banks) will be available together on CMF Phone 2 Pro.

CMF Buds 2a will be available at INR 2,199, CMF Buds 2 at INR 2,699, and CMF Buds 2 Plus at INR 3,299.

Availability: The CMF Phone 2 Pro will go on sale via Flipkart, Flipkart Minutes, Vijay Sales, Croma, and all leading retail stores starting from May 5, 2025.

The CMF Phone 2, Buds 2 Plus, and Buds 2a will be available in India by the end of Q2 2025.

The CMF Phone 2 Pro accessories to be launched in India soon.

FCI Jammu organizes Internship-cum-Placement Drive for students

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 29

Food Craft Institute (FCI), Jammu, on Tuesday organized Internship-cum-Placement Drive for the Diploma students of the 2024-25 Sessions, reaffirming its commitment to creating strong industry linkages and career opportunities for its students.

Leading hospitality brands participated in the drive, conducted interviews for Industrial Training placements.

Training Partners included Marriott Jaipur, JW Marriott Chandigarh, Pride Plaza Aerocity, The Orchid Pune, The Khyber Gulmarg, Ramada Katra, Vivanta Jammu, and Radisson Jammu, Clarks Amer Jaipur, Novotel Jodhpur, Westin Sohan, Le Meridien Amritsar, J.W. Marriott



Aerocity. As a result of this initiative, nearly 70 students have been successfully placed for their Industrial Training across these prestigious properties. List available on our website www.fcijammu.org

The placement drive was meticulously coordinated by Prince Anayat, Faculty member and Incharge, Training and Placement Cell, who

played a key role in arranging interviews and ensuring seamless coordination between the institute and industry partners.

Principal Jyoti Bhatti conveyed that the placement drive reflects FCI Jammu's commitment to bridging the gap between academic learning and industry requirements, ensuring that students receive the best possible start to their professional

careers.

Faculty Members of Food Craft Institute, Jammu, Dr. Rajinder Singh, Gagan Deep and Reyaz Ahmad congratulated all the selected students and extended heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to its Training Partners for their continued support and trust.

The institute remains dedicated to empowering its students with the skills and experiences needed to excel in the dynamic hospitality sector.

Students placed were pursuing the Diploma in Food Production, Diploma in food and Beverage Services, Diploma in Front office, Diploma in Bakery and Confectionery and the Admission Process for the Session 2025-26 has been started.

Godrej introduces compact personal room cooler 'Edge Minicool'

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 29

Considering the harsh summer temperatures and prioritising the consumer's urgent need for multiple cooling solutions at home, the Appliances Business of Godrej & Boyce, part of Godrej Enterprises Group has introduced its latest offering in the air cooler segment - Edge Minicool, a compact personal cooler. The product is designed to meet the growing demand for portable, elegant-looking and effective cooling solutions.

Godrej's Edge Minicool is a slim, compact and convenient personal air-cooler that can be moved anywhere in your home for enhanced cooling. It has a 37-litre water tank with water level indicator, and a



built-in ice chamber to provide an extra cooling boost on particularly hot days. Its 5-bladed aerodynamic 12" fan ensures powerful air throw and is supported by 3-side air suction for superior cooling. For added convenience and hygiene, it features fully collapsible louvres and anti-bacterial odourless honeycomb cooling pads that help deliver cleaner, healthier and fresher air.

Also designed for durability, it has protection from overheating (pump and fan motor), and it comes with sturdy castor wheels with brakes for easy mobility.

Speaking on the new launch, Mr. Kamal Nandi, Business Head & EVP at Appliances Business of Godrej Enterprises Group, said, "Worsening summer temperatures is leading to an urgent need for mul-

tle, efficient and affordable cooling solutions at consumer homes. With the launch of Edge Minicool, we are expanding our cooling portfolio to offer compact portable and versatile cooling solutions for today's space-conscious consumers. With a strong air cooler product portfolio spanning up to 100 L, we have already registered 2X growth in FY 24-25, and are targeting 50% growth in the Air Cooler category in the next year."

This Made in India range of Godrej Edge Minicool is available in attractive wine red and dark grey colours, at a starting MRP of INR 10,490 in stores across India. It comes with a 1-year comprehensive warranty and can be purchased with zero down payment easy EMI offers.

Parshuram Jayanti celebrated with Devotion, Unity by Dogra Gramin Brahmin Sabha at Ranjan Jandial

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 29:

The Dogra Gramin Brahmin Sabha (Rural) organized a grand celebration of Bhagwan Parshuram Jayanti on Tuesday at the Banquet Hall, 20 Mile, Ranjan Jandial. The event was marked by deep devotion, cultural enthusiasm, and strong community participation.

The day began at 7:00 AM with the sacred Yajnopavit Sanskar (sacred thread ceremony) and Hawan, where several young boys of the community were initiated into this vital Hindu ritual, symbolizing their formal entry into spiritual learning and duties.

This was followed at 11:00 AM by a devotional Satsang led by renowned saint Suresh Shastri Ji, which drew a large number



of devotees who participated with great reverence.

A Brahmin Sammelan (community conference) was also held under the leadership of Sabha President Shri Kewal Krishan Sharma, during which several community elders and dignitaries took part. Key organizers and supporters included Bhagwan Dass Sharma, Neelkanth Sharma, Ashok Kumar Sharma, Madan Lal Sharma, Keshor Lal

Sharma, Kuldeep Rai Sharma, Ramesh Sharma, Suresh Sharma, Ramesh Chander Sharma, Vijay Sharma, Parshotam Sharma, Krishan Lal Sharma, Ravi Sharma, Gopal Sharma, Raju Sharma, and Lovely Sharma, all of whom played crucial roles in the success of the event.

Following the Sammelan, a Bhandara (community feast) was organized, where devotees

enjoyed traditional offerings with a sense of unity and joy.

The celebration was graced by the presence of several distinguished guests, including former minister and sitting MLA of Jammu North Sham Lal Sharma, BJP leader Devyani Rana, Nand Kishore Sharma, Somnath Khajuria, Vijay Sharma and other prominent figures from the region.

In his address, President Kewal Krishan Sharma expressed heartfelt gratitude to all participants and supporters. He emphasized that such cultural and religious gatherings play a vital role in strengthening community bonds and connecting the younger generation to their rich spiritual and cultural heritage.

