

DENGUE WARNING SIGNS

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

Watch out for dengue warning signs!

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

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

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

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CM reviews progress of NH projects in J&K

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 30 (KNO)

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Wednesday chaired a high-level review meeting to assess the progress of key national highway, expressway and tunnel projects across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Commissioner Secretary Forest, Ecology & Environment Department Sheetal Nanda, Commissioner Secretary Mining



Department, Vikramjit Singh, Secretary Revenue Department Kumar Rajeev Ranjan; Secretary Public Works (R&B) Department Bhupinder Kumar. Besides, senior officers from the National Highways Authority of India

(NHAI), National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL), Border Roads Organisation (BRO) and Public Works Department (R&B) also participated in the meeting. The meeting stressed

on the need to identify bottlenecks and enhance inter-agency coordination to ensure time-bound and efficient execution of vital infrastructure works. The Chief Minister was briefed on the status of major infrastructure projects

being executed by NHAI, NHIDCL, BRO and the PWD. Secretary, Public Works (R&B), Bhupinder Kumar gave a comprehensive presentation, informing that approximately a dozen major highway corridors and one expressway, spanning over 1,800 kilometers, are currently in various stages of execution. These include strategically important routes such as National Highway 44 (Jammu-Srinagar), NH-144A (Jammu-Rajouri-Poonch) and the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway (NE-5), among others. The meeting also reviewed 12 major

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Mission to root out terror will be taken to its logical end: LG

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 30 (KNO)

Stating that mission to destroy "root of terror emanating from neighbourhood" will be taken to its logical end, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday said that everyone must be resolute to foil the nefarious designs of the enemies of peace.

LG Sinha, according to the news agency chaired a high level security meeting to review the prevailing situation in Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting was attended by the Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat, Chandraker Bharti, Principal Secretary Home; Nitish Kumar, ADGP CID J&K; Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Jammu and Shiv Kumar Sharma, DIG Jammu-Samba-Kathua Range. The Lieutenant Governor directed for strong and coordinated measures to completely wipe out terrorism and its entire ecosystem from Jammu Kashmir.

The Lieutenant Governor directed the J&K Police and other agencies to act



tough against the Over Ground Workers (OGWs) who are providing logistics to terrorists, identifying targets for them and helping them to escape. "Infrastructure and support system of terrorism in every nook and corner of Union Territory has to be dismantled permanently," he said, adding, "It should be our priority to ensure a sense of security to the common man."

The Lieutenant Governor also directed to further strengthen the security grid and stressed upon the need for better coordination and synergy among the security agencies.

Pertinently, today's meeting was the 3rd security review chaired by LG Sinha since April 22 Pahal-

gam terror attack that left 26 persons, mostly tourists, dead.

Soon after the attack LG Sinha on April 23 held a security review meeting to ensure that the directions passed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah were swiftly followed to bring those responsible for the Pahalgam terror attack to justice.

During the meeting, Sinha informed the Home Minister has directed that all possible force must be used to take the strongest possible action against the perpetrators of the Pahalgam terror attack, and that the entire ecosystem of terrorism must be dismantled.

Sinha said that the Government of India, **CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

75% qualify 12th exams

Yet again girls outshine boys

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 30 (KNO)

The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education on Wednesday announced results of annual regular exams of 12th standard with an overall pass percentage of 75 percent.

According to the news agency girl students have yet again outshined boys.

BOSE said that the total pass percentage includes 72 percent in boys and 78 percent among girl students.

It also said that a total of 1,033,08 candidates were enrolled for the exams in which 77,311 successfully qualified it. Stating the overall performance of the candidates, BOSE said that a total of 51,717 male and 51,591 female candidates appeared in the examination out of which 75 percent qualified it.

In the exams, a total of 30,622 students have registered distinctions, 36,311 secured first divi-

80 percent qualify 10th exams in JK, Ladakh

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 30 (KNO)

With an overall pass percentage of 79.94 percent, Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (BOSE) Wednesday declared the results of annual regular examinations of 10th standard. The news agency has learnt that the girl students have yet again outshined boys.

"Girls registered a total pass percentage of 81.24 percent while boys registered only 78.74 percent," BOSE said in the exams, a total of 1,456,71 students were enrolled for class 10th

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

sions, 10,304 bagged second division and 74 candidates registered third division.

BOSE further said that in the examination, 970 students couldn't qualify the exams while 25,027 have been asked to reappear in the exams.

The official had said that nearly 3,55,963 students were registered for the annual regular examination of class 10th, 11th and 12th including 1,32,992 candidates of 10th standard, 1,20,673 in 11th standard and 1,02,298 students of 12th standard respectively.

Pertinently, Education Minister Sakina Itoo had directed the BOSE and the concerned authorities to announce the results by April-30

Earlier the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (BOSE) had said that the board was mulling to announce the results of 10th and 12th standard on the same date. KNO

Former RAW chief to head National Security Advisory Board

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, APR 30

The government on Wednesday reconstituted the National Security Advisory Board and appointed former Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) chief Alok Joshi as its new

chairman. The revamped seven-member board includes several high-ranking military, Naval, Air Force officials, besides top Indian Police Service officials as its members.

This decision was taken at a high-level **CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

Pak violates ceasefire along LoC in parts of J&K, Indian Army effectively retaliates

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 30

Pakistan Army resorted to small arms firing and violated the ceasefire along the Line of Control in parts of Jammu and Kashmir.

The defence spokesman here on Wednesday morning said that during the night of April 29-30, Pakistan Army posts initiated unprovoked small-arms fire across the Line of Control opposite the Naushera, Sunderbani and



Akhnoor sectors in the Union Territory of Jammu

and Kashmir. He said that unprovoked

small arms firing by the Pakistan Army was also reported from their posts across the Line of Control in Baramulla and Kupwara districts of the Kashmir division as well as across the International Border in the Pargwal Sector.

"Indian Army troops responded swiftly and proportionately," he said.

On Tuesday night, Pakistan Army violated the truce in Ramgarh and Pargwal areas of Jammu along the international border.

Official sources said that Pakistan fired small arms and violated the ceasefire in the Ramgarh sector of Samba district and Pargwal area of Akhnoor in Jammu.

The BSF troops effectively retaliated to the firing, they said.

However, no injury was reported on their own side, they added.

Border tension escalated between India and Pakistan in the aftermath of April 22 Pahalgam terror attack.

Lt Gen Pratik Sharma takes over as Northern Army Commander

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 30

Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma Wednesday took over as the new Commander-in-Chief of the Udhampur-based Northern Army Command. He replaced Lt Gen MV Suchendra Kumar after his 15-month tenure in the office.

With an illustrious career spanning across three decades, Lt General Sharma, according to the news agency is an infantry officer who has served in varied operational environments. He was a part of key operations such as operations Pawan, Meghdoot, Rakshak and Parakram.

Lt Gen Sharma has held key appointments, including Director General Mil-



itary Operations, Military Secretary branch. He was also the Director General of Information Warfare at the newly institutionalised Information Directorate at the Army Headquarters in New Delhi.

The Udhampur-based Northern Army Command looks after the entire gamut of operations against Pakistan and China in the Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh sectors.

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HAJJ 2025

First flight from Srinagar scheduled on May 4, reporting time fixed

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 30 (KNO)

The Jammu and Kashmir Hajj Committee on Wednesday issued the flight schedule for the first batch of the intended pilgrims departing from Srinagar for the pilgrimage this year.

According to an official notification, a copy of which also lies with the news agency, the first flight (SG-5304) is scheduled to take off on May 04, 2025.

As per the notification, pilgrims travelling on this flight have been instructed to report at Haj House, Bemina, Srinagar, between 5:00 AM and 5:30 AM on the day of departure.

The J&K Haj Committee has urged pilgrims to strictly adhere to



the reporting time and ensure that only standard baggage, free of banned items, is carried as check-in luggage.

The committee stated that the flight schedule for the remaining pilgrims will be notified separately.

According to the officials, over 3,600 pilgrims from J&K are scheduled to perform Hajj this year under the government quota.

Earlier, the Saudi government this year imposed a temporary ban on the issuance of Umrah, tourist, and visit visas ahead of the Hajj season,

which sparked concerns among aspiring pilgrims.

However, officials clarified that this move was a routine pre-Hajj measure and would not affect the upcoming Hajj pilgrimage from India, including Jammu & Kashmir.

The officials said the move aimed to streamline the Hajj process and reduce issues faced by officially registered pilgrims.

As per the officials, the early travel restrictions comes after the tragedy during the 2024 Hajj pilgrimage, where over 1,000 people died. KNO

Kokernag breaks 18-yr-old record, sees hottest April day at 29.1°C

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APR 30 (KNO)

While the heatwave conditions continued in several parts of Jammu and Kashmir, Srinagar for the second straight day on Wednesday recorded the second hottest April day at 30.9 degrees Celsius.

Kokernag in south Kashmir, as per the news agency, recorded the all-time highest temperature in the month of April at 29.1 degrees Celsius, breaking an 18-year-old record of 28.3 degrees Celsius, recorded on April 30, 2007.

For the second straight day, Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded the second highest maximum temperature in the month of April as the mercury settled at 30.9 degrees Celsius. The all-time hot-



test maximum temperature in April was recorded at 31.3 degrees Celsius on April 20, 1946.

While the heatwave prevailed at multiple places across J&K, Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad has advised people to stay hydrated. He has recommended drinking plenty of water, fluids and staying indoors and avoid working in the open during peak hours

from 12-3 pm.

Meanwhile, the MeT here has predicted the possibility of brief spell showers at isolated scattered places with thunder and gusty winds from tomorrow (May 01) to May 05.

The weather is expected to remain dry from May 06 to 07, while there is a possibility of light rain and thunder on May 09 and May 10, Dr Ahmad added. KNO

Countdown begins for maiden edition of WAVES - World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit

J1 NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, 30 APRIL 2025

The countdown for the much-anticipated milestone event for the Media & Entertainment (M&E) sector - WAVES (World Audio-Visual & Entertainment Summit 2025) has begun. This groundbreaking four-day event, starting tomorrow at Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai is designed to propel India's Media & Entertainment industry to even greater heights.

As Mumbai, the entertainment capital of India, is gearing up to welcome the who's who of Media & Entertainment sector who shall delve into engaging panel discussions, thought-provoking and inspiring discourses, knowledge-sharing in-conversation and interactive sessions, enriching master-classes by the industry luminaries et al, the multi-dimensional takeaways over the coming four days for the stakeholders look promising for a future-ready M & E sector in the country.

This is because WAVE Summit is meant to amplify India's Voice as a Global Powerhouse. WAVES, from its debut year, will provide a platform to showcase India's vibrant

creative industry and its immense potential within the global M&E landscape. Adding to the same, WAVES will also promote knowledge exchange, dialogue, and collaboration between Indian and global stakeholders. This pioneering initiative by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India is envisioned for gainfully leveraging India's rich spiritual legacy for global harmony and propel the Creator's economy in the right direction.

The Four Pillars of WAVES The mega-event encompassing the entire gamut of M & E sector has been broadly divided into four pillars.

One: Broadcasting & Infotainment - Encompassing the traditional and evolving landscape of information and entertainment delivery, this focus area aims at prioritizing information, empowering citizens, and going global by adapting to the challenges of the 21st Century. It includes the following areas of the creative economy:

- Broadcast: Television, Radio, Podcasts, Sports Broadcasting
- Content Creation: Print Media, Music
- Delivery Platforms: Car-



riage (Cable & Satellite), DTH (Direct-to-Home)

- Advertising & Marketing: Leading professionals shaping brand strategies within the M&E space.

Two: AVGC-XR - This segment explores the cutting-edge world of immersive storytelling and interactive experience powered by a combination of artistry, entertainment and

technology. It encompasses the following specific areas:

- Animation
- Visual Effects
- E-Sports
- Comics
- Augmented Reality/ Virtual Reality (AR/ VR)
- Metaverse & Extended Reality (XR)

Three: Digital Media & Innovation: This segment explores

the ever-evolving digital landscape and its impact on entertainment consumption. It includes:

- Digital Media & App Economy
- OTT Platforms
- Social Media Platforms
- Generative AI & Emerging Technology
- Influencers & Content Creators

Four: Films: This segment explores the world of filmmaking, production and globalization.

- Films, Documentaries, Shorts, Videos
- Film Technology (Shooting, Post-Production)
- Globalization of Indian Cinema
- Co-Production
- Film Incentives
- Audio-Visual Services

Create in India Challenge and Creatosphere: Launched as part of WAVES, the Create in India Challenge (CIC) Season-1, has achieved a milestone of crossing 85,000 registrations including 1,100 International participants. Over 750 finalists have been selected after a meticulous selection process, from across 32 diverse challenges. These talented creative minds will get a unique opportunity in the Creatosphere to showcase the outcome and output of their individual talent and skills, apart from networking opportunities with business leaders from their respective sector including pitching sessions, and learn from global stalwarts through masterclasses and panel discussions.

The Creatosphere at WAVES will offer immersive experient-

es with masterclasses, workshops, a gaming arena, and the Grand Finale of the Create in India Challenges, culminating in the WAVES CIC Awards.

Global Media Dialogue, to be held at WAVES on 2nd May 2025, is yet another segment that aims to bring together global leaders, policymakers, industry stakeholders, media professionals, and artists to engage in a constructive and dynamic dialogue aimed at shaping the future of the audio-visual and entertainment sectors with a focus on international collaboration, technological innovation, and ethical practices.

Thought Leaders Track: Through plenary sessions, conference sessions and breakout sessions, top CEOs and global leaders will provide insights and diverse perspectives, while also undertaking strategic discussions for collaborations.

WaveXcelerator will connect M&E startups with investors and mentors through live pitching sessions to foster innovation and funding. It will act as a catalyst for Indian startups to lead this transformation, ensuring they receive the right exposure, and investment to scale up their businesses.

Sakeena Itoo greets students on 12th class results

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APRIL 30

Minister for Education, Sakeena Itoo extended her heartfelt greetings to the students of 12th class who were declared successful in results declared today.

In her greetings, Sakeena applauded the dedication, hard work, and perseverance of students for achieving academic excellence. She added that our students have shown remarkable determination and achieved such brilliant results.

The Minister also extended her heartfelt greetings to girl students for outshining the boys both in overall pass percentage and top meritorious positions, adding that girls are excelling in every field.

The Minister also encouraged those who



may not have achieved their desired results to stay motivated and focus on future opportunities. "Exams are just one step in the journey as there are many paths to success and each student has their own unique potential", Sakeena stated.

The Minister also appreciated the JKBOSE administration for compiling the results in a short span of 36 days.

DC Poonch provides Red Cross Aid to TB Patients

J1 NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, APRIL 30



The Chairman of the District Red Cross Society (Deputy Commissioner) Vikas Kundal today disbursed funds for providing nutritional support to tuberculosis (TB) patients under the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyan (PMTBMBA) program.

He presented a cheque amounting to Rs 71,000 to the Chief Medical Officer and District Tuberculosis Officer.

This initiative demonstrates the district administration's commitment to enhancing healthcare access and supporting vulnerable populations in the fight against tuberculosis.

Commissioner Secretary H&UDD, Commissioner JMC visit animal care facilities in Jammu

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 30

Commissioner Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department, Mandeep Kaur and Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation, Dr. Devansh Yadav, conducted an extensive visit to the Municipal Animal Care Centre at Roop Nagar and the SPCA Centre at Chowadhi.

They reviewed the progress on Animal Birth Control (ABC) program besides taking stock of associated civil works.

At Municipal Animal Care Centre, Roop Nagar, the dignitaries inspected the ongoing ABC program and reviewed the condition of sick and injured stray animals under treatment.



maintaining hygienic conditions, providing timely medical treatment and ensuring humane handling of all animals. She interacted with the veterinary staff, directing them to maintain efficient records. She stressed the need to expand outreach efforts for stray dog sterilization to effectively manage their population.

At SPCA Centre Chowadhi, the officers visited

the upcoming ABC Centre there, taking a comprehensive review of the ongoing civil works.

H&UDD Commissioner Secretary exhorted upon the concerned to expedite the construction and operational preparations. The new facility is expected to significantly boost the sterilization capacity, helping scale up stray dog sterilization efforts across the city. She asked the engineering and vet-

erinary teams to ensure timely project completion and infrastructure readiness.

Abdul Star, Joint Commissioner (Health and Sanitation), Dr. Gaurav Chowdhary; Animal Welfare Officer, Ashwani Mitra; DFO Urban; Executive Engineers from the Electric, Civil and Project Divisions of JMC and other concerned officials were present on the occasion.

District Doda steps forward under RAMP Programme

J1 NEWS SERVICE
DODA, APRIL 30

The Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO), the nodal agency for the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Program in the Union Territory, organized a District-Level Awareness Workshop at the Conference Hall, DC Office Doda. The initiative is being carried out under the overall supervision of the Department of Industries and Commerce, Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

The workshop was conducted in collaboration with the State Project Implementation Unit (SPIU), - Grant Thornton Bharat LLP, and the District Industries Centre (DIC) Doda. It witnessed active participation from approximately 50 attendees, including government officials, MSME stakeholders, and representatives from various institutions.



by Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh along with SSP Sandeep Mehta and GM, DIC S. Paramjeet Singh. Among others present were Functional Managers DIC, Lead District Manager (LDM), Assistant Labour Commissioner (ALC), Assistant Director Employment, Assistant Director Handicrafts and Handloom (AD H&H), representatives from ITI Doda and Bhandarwah, officials from KVIB, District Officer

JKEDI, District Programme Manager JKRLM and Chairman CCI. During the workshop, members from the SPIU team delivered a detailed presentation on the RAMP scheme, highlighting the key interventions, benefits for MSMEs, and the roles of various implementing agencies involved in executing the program at the district and UT level.