Suresh Sharma distributes cricket, volleyball kits to youth

JI NEWS SERVICE
AKHNOOR, APRIL 29

BJP leader and member of the District Development Council Pandit Suresh Sharma distributed cricket kits and volleyball kits to the youth of Panchayat Badui, Nardi, Maira Mandreya, Balgoda, Garatal, Kathhar, Kayur of Block Maira Mandreya. This included Badui cricket team and volleyball team, Sangani cricket team and volleyball team, Targah cricket team, Nardi cricket team, Maira Mandreya cricket team, Mund volleyball team, Kathhar and Dhada Ardhan cricket team, Dhada volleyball team, Kayur cricket team etc. to whom Suresh Sharma distributed sports goods. Suresh Sharma had announced to give these sports goods from his District Development Council fund last year. Due to this, sports equipment is being given to the youth in every Panchayat of Block Maira



Mandreya and Chowki Chaura.

Addressing all the youth, Suresh Sharma said that sports play a very important role in our life. Sports keeps our physical and mental balance good. Apart from this, by participating in sports, the youth get a creative outlet for their energy and motivation, which keeps them away from negative influences and behaviors. Apart

from this, sports promote a healthy lifestyle, help the youth to build physical fitness, Suresh Sharma appealed to all the youth to come forward unitedly to stay away from the evils and vices spreading in the society. All the youth present there thanked Suresh Sharma. On this occasion, Block Development Officer Maira Mandreya Tahir Hafiz, BJP leader Ramlal Sharma, BJP Mandal Pres-

ident Gulshan Kumar, Mandal General Secretary Ashok Purohit, Akshay Kumar, Master Chanchal Singh, Bodhraj, Ratanlal, Subedar Mayer Singh, Pawan Kumar, Tarsem Lal, Ranjit Malhotra, Balwant Singh, Sanjeev Singh, Mukesh Kumar, department officials, youth from all panchayats and other dignitaries were present.

Cong defers scheduled rallies in next few days

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 29

JKPCC Chief Shri Tariq Hameed Karra today convened an urgent meeting of senior party leaders in Jammu to discuss the current situation especially in the border areas of Jammu Province, in the aftermath of Pehalgam carnage and the unprovoked ceasefire violations by Pakistan in different areas of LOC in the recent days.

The meeting was also attended by AICC General Secretary and CLP leader Shri G.A. Mir besides Working President Shri Raman Bhalla, Former M.P. Ch. Lal Singh, Th. Balwan Singh, Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma, Former Ministers Yogesh Sawhney, I/C HQ Ved Mahajan, Former Ministers Dr. Manohar Lal Sharma & Yash Pal Kundal, Th. Balbir Singh, MLA Iftikhar Ahmed, Ch, Hussain Ali Waffa (ST Dept.), Hira Lal Pandita (KPs Cell) and others.

The meeting decided to defer all scheduled rallies of the party in next few days including the public rally in Jammu scheduled on May 1st, for the time being. The senior leaders and DCCs have been asked to maintain close rapport with the party cadres at grass root levels and people in border areas and keep the lead-



ership informed about the activities on the ground. There is an atmosphere of unrest amongst people due to unprovoked firing by Pakistan in certain areas and the party has asked people to remain united and strong against terrorism. The party said that it is solidly behind the nation and forces and sought a befitting response to terrorism and Pakistan for their nefarious designs.

The party appreciated the people of all faiths and all shades for their united and befitting reply to terrorism in the aftermath of Pehalgam carnage. It was an attack on humanity and highly condemnable,

shameful act with nefarious designs by the perpetrators and their mentors across border, however, the people of all walks, religions and regions in J&K and elsewhere in the country have unitedly exposed and defeated those designs.

The meeting said that congress party is solidly behind the nation at this juncture to give a befitting response to terrorism and Pakistan. They appreciated the stand of the party leadership and the immediate visit of LOP Shri Rahul Gandhi to Kashmir to share the grief of the victims and express sympathies with them and the

injured. The meeting also appreciated the role of tourists guides and people including the visiting tourists in the given situation especially the courage and bravery shown by

Sayed Adil Shah and few others and the hospitality of others, as narrated by the tourists.

The meeting also strongly condemned Pakistan for resorting to unprovoked cease fire violations, cross border terrorism and infiltrations to Indian soil, which is totally intolerable, it said. It asked people to remain vigilant and cooperate the administration and the forces.

World Dance day celebrations: Balwant Thakur glorifies power of Dance



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU 29TH APRIL, 2025

Natrang Jammu in connection with the celebrations of the International Day of Dance organised an event signifying the role of dance as an art form in a multi-cultural region like Jammu & Kashmir. While glorifying the power of dance, the director of Natrang Padamshiri Balwant Thakur who took the dances of Jammu & Kashmir to global audiences dwelt in details about the significant role local dances have played in integrating this region. Jammu & Kashmir boasts of a remarkable diversity in its languages and cultural expressions. The variegated variety of different colors, rhythms, costumes, design patterns of Jammu & Kashmir are unique in the world. But it was only through the dances of Jammu & Kash-

mir we have been demonstrating the amazing cultural diversity to the world.

On the occasion to mark the world dance day celebrations, a presentation of the dances of Jammu & Kashmir entitled 'Celebrating Diversity' was also showcased which Natrang has been presenting world over. Fact remains that outside world in not aware about this unique feature of Jammu & Kashmir and it was only through this special presentation of Natrang that world was exposed to this rarest fact. Be it 'Asia Pacific Festival' Germany, 'Days of India' in Russia, 'Diwali Festival' at Trafalgar Square in London, 'Kashmir Festival' in Kyrgyzstan, 'J&K Festival' in Dubai, 'Festival of India' in South Africa or G20 Celebrations in Kashmir, Natrang in a very artistic and innovative manner

designed and presented the electrifying vibrancy of unique cultural diversity of Jammu & Kashmir. Fact remains that on no occasion all diverse cultures 'Kashmiri', 'Dogri', 'Gojri', 'Pahari', and 'Bhadarwahi' of Jammu & Kashmir have got this kind of recognition. Never before the initiative of Natrang, the different ethnic groups got the opportunity to come together on one stage and celebrate its unparalleled diversity. Balwant Thakur firmly believes that for the integration of different cultural regions of Jammu & Kashmir, the dances have played a cementing role in bringing them together, appreciating each other's culture and unique artistic significances.