In his address, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized that he will personally monitor the implementation of the RAMP initiative in the district. He directed the GM, DIC to provide full performance reports on a regular basis. He also stressed the importance of promoting RAMP benefits, particularly among NULM stakeholders and widow entrepreneurs, and urged all government officials present to contribute to nation-building by ensuring the

effective implementation of RAMP alongside other government schemes.

SSP Sandeep Mehta encouraged young entrepreneurs to leverage RAMP schemes and directed JKEDI to support these efforts, underlining the need to address broader social issues such as the drug menace through economic empowerment.

GM, DIC S. Paramjeet Singh called upon ITI heads to extend full cooperation to JKEDI in skilling initiatives. He advised MSMEs to take full advantage of the schemes available under RAMP and announced that an Udyam Awareness Workshop has been scheduled to be held at Bhandarwah next week. The workshop provided an effective platform for building awareness, clarifying the benefits of RAMP interventions, and strengthening coordination among the district-level stakeholders to ensure the success of the program.

District Administration Jammu organises anti-drug awareness programme at MAM College

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 30

As part of its ongoing campaign to combat drug abuse and promote healthy lifestyles among youth, the District Administration Jammu organised an anti-drug Awareness Programme at Government MAM College. The event, part of a series of endeavours, aimed at sensitising students about the dangers of substance abuse. A large number of students, faculty and officials attended the event.

Sub Divisional Magistrate Jammu South Manu Hansa was the chief guest. In his address, the SDM emphasised the need for collective public action to curb the growing threat of drug abuse among the younger generation. He



educated students about the harmful effects of drugs on physical health, mental well-being and career prospects, stressing how substance abuse can derail futures and break families.

He urged students to stay alert and adopt positive habits that promote both mental and physical wellness. "Education and awareness are our strongest tools in building a drug-free society," he remarked.

The event was coordinated by Block Devel-

opment Officer Satwari Sandeep Gupta and Tehsildar Bahu Raju Samyal. Key resource persons, including Dr. Arti Sharma and Lecturer Amar Singh, delivered impactful sessions highlighting the adverse effects of drug addiction on individuals and society. They addressed the psychological, physical and social repercussions of drug use and offered practical strategies for resisting peer pressure and managing stress through healthy alternatives.

DC Udhampur convenes public outreach camp at CFC Chenani

JI NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, APRIL 30

Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai today presided over a public outreach camp at CFC Chenani.

The camp provided the residents a platform to voice their concerns and grievances directly to the district administration.

The event witnessed the participation of DDC member Usha Devi; Additional District Development Commissioner, Rajinder Singh; SDM Chenani Dr. Ranjeet Singh Kotwal, former Sarpanches, Panches and a large number of local residents from the adjoining panchayats of Block Chenani.

During the outreach camp, the locals projected several pressing demands, seeking adequate staff at Higher Secondary School Sudh Mahadev, Upgradation of Girls High School Chenani to Higher Secondary School, Building for Higher Secondary School Basht, Blacktopping of Gorikund road, Blacktopping of circular road in



Chenani Town, Proper Parking facility in Chenani town, finalization of campus land and starting of academic session of KV Mantalai, establishment of Indoor Sports Stadium at Chenani, Proper waste disposal facility in Chenani Town, identification of proper source of water for JJM schemes, promotion of Homestays for Tourism Purpose, Establishment of sub-division Employment and Counseling Centre at Chenani.

While interacting with the public, the DC said that extensive development is taking place in Block Chenani and the district administration is fully committed for overall development of the district. Responding to complaints regarding non issuance of NOC by PDA for renovation, she said

that bottlenecks are being removed to ease the process. She emphasised that all the demands raised would be resolved on priority. The DC also briefed the people regarding the Government schemes such as the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, JK Samadhan Portal and other beneficiary-oriented and income-generating initiatives.

The DC issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned authorities for earliest possible redressal of grievances. Later, the Deputy Commissioner, accompanied by Member Legislative Assembly Chenani, Balwant Singh Mankotia, conducted a site inspection for the construction of an alternate link road from the Police Station to the new Bus Stand in Chenani.

Secretary Health visits Baltal, assesses Medical Preparedness for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025

JI NEWS SERVICE
BALTAL (SONAMARG), APRIL 30

In order to take first hand appraisal of the Health facilities being put in place for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, Secretary Health and Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, today visited Base Camp Hospital Baltal and Primary Health Centre Sonamarg.

Director Health Services Kashmir, Dr Jahangeer Bakhshi, accompanied the Secretary during the visit.

At the 100-bedded Base Camp Hospital in Baltal, the Secretary inspected various critical medical facilities including Intensive Care Unit, trauma care section



and oxygen generation plant besides accommodation infrastructure for the staff. He also visited PHC Sonamarg and inspected various section of the health facility.

The Secretary empha-

sized the need for complete readiness of all medical services well before commencement of the pilgrimage season.

He issued clear directives to all medical officers and yatra staff, stressing

along the yatra route.

Dr. Abid reiterated the administration's focus on delivering prompt, efficient, and compassionate healthcare services throughout the pilgrimage period.

Power Shutdown

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APRIL 30

According to the Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDC, in order to carry out Branch Cutting and necessary Stabilization works, shutdown of various 33KV lines shall be carried out which shall affect power supply to several areas.

Shutdown of 33KV Sopore line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Sopore-I and Sadiq Colony shall remain off while power supply to Sopore, Sadiq Colony and adjoining areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 03:00 PM on 04 & 06 May, 2025. Also, the shutdown of 33KV Nowpora line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Nowpora, Seelo, Achbal, Bomai shall remain off while power supply to Nowpora, Seelo, Achbal, Bomai and adjoining areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 03:00 PM on 07, 10 & 13 May, 2025.

Similarly, the shutdown of 33KV Bandipora line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Watlab, Tujjar, Dooru shall remain off while power supply to Watlab, Tujjar, Dooru and adjoining areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 03:00 PM on 12, 15 & 17 May 2025.

Further, the shutdown of 33KV Arampora line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Arampora, Panzipora, Bugoo, Shair Colony shall remain off while power supply to Arampora, Panzipora, Bugoo, Shair Colony and Ogmuna area will be affected from 10:00 AM to 03:00 PM on 20, 24 & 27 May, 2025.

Dy CM holds public outreach camp at Panchayat Bhawani-A, Nowshera

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, APRIL 30

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today conducted a public outreach camp at Panchayat Bhawani-A in Nowshera, listening to the grievances of local residents with assurance of timely redressal of the same.

During the camp, the locals raised several demands including construction of additional border bunkers, installation of hand pumps, establishment of ecoparks and setting up of a JK Bank branch with ATM facilities.

They also highlighted the acute staff shortage at the Naib Tehsil office in Bhawani and sought compensation for land acquisition along the Bhawani to Qila Darhal road under the Border Roads Organization (BRO). Besides, completion of the Bhawani to Shalaakh road and inclusion of all eligible beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) were also among the major concerns raised.

Other issues brought to the Dy CM's notice included water scarcity, inflated



electricity bills and establishment of a receiving station in Bhawani. The community also urged for prompt resolution of staff shortage at Higher Secondary School (HSS) Bhawani.

Responding to the demands, the Dy CM issued on the spot directions to the concerned departments. He instructed the Executive Engineer to expedite work on the Bhawani to Shalaakh road. He also directed the Block Development Officer (BDO) to ensure that all eligible families are covered under PMAY-G.

The Assistant Labour Commissioner (ALC) was directed to organize a special camp at Panchayat Bhawani-A for issuing labour cards and creating awareness about welfare schemes of the Labour Department.

Taking serious note of the complaints regarding exaggerated electricity bills, the Dy CM asked

the Power Development Department (PDD) officials to initiate immediate corrective measures.

The Chief Education Officer (CEO) was instructed to rationalize staff postings to address the shortage at HSS Bhawani.

On the occasion, the Deputy CM also laid the foundation stone for construction of Panchayat Ghar at Bhawani-A under the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) with an estimated cost of Rs. 30 lakh. Extending his condolences, the Dy CM also expressed deep sympathies with the bereaved families affected by the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Nowshera, PO ICDS, DSHO, ACP, DSWO, CEO Education, CMO, ALC, AD FCS&CA, Executive Engineers REW, PWD (R&B) Rajouri and PDD Rajouri attended the camp.

DC gives away Registration Certificates to newly formed Industrial Handicrafts Cooperative Societies at Kishtwar

JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, APRIL 30

In a significant step towards empowering the artisan and weaver community, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rajesh Kumar Shavan today distributed registration certificates to newly constituted Industrial Handicrafts Cooperative Societies formed under the Financial Support Scheme of the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom, Jammu.

The event, held in the presence of Assistant Director Handicrafts, Pardeep Shan, marked the formal recognition of two cooperative societies—United Creweel and Vibrant Creweel Handicrafts INDUSCO Ltd.—registered with the Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom, Jammu.

The societies have been established under the Self-Reliant Cooperative Act, 1999, aimed at fostering micro-enterprises rooted in traditional crafts.