Speaking about the purpose of World Dance Day Celebrations Balwant Thakur said that the core objective of the celebra-

tions of this day is to raise public awareness of dance as an art form. Dance is a means of cultural expression and an important educational tool. Despite being an important part of human life, it lacks official recognition and patronage worldwide. This is also an occasion, a wakeup call for the governments, politicians and the members of the civil society to realise the value of this art form which has been highly instrumental in shaping societies since ages. "This world day is celebrated since 1982 when the dance committee of International Theatre Institute which works under the aegis of UNESCO, recognised this day to celebrate dance as an art form and promote its significance worldwide" Balwant Thakur concluded.

Bhagwan Parshuram Jayanti celebrated with religious fervor in RS Pura

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RS PURA, APR 29

Management of Maa Durga Temple at village Gagian, RS Pura today celebrated Parshuram Jayanti with religious fervour. Celebrations include devotees visiting temples, performing rituals, and reflecting on the importance of Parshuram's mission to restore Dharma. Temple Committee led by Chairman Capt Kundan Lal and President Vinod Sharma organized a grand Poojan and Sankirtan on the occasion. The day-long function started in the morning with poojan of Bhagwan Parshoram. The community members and all the office bearers participated in Pooja. Pt Dev Raj Sharma led the pooja in praise of Bhagawan Parshuram Ji.

The celebration began with morning prayers and Havan, followed by spiritual discourses by Swami Umeshanand Ji Maharaj, who enlightened the audience about Lord Parshuram's life, his valiant deeds, and various anecdotes. The audience was mesmerized by the soulful devotional music and Bhajans. The event was graced by guest speakers, including Dr. Narendra Singh Raina, MLA RS Pura Jammu South, Dr. Mukand Lal Sharma, retired cardiologist, and Captain (retired) Yadu Nath Sharma, who shared their valuable insights on culture and traditions.

It was followed by Bhajan Kirtan by community members. They recited devotional songs and bhajans mesmerizing



the gathering with religious and spiritual atmosphere. The larger facility was also organized by temple committee. Devotees then took parshad and paid their whole hearted obeisance to

Bagawan Parshuram who according to Hindu mythology is the 6th incarnation of Lord Vishnu. To celebrate Bhagwan Parshuram Janmotsav, Hawan, Yagya and Purnahuti was also

organized.

Swami Umeshanand Maharaj was the special guest during the grand celebration. He enlightened the gathering about the history and importance of Bhagwan Parshuram. He also appealed the gathering to follow the path of Sanatan Dharma Samaj and wage a war against various social evils in the society. Stressing that Brahman is one who has knowledge of both Shstra and Shastra, he called upon the people to acquire more and more knowledge and spread it among the society to make a well aware society and nation as a whole. Swami Ji recited devotional songs and Bhajans mesmerizing the gathering with a religious and spiritual atmosphere. Swami Ji, in his discourse, threw light on

the responsibilities of Brahmin.

Captain (retired) Kundan Lal Sharma, Chairman of the Temple Committee, thanked the guests, devotees, and temple workers. He requested the government to declare Lord Parshuram's birthday a gazetted holiday. He hoped the auspicious occasion would usher the nation to peace and harmony besides further strengthening the high values of inclusiveness. He said the teachings of Lord Parshuram would continue to inspire the generations for having unwavering commitment to Dharma and devotion to gurus. "Let us rededicate ourselves to strengthen the bonds of inclusiveness, share our joys with others and serve the humanity", he said.

Cyber Awareness and Anti-Drug Campaign held at Army Camp Kulhand



J1 NEWS SERVICE
DODA, APRIL 29

A cyber awareness camp was successfully held at Army Camp Kulhand with the objective of educating the public about the increasing threats posed by cyber frauds and the importance of digital safety in today's technology-driven world.

As per reports, the event witnessed the presence of several dignitaries, community leaders, and members of the armed forces. Social Activist Sh. Fayaz Ahmed Magray was the keynote speaker and delivered an insightful address emphasizing the urgent need for such awareness programs.

"These types of camps are the need of the hour," said Sh. Magray. "We can develop only when we educate our children, as education is the most powerful tool for development. Empowering the next generation through knowledge and awareness is the foundation of a strong and

secure society."

Sh. Magray also took the opportunity to raise awareness about drug abuse, highlighting its devastating impact on youth and families. "Drugs are a silent killer that threaten the health, future, and stability of our society," he warned. He lauded the efforts of DYSP Anand for his commitment to the "Nasha Mukti Abhiyan" and his active role in steering young people away from addiction.

The camp included interactive sessions, demonstrations on online safety practices, and distribution of informational material. Attendees appreciated the initiative and called for more such events across the region.

The program concluded with a pledge to spread cyber awareness and fight against drug abuse, reinforcing the message that an informed and educated society is the strongest defense against modern-day challenges.

JKNC Central Zone strongly condemns Pahalgam terror attack; endorses CM's initiatives

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 29

The Central Zone of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) today convened a meeting under the leadership of former minister and Central Zone president, Babu Rampaul. The meeting, attended by senior party workers and zonal office-bearers, was primarily focused on the recent tragic terror attack in Pahalgam.

In a strongly worded resolution, the meeting condemned the heinous attack, terming it a "massacre of innocents" and a "cowardly act aimed at disturbing the peace and harmony of the region." Babu Rampaul expressed deep anguish over the loss of lives and extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

He also endorsed the proactive move of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for calling a Special Session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly to discuss the grave situation arising from the Pahalgam attack. Rampaul hailed the

decision as timely and necessary, emphasizing that a united political response was vital to send a strong message against terrorism.

Further, Rampaul lauded the government's decision to depute ministers to various states to safeguard the interests of Jammu and Kashmir students and businessmen. He said that the move would not only ensure the security and well-being of J&K citizens residing outside the Union Territory but would also "thwart the nefarious designs of Pakistan, which aims to create divisions among the people of India."

"Such attacks are aimed at sowing seeds of fear and mistrust among our citizens. It is our collective responsibility to stand united and reject these attempts to destabilize the nation," Rampaul said. He urged all the nationalist forces to unite in this hour of need and thwart the nefarious designs of enemies who are hell bent to divide the people in the name of religion.

Senior leader of JKNC also appealed to the

people of nation, all political parties, social organizations and the civil society to remain vigilant against the fringe elements which are trying to instigate the people and protect the Jammu and Kashmir students and business holders who are being attacked in other states of the nation.

The meeting concluded with a unanimous pledge by all JKNC Central Zone members to stand firmly against terrorism and uphold the values of peace, communal harmony, and brotherhood across the Union Territory and the country.

Among those who attended the meeting were Ankush Abrol Provincial Joint Secretary JKNC, Dr Vikas Sharma, Coordinator Jammu District and Zonal Secretary, Sham Lal Mehra, Adv. Rajinder Chanyal, Rahul Mahajan, S. Nirmal Singh, Dr. Gourav Bharat, B.D Dalotra (rtd. S.P.), S. Surjeet Singh Sasan, Adv Lovesh Bharat, Prem Kumar Verma, Hemraj, Naved Raja, Sat Paul, Manhor Lal, Harbans Lal, Jatinder Kumar, and others.

Youth Parliament inspires Future Leaders at APS Damana

J1 NEWS SERVICE
DAMANA: 29 APRIL 2025

On the momentous occasion of 42nd AWES Raising Day which falls on 29 April 2025, young aspiring leaders from APS Damana envisaged Youth Parliament besides organizing an array of other co-curricular activities. The event simulated a platform designed to engage and educate the youth about the legislative process and the importance of civic participation. The pivotal aim of the event was to promote democratic values and Parliamentary proceedings among the youth by providing a dynamic platform for structured debates on social, political and governance issues.

Brig Vivek Puri, SM, PhD, Cdr Chenab Brigade & Chairman of the School who was the Chief Guest on the occasion, declared open the proceedings of the Parliament. The mind-boggling concerns ranged from educational reforms to societal norms and mental health awareness, climate change and social justice, reflecting the diverse concerns of today's youth.

The exuberant Participants from classes VII to XII were divided into an array



of Ministries provided with different Portfolios, each tasked with developing a bill that addressed their chosen issue. After thorough debates and discussions, proposals were presented to the entire assembly, showcasing the creativity and passion of the youth involved.

During the Prize Distribution Ceremony, Neelakshi Sharma (X B) and Naman Vivek Puri (VIII A) were adjudged as the Best Speaker and the Best Delegate respectively. The Special Mentions were given to Aaradhya Verma (VII D) and Arun Sharma (X B).

The event concluded with a key note address from the Chief Guest who was highly impressed with the significance of youth engagement in politics. He implored upon the students that events like the Youth Parliament are crucial in empowering the youth to

develop their leadership skills and also to take an active role in shaping their present and future. He urged upon the students to instil a deep respect for every woman as well as for our motherland. Ms Pushpinder Kaur, Principal APS Damana expressed her elation over the exuberant participation of the students in mirroring the functioning of Indian Parliament.

The Event Coordinator Mr Manmohan Singh, PGT Political Science inferred that the success of the Youth Parliament highlights a growing movement among youth to engage in the political process aiming to provide even more opportunities for young people to develop their leadership skills. The program culminated with the ending note by the Chief Guest followed by a light refreshment for the students.

Kiren Rijju wishes for safe, blessed, spiritually enriching Haj pilgrimage

J1 NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APR 29

Union Minister for Minority Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs Shri Kiren Rijju extended his heartfelt wishes to all 1,22,518 pilgrims undertaking the sacred Haj journey. The first flights took off with 288 pilgrims from Lucknow and

262 pilgrims from Hyderabad. In his X post, the Union Minister tweeted that under the leadership of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, the Government of India remains committed to ensuring a smooth and seamless Haj pilgrimage. He also prayed for a safe, blessed and spiritually enriching pilgrimage.



JAMMU MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
TOWN HALL, JAMMU
e-NIT No. 02JCA of 2025-26

For and on behalf of Commissioner JMC, the Joint Commissioner, Admin, Jammu Municipal Corporation is inviting online Technical & Financial Proposals from the Registered firms /Individuals/Bidders for "Providing Catering Services To Jammu Municipal Corporation on as and when required basis for 12 months on contract basis".

The duration of the contract may be further extendable for another 12 months based on mutually agreed terms and conditions, subject to the satisfactory performance of the agency and at the discretion of the Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation. All details shall be downloaded from www.jktenders.gov.in

Tender no.	06JCA of 2025-26
Food items requirements	As mentioned in Bid Document
Last Date of Submission of Bids	07-05-2025 upto 15.00 Hrs
Date & Time of opening of bids	The bids will be opened on 08-05-2025 at 14.00 hrs.
Pre bid meeting	Pre-bid meeting with the prospective bidders shall be held on 05-05-2025 at 14.00 hrs. at the office of Tender Inviting Authority., JMC

DIP/J-367-P/25
Date: 29-4-25

Joint Commissioner (Admin)
Jammu Municipal Corporation

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir

Office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospital Division Udhampur
(E-mail- xenmdudh@gmail.com)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor, of Jammu & Kashmir (UT) e-tenders are invited in two cover system, from reputed and registered firms for the job mentioned below:-

S.NO.	Description of work	N.I.T No	Estimated/ Approved Cost (In Lacs)	Earnest Money/ Performance Security	Cost of tender documents	Time of completion	Eligibility Criteria of Bidder	Tender Receiving Authority
01	Construction of Pre-Fabricated Hut along with Toilet and other allied works at Sudhmahadev Udhampur under HADP	ENIT No: MHDU/TS/02 of 2025-26 Dated: 28/04/2025 Due on:- 14.05.2025	9,995 (Lacs)	Earnest Money 2% of estimated amount, amounting to Rs. 19,990/- only shall be submitted by all Participating Bidder in the shape of CDR/FDR/TDR/BG. Performance Security 5% of the contract value shall be submitted by the lowest Bidder before the allotment of work order in the shape of CDR/FDR/TDR/BG.	Rs. 1000/- (Fixed Amount) in the shape of challan through J&K Govt. Treasury indicating treasury Voucher No. & date and also indicating the name of work duly credited to MH-0059(PWD) Misc. Revenue and uploading a copy of treasury challan/receipt on e-tendering portal OR The bidder may deposit tender fee in shape of e-challan through Account No. 0028010200000009, J&K Bank, Udhampur, of Executive Engineer Mechanical Division Udhampur	60 (sixty days)	Registered/ Reputed Mechanical firms having sufficient experiences for the similar nature work	Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospital division Udhampur