As per the provisions of the scheme, each registered society comprising 11 artisans/weavers will be entitled to financial assistance of Rs. 1.00 lakh, disbursed in two equal non-refundable installments. The scheme also includes dedicated marketing sup-



port to enhance the visibility and market reach of local crafts.

The DC lauded the Handicrafts Department and emphasized the importance of expanding the scheme's reach to include more artisans and weavers.

He instructed the Assis-

tant Director to intensify outreach and registration efforts across the district to ensure that the benefits of government schemes are widely disseminated.

Also present at the event were Mr. Abid, Supervisor INDUSCO, along with officials and staff from the Handicrafts Department.

District Road Safety Committee reviews enforcement measures in Samba

JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, APRIL 30

In a determined move to enhance road safety and minimise road mishaps, District Magistrate Samba Rajesh Sharma today chaired a crucial meeting of the District Road Safety Committee here at the DC Office Complex.

The meeting opened with a comprehensive presentation on the Integrated Road Accident Database (i-RAD) and Electronic Detailed Accident Report (e-DAR) platforms by the concerned officials. The presentation highlighted critical data on traffic rule violations, accident trends, and challans issued, forming the basis for informed decision-making.

Key areas of focus included launching impactful public awareness campaigns on road safety, identification and rectification of accident-prone black spots and installation of crash barriers and other safety infrastructure at vulnerable locations.

Addressing the committee, DM Rajesh Sharma underlined the vital role of public awareness and responsible driving in reducing road accidents, injuries, and fatalities. He called for inter-departmental coordination and a unified



approach to foster a culture of safety and mutual respect on roads.

To strengthen enforcement, the District Magistrate directed the Traffic Police and Motor Vehicle Department to intensify naka checking and launch special drives targeting traffic violations. He emphasized the need for strict penalties against offenders to ensure deterrence and accountability.

The meeting concluded with a resolute commitment from all departments to implement the discussed strategies promptly and reinforce road safety mechanisms across the district. The meeting was attended by the SDMs of Ghagwal and Vijaypur, XENs, CEO, and

officials from the Motor Vehicle Department, Traffic Police, and other concerned departments.

NORTHERN RAILWAY					
TENDER NOTICE					
The Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Construction, Jalandhar City for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender under Single Packet system for the under noted work-					
Name of work and location	Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 25 KV AC single phase OHE for the work of "Goods Handling line with covered goods shed and cement handling facilities at Chhan Arorian over Jammu Tawi Division".				
Completion period of the work	6 (Six) Months	Approx. cost of the work	Rs. 42,68,463.01	Bid Security	Rs. 85,400
Date & time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender	Tenders may be uploaded upto 11.30 hrs on date 23.05.2025 on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in . The bidders can participate in the e-tender, the tender will be opened at 11.30 hrs on 23.05.2025				
Detail tender notice & tender document	The detailed e-tender notice is available on Indian Railway web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in and tender document is available on www.ireps.gov.in . Above tender document will be available for submission of offer on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 09.05.2025 to 23.05.2025. The bidders who desire to participate against e-tenders, are advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which, they would require to obtain class III digital certificate (if already not obtained) issued by CCA under IT-A-2000. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.				
No 17-Elect/C/TRD/JUC/137 Dated 29.04.2025					
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 1267/2025					

Flood damage assessment on in 49 Patwar Halqas of Ramban District

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, APRIL 30

Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, who is also the Chairman of the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), has deputed Loss Assessment Teams across 49 Patwar Halqas in the district to evaluate the extent of damage caused by the flash floods, hailstorm, and cloudburst on April 19-20, 2025.

The assessment teams are tasked with documentation of losses in Agriculture, Horticulture, Livestock, private residential and commercial properties, public

infrastructure, and utilities. The Deputy Commissioner is personally monitoring the entire process and issuing necessary directions to ensure thorough and accurate reporting.

So far, Assessment Supervisory Officers, along with officials from all line departments, have conducted spot visits and organised assessment camps in 38 Patwar Halqas. These teams are preparing detailed damage and loss reports for submission to the District Administration to facilitate appropriate relief and restoration measures.

Tehsildars and BDOs are

also actively overseeing the assessment activities being carried out in their respective jurisdictions. The assessment drive, which commenced on April 29, will conclude on May 1, 2025.

The designated officers stayed overnight in their assigned Halqas to ensure comprehensive on-ground reporting. The extensive drive has been carried out in collaboration with local residents and all concerned departments.

The remaining 11 Patwar Halqas of the district would be covered by assessment Supervisory Officers on May 1, 2025.

NORTHERN RAILWAY						
E-Tender Notice						
DEN-III/FR 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 19.05.2025 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc are not allowed For more information logon to www.ireps.gov.in						
Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System	Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time	
Open	Works	Single Packet System	26.04.2025	05.05.2025	19.05.2025/15:00 Hrs.	
S.N.	Tender No.	Details of Tender				
1	06-2025-26-ADEN-I-ASR	Extension of Wagon-4 Shed for productivity enhancement for Maintenance/OH of ICF & LHB Bogies Mechanical Workshop in the section of SSE/W/WS/ASR under ADEN-I/ASR.				
		Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest money (Rs.)	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion	
		96,98,802.03/-	1,94,000.00/-	60 Days	04 Months	
Similar nature of work:- "Any civil work other than track work".						
2	07-2025-26-ADEN-I-ASR	Improvement of scrap yard of store depot of ASR Workshop by development of RCC Bin and flooring in scrap yard.				
		Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest money (Rs.)	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion	
		1,50,38,142.93/-	2,25,200.00/-	60 Days	04 Months	
Similar nature of work:- "Any civil work other than track work".						
Note 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.						
Tender Notice No:- 06 & 07-2025-26-ADEN-I-ASR Date: 28.04.2025 1269/2025						
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE						

NORTHERN RAILWAY						
E-Tender Notice						
Sr.DEE/T/JAT acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders (www.ireps.gov.in) against below titled Tenders. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only.						
Tender No.	Name of work	App. Cost. (in ₹)	Earnest Money (in ₹)	Completion period	Opening of tender	Website Particulars
251-J-Elect-T-03-2025-26	Comprehensive Maintenance (Preventive & Breakdown) & Operational Contract including round the clock supervision (ESS-01, 02, South Portal ESS, North Portal ESS, Pumping sets, Circulating area, Service Buildings etc) & work of 11KV, Ventilation, Electromechanical (E&M) for Pir-Panjtal Tunnel T-80 for Two Years.	2,94,66,756.94	2,97,300.00	24 Months Hrs.	22.05.2025 after 15:00	www.ireps.gov.in
No. 251-J-Elect/T/Notice No. 03-Elect/2025-26 Dated :- 28.04.2025 1264/2025						
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE						

Kavinder slams Congress for aligning with Pakistan's Narrative amid Pahalgam Terror Attack

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 29

Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta today strongly criticized the Congress party for its recent social media post targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The post, which depicted a headless figure of the Prime Minister with the caption "gayab" (missing), was shared on Congress's official X handle in the wake of the tragic Pahalgam terror attack that claimed 26 innocent lives.

In a press release issued here today, the BJP stalwart expressed his deep concern over the Congress party's actions, stating that it was not only highly inappropriate but also a direct alignment with Pakistan's narrative. "It is deeply disturbing that the Congress party, a national political entity, has sunk to such a low by sharing this offensive post at a time when India stands united



in its resolve to counter terrorism. By sharing this image, Congress is not just mocking the leadership of our nation, but also sending a dangerous message that resonates with the enemies of India," he remarked.

The senior BJP leader emphasized that Congress's actions were a clear sign of double standards and political opportunism. "At a time when Prime Minister Modi has unequivocally called out Pakistan for its role in sponsoring terrorism, Congress's actions are a hit in every patriot in the country. The party's

actions appear to be in line with the sinister ideology of groups like Lashkar-e-Pakistan, whose intentions are nothing but to undermine the sovereignty of India," he added.

Kavinder further stated that the Congress party's leadership needs to explain their actions to the nation. "Congress's ideology, as displayed by their social media post, appears to be one where they believe in the dangerous narrative of 'sar tan se juda' (head separated from body). This is not just an attack on the Prime Minister but an insult to every Indian citizen who values the safety and security of our nation," Gupta concluded.

He called on Congress to publicly apologize for their actions and take responsibility for the harm caused by their offensive post, which undermines national unity at a time when the country is grieving the loss of innocent lives in the Pahalgam terror attack.

Subhadra Society distributes food and essentials at Kusht Ashram Society

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 30

In a heartwarming gesture of kindness and compassion, Subhadra Society, led by President Mehak Trehan and Vice President Ritika Trehan, distributed raw food, eatables, drinks, cooked food, and vegetables to the Kusht Ashram Society Jammu. The distribution was a testament to the society's commitment to serving the community, particularly those in need. The gesture reflects the values of empathy, kindness, and generosity that define Subhadra Society's mission. The residents of Kusht Ashram Society Jammu expressed their heartfelt gratitude to Subhadra Society for their thoughtful gesture. The distribution has brought immense joy and relief to the residents, who appreciate the society's efforts to make a positive impact in their lives. Subhadra Society's initiative is a shining example of community service and kindness. The society's efforts to support those in need are truly



commendable, and their work is a testament to the power of compassion and generosity. Subhadra Society, led by President Mehak Trehan and Vice President Ritika Trehan, remains steadfast in its commitment to reaching out to the weaker sections of society. With a focus on serving the needy, the society works tirelessly in mission mode to bring smiles to the faces of the deprived and depressed. Subhadra Society's key objectives include serving the needy by providing support and assistance to those who require it most, spreading joy by bringing happiness and

positivity to the lives of the deprived and depressed and empowering communities by working towards the betterment of marginalized communities. The society's efforts aim to create a positive impact in the lives of those they serve. By providing support and assistance, the society brings hope and happiness to those in need. Subhadra Society's dedication to serving the weaker sections of society is truly commendable. Their work is a testament to the power of compassion and kindness, and their efforts are making a tangible difference in the lives of those they touch.

PTTI Vijaypur accords warm send off to retiring officer



JJ NEWS SERVICE
VJAYPUR, APRIL

Police Technical Training Institute (PTTI) Vijaypur today accorded warm sendoff to retiring officer Shri Surrinder Paul Singh-DySP(Telcom) at an impressive farewell function held at PTTI Vijaypur in which a large number of officers/officials of PTTI Vijaypur were present. On behalf of J&K Police and particularly PTTI Vijaypur, Sh. Pawan Kumar-SP, Vice Principal PTTI Vijaypur applauded the tenure of 41 years of police service rendered by the retiree, termed him as an honest, dedicated, sincere officer

and wished the retiring officer a happy, prosperous life and advised him to work for the welfare and betterment of society in days to come. All the staff of PTTI Vijaypur also wished the retiring officer all the best for future life. In his address the retiring officer shared his experiences of service rendered by him in J&K Police and thanked officers/officials of PTTI Vijaypur for organizing the function. Among others, Sh. Devinder Gupta-DySP (Outdoor), Sh. Khushwant Singh-DySP (Admn), Sh. Asif Iqbal-Sr.PO were present on the occasion.

JKNC OBC Cell delegation meets with Dr. Farooq Abdullah

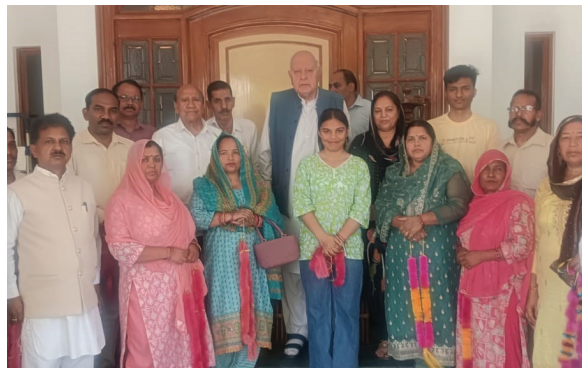
JJ NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, APR 30

JKNC OBC Cell a delegation met with Party Chief Patron JKNC and former Chief Minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah at Jammu today.

The delegation was led by Anitullah District President OBC Cell and was accompanied by Rattan Lal Gupta Provincial President JKNC and Ab Gani Telli Provincial Chairman OBC Cell Jammu.

During the meeting the delegation apprised Dr Farooq Abdullah about the hardships being faced by obc s due to lack of basic amenities.

They expressed deep concern over the difficulties that have endured in the last ten, stating



that their sufferings have increased manifold due to administrative apathy lack of employment opportunities and inadequate health care and sanitation facilities.

Dr Farooq Abdullah gave a patient hearing to the delegation and assured them that the present government headed by Chief

Minister Omar Abdullah will take adequate measures to address all development concerns for better welfare of the general public.

Others those who present in delegation Thakur Dass, Suram Chand, Anchal Kumar, Moti Ram, Geeta Devi, Sapna Devi etc.

KU holds free medical camp for Persons with Disabilities

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APRIL 30

To promote inclusive healthcare and support the well-being of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), the Health Centre, University of Kashmir (KU) on Wednesday organised a day-long free medical camp at its main campus.

The camp was organised under the aegis of the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir. It was exclusively held for PwD students and staff of the University. The camp provided free specialist consultations in general medicine, ENT, and orthopaedics, in addition to free diagnostic services, eye check-ups, and essential medicines.

In her message Vice Chancellor KU Prof Nilofar Khan while reiterating that the Varsity remains deeply committed to inclusive growth and community well-being said. "This free health camp for PwD's reflects our resolve to serve all sections of society with compassion and responsibility. We believe that access to quality healthcare is a fundamental right, and through such initiatives we aim to create a more supportive and equitable environment for everyone."

Registrar KU, Prof. Naseer Iqbal lauded the initiative, highlighting that the varsity is committed to ensuring accessible healthcare for all.

Dean Students' Welfare

KU, Prof. Pervez Ahmed, termed the medical camp a welcome step towards promoting health equity on campus and addressing the specific concerns of PwD members of the University.

Coordinator, Health Centre KU, Dr. Khalid Nazir, said that the camp was part of ongoing welfare initiatives aimed at supporting the holistic well-being of the campus community. He also expressed gratitude to the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir for their collaboration and continued support.

The specialist consultants included Dr. Hina Naqash (Physician), Dr. Firdous Bangroo (Orthopedician), Dr. Aijaz (ENT), and Dr. Inam (Physiotherapist).

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

80 percent qualify...

session Annual Regular 2025 in the UTs of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh out of which 1,164,53 students qualified the exams.

It also said that at least 16,343 students qualified the exam with A1 grade, 18,678 students with A2 grade, 22,219 secured B1 grade, 27,171 got B2 grade, 25,583 secured C1 grade, 6432 C2 grade and 49 students have been placed in Grade-D.

The figures also reveal that in the exams, one student was having a disputed eligibility, three students were caught with unfair means, exam was cancelled of 40 students, five students were disqualified for two years and one student for three years.

The official had said that nearly 3,55,963 students were registered for the annual regular examination of class 10th, 11th and 12th including 1,32,992 candidates of 10th standard, 1,20,673 in 11th standard and 1,02,298 students of 12th standard respectively.

Pertinently, Education Minister Sakina Itoo had directed the BOSE and the concerned authorities to announce the results by April-30.

Earlier the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (BOSE) had said that the board will declare the results of 10th and 12th standard on the same date. KNO

Mission to root...

under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, remains fully committed to avenging the killing of innocent citizens and ensuring that such dastardly acts of terrorism do not recur.

Nothing can compensate for the innocent lives lost in the heinous terror attack, he added.

"But it is important to ensure that we avenge the killing of our citizens and completely destroy terror outfits and those aiding and abetting terrorists wherever they are," the LG said.

"DCs and SSPs must take steps on the ground to restore a sense of security among the people and address their needs. I want to assure the nation that the scourge of terrorism will be fought with full determination. All means and measures must be taken to avenge the Pahalgam terror attack," he said.

LG Sinha had also chaired a security review meeting with Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi at Raj Bhawan in Srinagar last week.

GOC-in-C Northern Command Lt Gen MV Suchindra Kumar, Deputy Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, and GOC 15 Corps Lt Gen Prashant Srivastava were present at the meeting. KNO

Lt Gen Pratik Sharma...

Even prior to his appointment, which was approved by the government on April 28, Lt Gen Kumar had travelled with Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi to Srinagar after the Pahalgam terror attack, which killed 26 people on April 22.

It may be recalled that in February last year, the outgoing General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Northern Command, Lt Gen MV Suchendra Kumar, took over from then Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi, who is now the Army Chief. KNO

CM reviews progress...

tunnel projects, including the Zoji La Tunnel, Z-Morh Tunnel, Panthal-Magarkote Tunnel, and other projects, many of which are in the advanced stages of construction.

Commissioner Secretary Industries and Commerce Vikramjit Singh briefed the meeting on the availability of construction material and mining permissions, highlighting recent improvements and unresolved issues requiring attention at the appropriate forums.

Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani flagged key traffic congestion points and suggested practical mitigation measures. He emphasised incorporating long-term traffic management features into the ongoing highway designs.

Omar Abdullah took detailed stock of project-specific challenges and enquired about persistent bottlenecks, particularly those falling within Jammu and Kashmir's territorial jurisdiction. He emphasized the need to resolve procedural hurdles and recurring loopholes, calling for time-bound clearances and proactive administrative facilitation.

"These projects hold not just developmental but

strategic importance. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that there are no unwarranted delays or procedural gaps. The Centre is also closely monitoring these corridors, and our progress must reflect seriousness and coordination," the Chief Minister observed.

Expressing concern over delays caused by land acquisition, forest clearances and shifting of Utilities, the Chief Minister directed the concerned departments to streamline these processes. He called for enhanced inter-departmental synergy, particularly between the executing agencies and the district administrations.

On the issue of public displacement and property acquisition, the Chief Minister stressed the importance of fair and well-planned rehabilitation and resettlement.

"Those affected must be given substantial reassurance through timely and fair rehabilitation measures," he said.