Position of Funds:- (Awaited)

Position of AA/Tech. Sanction :- (Accorded)

The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, terms & conditions, Bill of Quantities can be seen / downloaded from the J&K govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in

No: MHDU/TS/ 203

28.04.2025

DIP/J-696/25
Date: 29-4-25

-sd-

(Er. Daljeet Singh)

Dated:-

Executive Engineer

Mechanical & Hospital Division
Udhampur

Balbir Ram greets Adarsh Jathiar on being elected General Secretary of Guru Ravidass Sabha

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 29

Balbir Ram Rattan extended heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to Adarsh Jathiar on being unanimously elected as the General Secretary of Guru Ravidass Sabha, Upper Gumat, Jammu.

Balbir Ram Rattan, who himself is the National General Secretary of the Guru Ravidass Vishwa Mahapeeth, General Secretary of the Indian branch of the British Ravidasia Heritage Foundation, and a member of the Begumpura Vishwa Mahasabha, stated that the election of Adarsh Jathiar to the Sabha reflects the immense trust and respect he commands among members of the community. He expressed confidence that under Jathiar's capable leadership, the Sabha will continue to advance in its mission of service and



spiritual upliftment. He also appreciated the democratic values and spirit of unity demonstrated during the election, calling it a symbol of collective commitment to the values and teachings of Guru Ravidass Ji.

Balbir said, "Adarsh Jathiar is a dedicated and visionary individual who has long been associated with social service and the promotion

of Guru Ravidass Ji's teachings. His unanimous election is a recognition of his sincere efforts and leadership qualities. I am fully confident that he will serve the Sabha with utmost dedication and uphold the ideals of equality, justice, and spiritual harmony as shown by Guru Ravidass Ji."

Balbir appealed to the community to fully support Adarsh Jathiar in his new role and to embrace a spirit of collective responsibility in achieving the Sabha's mission. He also reiterated his own unwavering commitment and support for this mission.

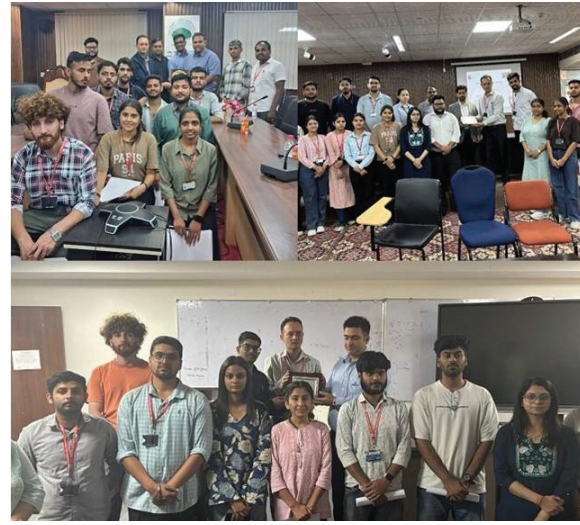
Balbir wished Adarsh Jathiar a successful tenure and called for unity, progress, and devotion to the principles of Guru Ravidass Ji.

Central University of Jammu Remarkable at Campus Placement Drive

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 29

A highly successful one-day placement drive was organized by Central University of Jammu for final year. The placement drive provided a significant opportunity for CU Jammu students to kickstart their careers. Renowned companies such as Prevest DenPro, Synthimed Labs, and Jubilant Biosys visited the campus to recruit budding professionals. Following rigorous aptitude tests and personal interviews, eight students were shortlisted for various roles including Trainee and Research Scientist.

The placement initiative was held under the guidance and visionary leadership of Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu, who emphasized the University's commitment to creating diverse career pathways. In his message, Prof. Jain stated, "We believe in providing our students with diverse opportunities to excel in their chosen fields. These reputed companies are



leaders in their domains, and we are proud to see our students being recognized by them."

The visiting corporate team includes Prevest Denpro led by Mr. Sandeep Sharma (HR), Synthimed Labs Team led by Mr. ML Thakur (Quality Head) and Ms. Kajol (HR). From Jubilant Biosys Dr. Siva Kumar Reddy, Vinay, and Mr. Prithesh Bhatia graced the occasion. They offered a job role as Trainee, Research scientist. The placement drive not only provided students with a chance to secure placements

but also allowed them to gain valuable insights into the corporate sector. Dr. Sujata kundan (HOD Chemistry) along with Dr. Pawan Kumar and Dr. Satya Narayan expressed pride in students' accomplishments and said we are committed to nurturing not just academic excellence but also career growth and employability of our students. Training and placement office motivated the students for the session and advised them to take advantage of campus placement in getting a head start in their career.

Grand Shobha Yatra held in Akhnoor to celebrate Bhagwan Parshuram Jayanti

JI NEWS SERVICE
AKHNOOR, APRIL 29

A grand Shobha Yatra (religious procession) was organized in Akhnoor on Tuesday to mark the auspicious occasion of Bhagwan Parshuram Jayanti. The procession commenced from Kameshwar Temple and passed through Bus Stand, Radha Chowk, and Nirdosh Chowk, eventually culminating at Shri Parshuram Temple. The atmosphere was deeply devotional and vibrant throughout the event.



mandaleswar), DDC member Suresh Sharma, former MLA Rajeev Sharma, former Sarpanches Jagdish Sharma and Ashwani Sharma, Davinder Singh, Kuldeep Singh, Shamsheer Das, Mangesh Sharma, Om Khajuria, Rakesh Malhotra, Deepesh Singh, Anu Manhas, Joint Secretary of District Gurdwara Committee Ranveer Singh, Anil Sharma, Vishal Sapolia, Ashok Sharma, and many others.

Addressing the gathering, MLA Mohan Lal extended his heartfelt wishes to the public and highlighted the relevance of Bhagwan Parshuram's teachings in today's time. He said, "Bhagwan Parshuram symbolizes the perfect balance of Shashtra (spiritual knowledge) and Shashtra (arms). His life teaches us the importance of both wisdom and courage in the face of injustice. We must strive to

follow his path to uphold dharma, justice, and unity in society."