He also reviewed security-related constraints in certain stretches and instructed the concerned departments to ensure that project activities remain on schedule with adequate coordination with security agencies.

"These projects are the main road arteries for Jammu and Kashmir's future economic development. The timely and quality execution of these projects must remain a top priority," the Chief Minister added. KNO

Former RAW chief...

meeting convened by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss the escalation of tensions between India and Pakistan and security situation in the country.

The reconstitution of the board is to strengthen security system as the board plays a critical role in providing long-term strategic analysis and policy recommendation to the government on national security and foreign affairs matters.

The new members of the board are Air Marshal PM Sinha, Lt General AK Singh, Rear Admiral Monty Khanna, and two former Indian Police Service officers - Rajiv Ranjan Verma and Manmohan Singh. Moreover, B Venkatesh Varma, who served in the Indian Foreign Service, has also been appointed as the member of the seven-member board.

Several join National Conference in Udhampur



JJ NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, APRIL 30

In a significant show of support for the National Conference (NC), several political workers and leaders from different parties,

including the Panthers Party, joined the NC at a joining programme held at the party office in Udhampur. The event was organized by senior NC leader Ghulam Hussain Kanth and Mohammad Saleem Malik, Block Secretary Latti.

Among the prominent leaders who joined the NC were Vinod Kumar and Bhushan Kumar from the Panthers Party, along with their supporters. They pledged to work under the banner of the National Conference to strengthen the party at the grassroots and contribute to the welfare of the people.

The joining programme took place in the presence of Sunil Verma, District President NC Udhampur,

and Javed Iqbal, Senior Vice President, who welcomed the new entrants into the party fold. Other senior leaders present on the occasion included Gurmeet Singh Josh, Mohammad Rashid (District Secretary), Amar Nath (District President SC Cell), Om Parkash Sanyal and Om Parkash Bhagat (both Block Presidents), Suhail Malik, and several others.

Welcoming the new members, Sunil Verma said, "The trust and confidence shown by leaders from other parties in the vision of the National Conference is a testimony to our commitment to democratic values, inclusive

development, and public welfare." He added that the NC is steadily growing stronger in every region and will continue to be a voice for the people of Jammu & Kashmir.

The senior NC Leader said that the present government headed by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is committed to equitable development, good governance, and safeguarding the democratic rights of every citizen. "Under the dynamic leadership of CM Omar Abdullah, the NC-led government has focused on empowering youth, improving infrastructure in remote areas, and maintaining peace and harmony across Jammu & Kashmir," Verma said. He emphasized that the growing support for National Conference is a clear reflection of the people's faith in the party's vision and leadership.

Sunil Verma also called upon the new entrants and party workers to strengthen the base of the National Conference at the grassroots level, especially in rural and far-flung areas. "It is the workers who are the backbone of our party. By reaching out to every household, understanding the issues of the common people, and working tirelessly for their welfare, we can take the vision of Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Abdullah and CM Omar Abdullah to every corner of Udhampur and beyond," he said.

The programme concluded with a pledge by the new entrants to work with dedication and strengthen the party's presence at the grassroots level.

3rd Contact Session of Sector Connect Training Program on FEPOH concludes at DHS Jammu

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 30

The Third Contact Session of the Sector Connect Training Program on Field Epidemiology in One Health (FEPOH) concluded successfully in Jammu today.

In this final contact session, district teams from across the Jammu division presented their field assignments, showcasing practical applications of the One Health approach and highlighting key observations, challenges, and solutions from their respective sectors. The event also featured cross-sectoral talks that enriched interdepartmental understanding and emphasized collaborative disease surveillance and response strategies.

The event brought together experts from the Health, Animal Husbandry, Wildlife, and Food Safety departments, marking the culmination of a significant phase in building cross-sectoral capacity for integrated public health response.

Organized in collaboration with State Surveillance Unit of the Directorate of Health Services Jammu, the program, a



collaborative initiative of the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD), sought to fortify integrated public health response through the transformative One Health approach. The training aimed to further enhance the ability of field-level professionals to address complex public health challenges at the human-animal-environment interface.

The valedictory session was attended by Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar, Director Health Services Jammu; Dr. Poonam Sethi, Deputy Director Schemes; Dr. Sanjay Sharma, Deputy Director Dentistry; Madan Lal Magotra, Deputy Commissioner Food Safety and Dr. Anil Kumar, Principal Advisor, NCDC New Delhi.

The session commenced with a welcome

address by Dr. Harjeet Rai, State Surveillance Officer Jammu, who extended a warm welcome to all dignitaries, mentors, and participants. He appreciated the commitment of all departments involved and highlighted the relevance of continued inter-sectoral coordination in preventing and controlling zoonotic and other emerging public health threats.

The Director Health Services Jammu, in his address, commended the sustained efforts of the organizing team and the active participation from all sectors. He emphasized the importance of strengthening district-level surveillance systems.

Principal Advisor NCDC Dr. Anil Kumar commended the efforts of the Directorate and the participants for their enthusiasm and active field engagement. He emphasized that One

Health is not a concept but a necessity, especially in the face of growing global health threats. He encouraged participants to take the knowledge and collaboration fostered during the training into their fieldwork and policymaking to build a resilient and responsive health infrastructure.

Later, certificates of participation were awarded to all trainees and mentors, acknowledging their dedication and active engagement throughout the training program.

The Sector Connect program has played a vital role in fostering a culture of collaboration among Health, Animal Husbandry, Food Safety, and Wildlife departments, thereby laying a strong foundation for integrated public health action in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

The State Surveillance Unit, Jammu extends heartfelt appreciation to all stakeholders, resource persons, and participants for their commitment to advancing the One Health agenda, and looks forward to continued efforts toward resilient and responsive health systems.

DC Samba flags off 29 Hajj Pilgrims for holy pilgrimage

JINNEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, APRIL 30

Deputy Commissioner Samba Rajesh Sharma today flagged off a group of 29 Hajj pilgrims on their sacred journey to the holy land of Mecca. The flag-off ceremony took place at the DC Office Complex, Samba, in a spiritually uplifting atmosphere filled with prayers and well-wishes.

The event was organized by the District Social Welfare Office, which has been actively facilitating the arrangements and guidance for the pilgrims. The pilgrims will depart from Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi, on May 4, 2025, bound for Jeddah.

Interacting with the pilgrims, DC Rajesh Sharma extended his

heartfelt wishes for a safe, smooth, and spiritually fulfilling pilgrimage. He emphasized the significance of Hajj as a journey of faith, devotion, and unity, and lauded the efforts of the Social Welfare Department for ensuring seamless coordination.

The Deputy Commissioner urged the pilgrims to pray for peace, prosperity, and communal harmony in the region and across the nation. He also assured that all necessary administrative support has been provided to ensure a hassle-free journey for the pilgrims.

The event was attended by officials from the District Administration, Social Welfare Department and family members of the pilgrims.



DC Kulgam reviews status of Jal Shakti Abhiyan- Catch the Rain-2025 Initiative



JINNEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, APRIL 30

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan Wednesday reviewed the progress of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan - Catch the Rain (JSA-CTR) 2025 campaign in the district, in a meeting held at the Mini Secretariat, here.

The meeting held a detailed discussion on ongoing initiatives, existing challenges, and future strategies for effective water conservation and management.

Emphasizing the importance of rainwater harvesting in ensuring sustainable water resources, DC urged all departments to accelerate efforts under the campaign. He highlighted the need for inter-departmental coordination to fast-track the implementation of JSA-CTR projects.

Officers from the Rural Development, Forest, Agriculture, Irrigation, Jal Shakti and other departments apprised the chair of the status of various

water conservation initiatives.

To strengthen community participation, DC directed officials to involve NGOs, Pani Samitis, and other local stakeholders.

He also issued instructions for the construction of at least five rainwater harvesting structures in every Panchayat to enhance rainwater storage and groundwater recharge.

Additionally, DC stressed the importance of regular cleaning and maintenance of water bodies to ensure their long-term sustainability.

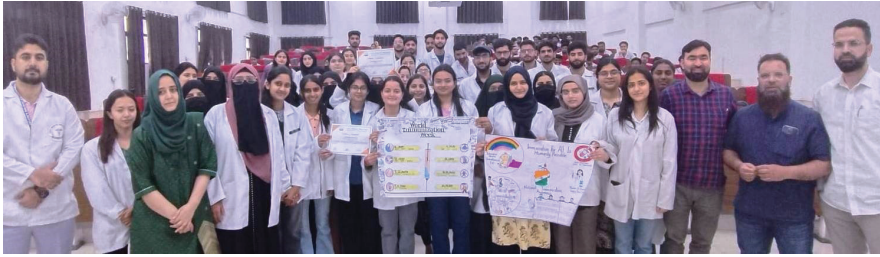
The meeting was attended by the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kulgam, Assistant Commissioner Panchayats (ACP), Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Executive Engineers, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Chief Agriculture Officer, Executive Officer Municipal Committee, and other concerned officers.

World Immunization Week 2025 celebrated with enthusiasm at GMC Doda

JINNEWS SERVICE
DODA, APRIL 30

Government Medical College (GMC) Doda marked World Immunization Week 2025 with great enthusiasm and academic engagement. The event was held under the guidance of Dr. Suresh Kotwal, Head of the Department of Community Medicine, and witnessed active participation from faculty and students of various departments.

The programme was inaugurated by Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Bahl, Principal GMC Doda, who delivered a thought-provoking address emphasizing the vital role of immunization in global health and



the prevention of life-threatening diseases. This year's theme, "Humanly Possible: Immunization for All", guided all the activities and highlighted the need for universal vaccine accessibility and equity.

Students enthusiastically participated through poster presentations, interactive seminars, and awareness campaigns, promoting peer educa-

tion and public health awareness. Dr. Imran Zaffer, Senior Resident, presented a detailed session focusing on the current immunization strategies, challenges, and the roadmap for achieving universal vaccine coverage.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Waliud K. Balwan, Assistant Professor, Community Medicine, who

appreciated the efforts of the organizing team and all participants. Certificates were distributed by senior faculty members including Dr. Sumat ul Khursheed (Pathology), Dr. Khalid Muzaffer (Orthopedics), and Dr. Altaf Malik (General Surgery), reaffirming the institution's ongoing commitment to preventive healthcare and immunization advocacy.

Awareness Programme on New Criminal Laws Held at Girls Hr. Sec. School Reasi



JINNEWS SERVICE
REASI, APRIL 30

An awareness campaign on the newly introduced criminal laws was today conducted at Girls Higher Secondary School Reasi. The program was organized under the guidance of the Principal, DIET Surjeet Kumar Sharma in collaboration with local police.

The chief guest and resource person for the event, Sub-Inspector Jarnail Singh, provided detailed insights into the three new criminal laws. He engaged actively with the students, helping them

understand the changes and their impact on society.

Vineet Sharma, Teacher at DIET Reasi, served as the District Nodal Officer, while Dr. Zakir Hussain, Senior Lecturer at Girls Hr. Sec. School Reasi, coordinated the event. The entire school staff participated enthusiastically, contributing to the success of the programme.

The initiative aimed to educate students about important legal reforms, promote legal awareness, and encourage responsible citizenship among the youth.

DC Pulwama visits NEET Exam Centres, reviews arrangements

JINNEWS SERVICE
PULWAMA, APRIL 30

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, today undertook a comprehensive inspection of all designated centres in the district for the forthcoming NEET (UG) 2025 examination scheduled to be held on May 04.

During the visit, DC sought detailed inputs from the concerned officers regarding the preparedness and infrastructural arrangements made at each centre. He thoroughly inspected strong rooms, CCTV cameras and surveillance setup and reviewed seating plans to ensure compliance with NTA standards.

He issued clear directives to the Centre Superintendents to strictly adhere to the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) issued by the National Testing Agency (NTA), particularly regarding the receipt, storage, and dispatch of examination material,



videography protocols, CCTV coverage, timely opening and sealing of exam packets, and secure handling of OMR sheets.

Dr. Qayoom emphasised the importance of coordination among all functionaries to ensure seamless conduct of the examination in a fair, secure and candidate-friendly environment.

DC further focused upon the significance of maintaining the sanctity of the examination process, directing that all procedures pre-exam, during exam, and post-exam be implemented

meticulously as per the NTA's guidelines.

He enjoined upon the Centre Superintendents, district officers and NTA representatives to work in close synergy to facilitate a smooth and safe environment for all candidates appearing in the exam.

DC was accompanied by the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Pulwama and Awantipora, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Pulwama, Tral; Chief Education Officer (CEO) Pulwama; NTA City Coordinator and Centre Superintendents.

Students from DPS Anantnag visited Police Station Awantipora

JINNEWS SERVICE
AWANTIPORA, APR 30

Police Awantipora today organised a visit of Students of Delhi Public School Anantnag to Police Station Awantipora. The aim of the programme was to familiarise the students with the working of Police.

SHO Police Station Awantipora Shri Atif Zahoor DySP (P) briefed the students about the police station work and also about the role of police in the society. The participating students were given the idea about Police Department, its Ranks, functioning and Policing etc. Besides were shown the various establishments and their day to day working in the Police Department.

Participating students appreciated the role of Police Department and desired to organise such kind of awareness programmes in future to bridge the gap and

PMAY-G Awaas+ Survey gets another extension till May 15

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, APRIL 30

The Union Ministry for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj has further extended the deadline for the Awaas+ 2024 survey under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) by 15 days, shifting the closing date from April 30 to May 15, 2025.

This is the second extension granted by the Centre, as the earlier deadline of March 31, 2025, was first pushed to April 30, and now to May 15.

The move aims to ensure comprehensive coverage, particularly in remote and snowbound regions where survey completion has been challenging.

An official communiqué from the Union Ministry stated that the decision was taken after multiple states and Union Territories sought additional time to identify all eligible rural households.

The extension will allow better verification of self-reported cases and ensure no deserving beneficiary is left out.

As of April 30, 2025, a total of 4,74,076 potential beneficiaries have been surveyed across the Jammu and Kashmir. Rajouri district leads with 55,489 surveys followed by Poonch (52,568) and Kupwara (41,629), reflecting significant progress in identifying eligible households under the PMAY-G scheme.

Religious fervor, gaiety mark Kud Mela at Nouri Hanga- Bhaderwah



JINNEWS SERVICE
BHADERWAH, APRIL 30

The traditional Kud Mela was held with religious fervor and gaiety today at Nouri Hanga-Bhaderwah drawing thousands of tourists and locals.

The event showcased the traditional Kud dance, a revered folk ritual of the Chenab Valley, symbolizing spiritual devotion, gratitude to local deities, and harmony. Artists dressed in colourful traditional attire performed the Kud dance to the rhythmic beats of drums and flutes, creating a captivating and spiritual atmosphere.

The event was attended by DDC Member Thakur Yudhvir Singh; Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh; SSP Sandeep Kumar Mehta; Commanding Officer 33 Battalion CRPF, Execu-

tive Engineer R&B (PWD), and other government functionaries. The local administration ensured tight security, cleanliness, and smooth coordination for the large gathering.

The Kud dance, especially performed in honour of Devta Nagraj Vasuki—the guardian deity of Bhaderwah—has deep historical roots and is traditionally held at night in open fields.

DDC Member Thakur Yudhvir Singh, a key organizer of the event, highlighted how such traditional melas strengthen communal harmony and foster cultural pride among the youth. The presence of CRPF and police officials underlined the commitment to maintaining law and order while celebrating Bhaderwah's rich heritage.

EDITORIAL

A Greener Horizon for Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh

The latest projections indicating that Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh will draw 62% of their electricity generation capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2034-35 mark a major leap toward a cleaner, more sustainable future for the region. In a time when climate imperatives are demanding bold action, this energy shift reflects both strategic foresight and environmental responsibility.

According to official documents, out of a projected contracted capacity of 10,088 MW (excluding Short Term Open Access), a substantial portion will come from renewable sources — 3,364 MW from hydro, 1,840 MW from solar, and 987 MW from Distributed Renewable Energy (DRE). This makes the upcoming energy mix not just greener, but also more regionally tailored, utilizing Jammu and Kashmir's vast hydro potential and Ladakh's solar-rich terrain.

Such a transition, if executed efficiently, can have multifaceted benefits. Economically, it can reduce dependency on expensive fossil fuel imports and create local employment in renewable energy infrastructure. Environmentally, it places the Union Territories in alignment with national and global climate commitments, especially the Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) targets. The inclusion of nuclear energy and distributed systems also indicates a pragmatic blend of centralised and decentralised generation approaches.

Moreover, this future-oriented planning is grounded in technical credibility. The use of reliability metrics such as Loss of Load Probability (LoLP) and Normalized Energy Not Served (NENS) ensures that while sustainability is the goal, power reliability is not compromised. The assessment of a Performance Rating Method (PRM) at 5.10% further confirms a robust energy planning framework.

However, ambition alone is not enough. The transition must be supported by timely infrastructure development — from smart grids and storage solutions to transmission corridors across difficult terrains. Community engagement, especially in rural and remote areas, will be crucial to ensure local acceptance and participation.

In an age defined by the urgency of climate action, Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh are charting a promising course. If implementation matches the planning on paper, this region may well emerge as a national model for clean energy transformation.

Are we ready to turn this vision into a resilient reality — not just for the environment, but for generations to come?

SHARMILA DAS

Growing up, I always learnt and practised Yoga with a quiet, disciplined, and almost sacred approach. In India, Yoga was never just an exercise; it was a deeply spiritual and scientific system, honed over thousands of years to align the body, mind, and spirit. Whether it was traditional forms like Hatha Yoga and Ashtanga Yoga, or guru — shishya lineages such as Sivananda Yoga, Iyengar Yoga, or Satyananda Yoga, the core practices remained largely consistent, with only minor variations, and were intentionally grounded in both physical discipline and profound philosophical wisdom.