The procession was organized under the leadership of Shri Sudesh Magotra, President of the Shri Parshuram Jayanti Committee, and Shri Ashok Shastri, President of the Dogra Gramin Brahmin Sabha, Akhnoor.

Earlier in the morning, a sacred hawan and puja were performed at the temple. Throughout the day, a continuous stream of devotees visited the temple to pay their respects. A Brahmin Samelan (community conference) was also held at the temple premises after the Yatra, where social and cultural issues were discussed. The event concluded with a grand Bhandara (community feast) in which hundreds of devotees partook in the blessed offerings.

One-Day Workshop on Virtual Lab at School of ECE, SMVDU



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 29

The School of Electronics and Communication Engineering (SoECE), Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), organized a one-day workshop on Virtual Labs. The event was coordinated by Dr. Vikram Singh, with Dr. Purnima serving as the Organizing Secretary, under the guidance of Dr. Anil Kumar Bhardwaj, Head, SoECE. The School extends heartfelt thanks to the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor for providing this valuable opportunity. Virtual Labs (VLab) is an initiative by the Ministry of Education, Government of India, aimed at providing remote access to laboratory experi-

ments in various disciplines of science and engineering. It enhances learning by offering an interactive platform where students can perform experiments virtually, thereby bridging the gap between theoretical education and practical implementation. Particularly valuable for institutions with limited laboratory facilities, VLab ensures equitable access to high-quality resources across the country. The workshop featured expert training sessions conducted by Mr. Nipun Jain and Mr. Aakar Saini (Project Associates) and Mr. Pankaj Saini (Project Assistant) from IIT Roorkee. Around 100 students from the School of Electronics and Com-

munication Engineering (SoECE), School of Electrical Engineering (SoEE), and School of Computer Science and Engineering (SoCSE) participated actively. The event provided hands-on exposure to Virtual Labs, enabling students to simulate real-time experiments and improve their understanding of core engineering concepts. In addition to the training sessions, the workshop also created opportunities for interaction between students and trainers, and information was shared regarding internship opportunities with the Virtual Labs project, encouraging students to engage in further research and development activities.

Billawaria expresses concern over JKPDCL's decision to shift from postpaid electricity bill system to prepaid

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 29



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 29

Former Deputy Mayor Jammu & BJP senior leader, Baldev Singh Billawaria, has expressed serious concern over the Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited (JKPDCL)'s recent decision to shift from the traditional postpaid electricity billing system to a prepaid online billing system. Billawaria held a press conference regarding the department's failure to distribute bills on time and inconvenience in online bill payment. He said that he was constantly receiving delegations of people regarding this serious issue. Billawaria stated that the matter had already been discussed earlier with the concerned department, where it was advised not to imple-

ment this system hastily, particularly because it would adversely affect the general public, especially those residing in slum and rural areas. "A large section of our population is still not familiar with online systems and digital bill payments. The sudden implementation of a prepaid billing model will create unnecessary inconvenience and hardship for them," he said. He further emphasized that consumers should continue receiving proper printed electricity bills at their doorstep, enabling them to pay their dues in a timely and hassle-free manner. The abrupt transition to an entirely online prepaid model without adequate public awareness and infrastructure would only result in power disconnections for unsuspecting consumers.

Brahman Sabha Channi Himmat celebrates Lord Parshuram Jayanti



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 29

Brahman Sabha Channi Himmat today celebrated Bhagwan Parshuram Janmotsav by organizing a religious Function under the Chairmanship of Sunil Sharma head of the Channi Himmat Brahman Sabha. A large number of people from different walks of life participated in the function.

After the Sunderkand paath and Puja Archana religious Scholars enlightened the gathering about the history and teaching of Bhagwan Parshuram ji. The singers recited devotional songs and bhajans mesmerizing the gathering with a religious and spiritual atmosphere Mahesh Pande a religious scholar in his disclosure through light on the responsibilities of Brahmin.

Preet Nagar Cricket Club lifts Trophy at Culmination of Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Tournament

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 29

The week-long Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Tournament, held under the powerful theme "Say No to Drugs," concluded yesterday night with Preet Nagar Cricket Club emerging victorious in a thrilling final against Trikuta Cricket Club at the iconic M.A. Stadium in Jammu.

The event was graced by Minister for Sports, Mr. Satish Sharma, who attended as the Chief Guest and formally declared the final match open. Prior to the commencement of the game, a two-minute silence was observed in memory of those who have lost their lives of the



22nd April, 2025 terror attack in Pahalgam.

The grand finale drew an enthusiastic crowd and was attended by Guest of honors, including Sajjad Shaheen (MLA Banihal), Er. Khurshid (MLA), Satwant Kour Dogra, Provincial President of the Women's Wing of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference and Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Central Zone.

It is noteworthy that

the tournament was inaugurated by Dr. Farooq Abdullah, President of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference and former Chief Minister of J&K. With a mission to promote positive youth engagement and raise awareness against substance abuse, the tournament served as a strong social message delivered through the passion of sports.

Preet Nagar Cricket Club

showcased exemplary performance and sportsmanship throughout the tournament, ultimately lifting the championship trophy amid loud cheers and celebration.

Tejinder Pal Singh Aman, Provincial President of the J&K Youth National Conference and Chief Organizer of the Tournament, expressed heartfelt gratitude to all the participating teams, supporters, and local administration. "This tournament has proven that sports can be a powerful tool to unite, educate, and empower. Congratulations to Preet Nagar Cricket Club on their well-deserved win," he said.

The Guest of honors


including Sajjad Shaheen (MLA Banihal), Er. Khurshid (MLA), Satwant Kour Dogra, Provincial President of the Women's Wing of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference and Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Central Zone, distributes Trophy Winning Team Preet Nagar Cricket Club, Runner up Team Trikuta Cricket Club, Man of the Match, Man of the series, Best batsman, Best bowler, Umpires, Scores, Ground manager, whole YNC organizer team and special guests.

The organizers also extended special thanks to the community for their overwhelming support and reiterated their commitment to hosting

more such events aimed at youth upliftment and social awareness.

Among those who were present on this occasion: Pardeep Bali, Ayub Malik Provincial Secretaries Jammu, Ashwani Charak Block President Jammu East, Dr. Vishal Parihar Vice President Jammu Province YNC, Shahan Kichloo Senior Media Analyst, Sahil Kerni District President Jammu Urban YNC, Zamir Quershi, Som Raj Taroch Joint Secretary Central Zone, Majid Iqbal Naik, Kousar Malik, Amit Sharma, Sahil Chib, Gorav Bhagat, Attal Singh, Gursaran Singh, Viraj Mahanoori, Naresh Kumar, Sachin Bhatti, Navjot Singh and others.

CHOUBARSI



CAPTAIN HARNAM SINGH MANHAS

Four year have passed since you left us for the eternal journey your memories are still fresh and we feel your presence every where every time.

Choubarisi of our beloved Captain Hamam Singh Manhas Son of Late Major Ajit Singh Manhas will be performed at our residence H. No. 11 Kailash Nagar, Canal Road, Jammu on 1st May Thursday at 12.00 PM

Grief Stricken:
Smt . Kusam Manhas - wife
Son and Daughter- in-law
Sh . Gaurav Manhas and Smt Sheetal Manhas -
Sh . Chetan Manhas and Shilpa Manhas
Grand Children :-
Kapish, Tanishka and Hrithik
&
Manhas Family.

Contact Number.
905521348, 9419190280, 7017963458

DIPR Bandipora organises Awareness/ Cultural programme to strengthen fight against drug abuse

JJ NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, APRIL 29

The Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) Bandipora, in collaboration with the Cultural Unit DIPR Srinagar, Tuesday organized an awareness-cum-cultural programme at the Auditorium Hall of N.M. Higher Secondary School, Kaloosa, under the ongoing Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir Abhiyaan.

The event was presided over by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, and witnessed the presence of ADC Bandipora, Zaffar Husson Shawl; District Programme Officer ICDS, Yaar Ali Khan; District Information Officer, Aadil Manzoor Wani; DySP DAR, Ahmad Shafee;

Excise and Taxation Officer North Kashmir, Danishwar Shafi; DySP C.L. Verma, DyCEO Dr. G.M. Pujoo, principal N.M. Higher Secondary School and large gathering of students from various schools.

Speaking on the occasion, DC emphasized the importance of engaging families in addressing drug abuse. He urged parents to remain vigilant about behavioral changes in their children and to invest time in nurturing and guiding them towards constructive pathways.

He called for collective efforts to protect society from the growing threat of substance abuse.

In his message, Qadri called upon participants and all segments of society to actively spread aware-



ness, identify vulnerable individuals, and support government initiatives aimed at creating a healthier and safer society.

ADC while presenting an overview of the Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir Abhiyaan, deliberated on the campaign's multidimensional approach, which includes awareness, education, rehabilitation, and community mobilization. He laid emphasis on the active participation of students and the role of educational institutions in

instilling awareness at an early age. He also elaborated on the importance of awareness through panchayat-level IEC activities.

Earlier in his welcome address, District Information Officer highlighted the objective of the IEC campaign under the Nasha Mukta Abhiyaan, aimed at raising awareness against drug abuse in every corner of the district.

DySP C.L. Verma, speaking on the occasion, detailed the initiatives undertaken by the police

department in combating the drug menace.

He elaborated on the social, economic, and medical consequences of drug use, and advocated for youth participation in sports and other productive activities.

Dr. Anjum Reshi, Medical Officer, Drug De-addiction Centre Bandipora, stressed the collective responsibility of parents, teachers, and society as a whole in addressing drug abuse. She also elaborated on the rehabilitation services available in the district, encouraging those in need to seek support without fear or stigma.

The event also featured skits presented by the artists from the Cultural Unit DIPR Srinagar and students of HSS Man-

trigam, which effectively portrayed the devastating consequences of drug addiction on individuals, families, and society. The performances were emotionally compelling and were received with loud applause from the audience.

Students from various schools delivered speeches and poetry, promoting the message of a drug-free society.

A pledge ceremony was also held, led by artists of the Cultural Unit DIPR, affirming commitment to actively contribute towards the creation of a drug-free society.

Students who delivered speeches and participated in the skits were felicitated with cash prizes for their contributions.

Jabdi Karnah near LoC hosts powerful 'Nasha Mukta Bharat' campaign

JJ NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, APRIL 29

A powerful 'Nasha Mukta Bharat' (Drug-Free India) awareness campaign was organized today at Jabdi village, near the Line of Control (LoC) in Tangdar Karnah.

The local population showed remarkable spirit and unity by participating enthusiastically and promoting a positive message against drug abuse.

Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Karnah, Zafar Ahmad Lone, who attended the event, emphasized the urgent need to reject drugs and instead embrace discipline, positivity and personal growth. His message echoed strongly 'Say No To Drugs'. Besides SDM, the event saw the pres-

ence of several senior officers, including Tehsildar Karnah, ZEO Tangdar, Range Officer Karnah, AEE R&B Tangdar, Nodal Officer Health Medical Block Tangdar, AEE PHE Engineer, VAS from Sheep and Wool Development Department, IC PP Taad, and other dignitaries.

Local youth and students delivered impactful performances, speeches, and artistic presentations, highlighting the destructive effects of drug addiction and advocating for a healthier and stronger society.

The program concluded with a solemn oath-taking ceremony, where participants pledged to stay away from drugs and to actively spread awareness within their communities.

Secretary RDD reviews PMAY-G implementation, Panchayat Ghars construction across J&K

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APRIL 29

Secretary, Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj (RDD&PR), Mohammad Aijaz Asad, today conducted a comprehensive review of key rural development initiatives across the Union Territory, including the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana Gramin (PMAY-G), status of Panchayat Ghars (PGs) and functionality of Panchayat Learning Centres (PLCs).

The meeting was attended by Director RDD Kashmir, Shabir Hussain Bhat; Director RDD Jammu, Mumtaz Ali; Director Panchayati Raj, Sham Lal; Joint Director Planning, Kamal Kumar Sharma; Superintending Engineer REW Jammu, Rajesh Kumar; Deputy Secretaries, Sheetal Pandi-

ta and Bilal Ahmad; OSD to Secretary, Shafiq Ahmad besides all Assistant Commissioners Development (ACDs), ACPs and Executive Engineers from both the divisions.

During the review, the Secretary held detailed discussions with the ACPs regarding construction status of Panchayat Ghars with emphasis on land availability, tendering delays and completion rates. He directed for immediate resolution of land identification issues, asking the Deputy Commissioners (DCs) to personally intervene in the cases where land acquisition hurdles remain unresolved.

Regarding the abandoned and incomplete Panchayat Ghars, the Secretary instructed both the Directors of RDD to



conduct a comprehensive assessment of the same. He asked them to collect details like number of abandoned or stalled structures, status of physical work executed, funds utilized and additional financial requirements for work completion. He directed that the report, in this regard, be submit-

ted within one week to enable further action under the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSAs).

The Secretary emphasized the integration of old structures with newly approved design standards, in order to optimize resource use and ensure functionality.

Reviewing the status of PLCs, the Secretary instructed the field officials to ensure that all PLCs are made fully functional within a week's time. He also asked the concerned to ensure that any logistical or staffing gaps are addressed without delay.

Regarding implementation of PMAY-G, the Secretary emphasized the timely completion of pending houses, rigorous monitoring and accuracy of ben-

eficiary data. He reviewed the cumulative physical and financial progress under the scheme, including updates from the ongoing Awaas Plus Survey. He directed all the ACDs to ensure expeditious completion of the pending houses besides clearing all Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) cases by releasing pending installments to the eligible beneficiaries immediately.

The Secretary underscored the importance of ensuring transparency and rationality in the Awaas Plus survey to ensure no eligible household is left out. He instructed both the Directors of RDD to effectively monitor the field activities and maintain regular communication with the block and village level teams for smooth implementation of the crucial schemes.

Awareness campaign on water conservation, rain water harvesting held across Kupwara schools

JJ NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, APRIL 29

In line with the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, a week-long awareness campaign on water conservation and rain water harvesting was successfully conducted across all high and higher secondary schools of district Kupwara.

The programme featured a range of engaging and educational activities, including seminars, workshops, debates, painting competitions, and expert talks, aimed at sensitizing students and the wider community about the critical importance of water conservation.

About 350 colorful activities were conducted in all educational institutions of



the district. Through these initiatives, participants were made aware that water is not only a vital natural resource but also essential for sustaining life on earth.

Chief Education Officer (CEO) and District Education Planning Officer (DEPO) Kupwara appreciated the Heads of Institutions (HOIs) for their active role in organizing and conducting the week-long activities.

District Admin launches massive drive to curb traffic violations, encroachments in Bhandarwah

JJ NEWS SERVICE
BHADERWAH, APRIL 29

District Administration Doda today launched a comprehensive drive on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Doda Harvinder Singh and under the leadership of the Additional Deputy Commissioner Bhandarwah Sunil Bhutyal to address the growing issues of traffic violations and encroachments to manage the overall traffic scenario in Bhandarwah town.

The initiative saw the active participation of ASP Bhandarwah, SDPO Bhandarwah, Tehsildar Bhandarwah, EO Municipal Committee Bhandarwah, SHO Bhandarwah, and local traffic police. The objective of the drive was to ensure smooth vehicular movement and to improve pedestrian safety in the town.

While interacting with the media, the ADC Bhandarwah stated that the administration had been receiving numerous complaints from residents and commuters regarding unauthorized encroachments by shopkeepers, traffic congestion, and frequent violations of traffic



rules.

In response, the district administration decided to launch a regular massive enforcement operation to streamline traffic flow and clear public spaces from illegal encroachments.

During the drive, a joint team of officials visited various market areas to assess the ground situation. Shopkeepers were directed to remove goods displayed on footpaths and public

roads, which were creating obstructions for both pedestrians and vehicles.

The ADC emphasized that such practices not only cause inconvenience to the general public but also pose safety hazards and also contribute to traffic jams.

The administration cautioned that strict action against violators shall be taken in the future. Directions have been given to the

Municipal Committee and Traffic Police to conduct regular inspections and impose penalties as well as take necessary action on those found breaching regulations.

The ADC also urged the public, vehicle owners and business owners to cooperate with the administration in maintaining order and ensuring Bhandarwah town remains clean, accessible, and safe for all.

Baramulla achieves TB Mukta status in 242 Panchayats

JJ NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, APRIL 29

Baramulla district marked a major achievement in its fight against tuberculosis, as 242 out of 402 panchayats were declared 'TB Mukta Panchayat 2024' under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP).

Among these, 106 panchayats received Silver Status and 136 received Bronze Status in recognition of their sustained efforts in TB detection, treatment, and community engagement.

The milestone was celebrated at a special award ceremony organized by the District Tuberculosis Control Society Baramulla, under the aegis of the State TB Cell, Directorate of Health Services Kashmir, at Dak Bungalow Baramulla.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, who presided over the function, lauded the tireless efforts of field-level officers, health workers, and volunteers in achieving this public health milestone.

He highlighted that despite the difficult terrain and scattered population, the health teams worked with dedication to ensure



early detection and treatment of TB cases, contributing significantly to the national goal.

He further said, "Today's recognition reflects our district's strong collective resolve to eliminate tuberculosis. I sincerely hope that by 2025, the remaining panchayats will also achieve TB Mukta status, fulfilling our shared goal of a TB-free Baramulla ahead of the national target."

DC also emphasized the importance of community participation, awareness drives, and nutritional support for TB patients under schemes like the Nikshay Poshan Yojana.

Chief Medical Officer Baramulla, Dr. Mastoora Iqbal, congratulated the health department teams for their remarkable performance. She appreciated the coordination between field workers, ASHAs, and TB programme staff, and called for continued vigilance in active case finding, contact tracing, and ensuring treatment adherence.

"TB is preventable and curable, and with persistent community-level engagement, we can make TB a disease of the past," she said.

District Tuberculosis Officer and other senior

officers shared data-driven insights, best practices and the roadmap for 2025.

The ceremony concluded with the felicitation of officers and front-line health workers whose contributions made the achievement possible.

The felicitation ceremony was attended by the Medical Superintendent GMC Baramulla, Dr. Parvaiz Ahmad, District Tuberculosis Officer, Dr. Hafeezullah Ganaie, BMOs from various medical blocks, front-line health workers, representatives from PRIs and other officials associated with the TB control programme.