Hatha Yoga, which I practise at Sivananda School of Yoga, for instance, is not merely about bending the body into various shapes. It is about balancing the masculine and feminine energies within oneself ('Ha' in 'Hatha' means Sun and 'tha' means Moon). The slow, purposeful asanas are designed to prepare the body for deeper spiritual practices like meditation and so on.

Ashtanga Yoga demands discipline and synchronisation of breath with a progressive series of postures, promoting physical endurance and mental clarity.

Iyengar Yoga, developed by BKS Iyengar, emphasises precision and alignment. Props like belts and blocks are used not as gimmicks but as intelligent

aids to help practitioners achieve the correct posture safely. Satyananda Yoga, from the Bihar School of Yoga — also a disciple of Swami Sivananda, offers a holistic system combining asanas, pranayama (breath control), and meditation, deeply grounded in ancient scriptures yet highly accessible to modern practitioners.

These traditional forms of yoga were complete systems — designed not just to build strong bodies but to cultivate resilience, compassion, inner peace, and eventually, spiritual awakening.

But today, the variations presented, especially to attract younger audiences — are at times of concern. In the quest to make Yoga more "appealing", a whole new breed of hybrid practices has emerged, at times sans focus on posture or mind-breath-body coordination.

While innovation can often bring new energy to old traditions, in the case of Yoga, I worry that something fundamental is being lost. Yoga, for example, was developed to suit the Western craving for calorie-burning workouts. It emphasises speed, strength, and sweat but often sacrifices breath awareness, alignment, and the contemplative aspects that are central to Yoga.

Aerial Yoga uses silk hammocks to suspend practitioners in mid-air. While it might look beautiful on social media, it introduces new risks to the musculo skeletal system, especially if taught without



a proper understanding of traditional postures and body mechanics.

HIIT Yoga and CrossFit Yoga attempt to fuse high-intensity interval training and weightlifting principles with yogic postures. The fact is that Yoga was never intended to be a high-stress activity on the body.

Then there's Paddleboard Yoga and Spin and Yoga, both interesting combinations, but ones that often seem to dilute the inward focus that traditional Yoga demands. Balancing on a paddleboard or spinning on a cycle while trying to breathe deeply and remain mindful often becomes more of a challenge to one's physical endurance rather than an invitation to stillness and self-inquiry. What concerns me is not merely the creation of these hybrids, but the way they are marketed: Yoga is increasingly sold as a product — a lifestyle choice that promises flat abs, glowing skin, and mental sharpness in 30

days or less.

The ancient aim of Yoga — union with the higher self — is often barely mentioned.

The sacredness of the practice, its depth, and its inherent science seem at risk of being trivialised into a trendy hashtag or a flashy gym class.

Experimenting with traditional practices without a deep understanding of their purpose and structure can be risky. Traditional Yoga evolved slowly, through painstaking observation of the human body and mind. Every asana was designed with attention to anatomical, energetic, and psychological effects. Disrupting this carefully developed sequence, speeding it up, loading it with weights, suspending it mid-air — can lead to injuries ranging from minor sprains to serious spinal issues.

Traditional Yoga balances the nervous system, calming the fight-or-flight response and cultivating parasympathetic domi-

nance (rest and digest mode). High-intensity fusions may instead overstimulate the nervous system, leaving practitioners wired and anxious rather than grounded and serene.

Having said that, I believe there is always room for creativity. Yoga should be alive, growing, and meeting the needs of new generations. But this growth must be rooted in respect for the science behind traditional systems. Without that grounding, we risk turning Yoga into just another fitness fad — here today, gone tomorrow — when in fact it is one of humanity's most precious treasures for holistic health and self-realisation.

As someone who has felt the profound benefits of traditional Yoga, I urge others — especially younger audiences drawn to "new-age" Yoga — to explore the traditional systems first. Understand the depth before seeking novelty. Build a strong

foundation before experimenting. After all, Yoga isn't just something we do, it's something we become, and it's a way of life.

And that transformation is far too sacred to be rushed, repackaged, or compromised. Yoga, rooted in deep spiritual and scientific traditions, is increasingly at risk of being diluted by modern, hybrid practices that prioritise aesthetics and fitness over inner transformation. While innovation can breathe fresh life into ancient systems, it must not come at the cost of Yoga's core purpose — union, awareness, and holistic well-being.

Traditional Yoga is not just movement; it is a precise, time-tested science designed to harmonise body, mind, and spirit. Fusing it with high-intensity workouts or gimmicky formats may attract attention, but it often undermines its healing, meditative essence.

The danger lies not only in physical injury but in reducing Yoga to a trend, stripped of its depth and sacredness. For Yoga to remain a transformative path, its evolution must be rooted in respect and understanding. Before reinventing it, we must first embody it. Let us not forget — Yoga is a journey inward, not a performance outward.

(The author is a certified Sivananda Yoga teacher with over 30 years of practice. Views are personal)

Trump's 'tariffs' trigger global trade turmoil

UTTAM GUPTA

Issuing an executive order citing "national emergency" on April 2, 2025, US President Donald Trump slapped additional customs duties branded as "reciprocal tariffs" (RTs) — in the range of 10 — 49 per cent — on nearly 60 countries including India, which faces a 26 per cent extra levy on most products across industrial and farm categories. While a 10 per cent baseline duty is applicable from April 5, 2025, the full additional impost takes effect from April 9, 2025.

The additional tariffs will apply over and above the current US levies, which average 3.3 per cent on a most favoured nation (MFN) basis. While the above levies are applied country-wise, certain product — level tariffs also take effect concurrently in all countries.

A 25 per cent duty on steel and aluminium products has already become operational from March 12, 2025, and a 25 per cent impost on automobiles and auto parts took effect from April 2, 2025. The US had earlier announced special extra tariffs for three of its largest trading partners — namely China, Mexico and Canada.

On imports from China, the US imposed a 54 per cent additional tariff (34 per cent RTs plus 20 per cent special extra tariff). China retaliated by imposing 34 per cent RTs on its imports from the US. The latter retorted with an additional impost of 50 per cent on imports from the former — taking the total to 104 per cent.

This bullied China to impose a further RT of 50 per cent on imports from the US, taking its total additional tariff to 84 per

cent. Trump escalated the tariff war, levying a total of 125 per cent on Chinese imports (including a 20 per cent Fentanyl-linked tariff, which comes to 145 per cent). China has struck again — increasing its additional tariff to match the US at 125 per cent.

Even as EU countries, Japan and Australia had earlier hinted at retaliation, Trump's announcement of a 90-day truce with countries other than China (however, a 10 per cent baseline duty will apply) has led them to defer their plans for now. Reciprocal tariffs are trade duties that one country imposes in response to tariffs placed on its goods by another country.

In simple terms, if Country A charges extra taxes on goods from Country B, then Country B does the same in return. It's like a "tit-for-tat" in trade. This approach is seriously flawed. First, Country B need not be importing the same goods from Country A that the latter does from the former. Even when the product basket is the same, the foundational principle of comparative advantage suggests that Country B should import a product from Country A if the latter can deliver it at a lower price.

It makes no sense for Country B to artificially increase the price of the product (albeit cheaper) coming from Country A by imposing a higher import duty/tariff. There can be exceptions to this foundational principle for less developed or developing countries wherein the Governments are committed to protecting certain sectors. For instance, under the WTO rules, developing countries have the right to keep relatively higher "bound tariffs" (giving



reasonable room for tariff hikes, if need be) for agricultural commodities.

The USA certainly doesn't fall into this category. Trump's argument that the imposition of "RTs" will help in re-invigorating domestic manufacturing by prompting companies to invest in the USA is far-fetched.

Firms are enthused to invest and expand capacities only when they are assured of demand. But a levy of RTs will kill demand by pushing up prices. And don't forget the devastating effect on demand for US products in other countries when the latter go for "tit-for-tat".

Forget any gains — it could take a serious toll on the US growth itself. According to former US Treasury Secretary Larry Summers, Trump's RTs will wipe out nearly US \$30 trillion — roughly equivalent to its one-year GDP.

The manner of arriving at the applicable additional tariff is mysterious. These tariffs seek to match the tariff and non-tariff burden that American businesses face while exporting to other countries. For instance, in the case of India, he looks at

not just the existing tariffs but also loads on the tariff equivalents of non-tariff barriers and other trade-impacting measures like subsidies and currency adjustments. This way, it arrives at a high figure of 52 per cent. Having artificially inflated the number, Trump — in a gesture of benevolence — says 'we are imposing on India an additional duty of 26 per cent only, which is half of what New Delhi charged the US'.

The reality is that even the 'discounted' tariff of 26 per cent is more than double India's current trade-weighted tariff rate of 12 per cent on its imports from the US. Such a disingenuous and opaque method of arriving at RTs is evident in individual product categories. The resulting sharp increase in tariffs on major export items from India such as chemicals, metals, gems and jewellery, engineering, automobiles, food products etc. will have a devastating effect on these sectors. India may have some reason to feel relieved when it sees RTs on its exports to the USA in juxtaposition with tariffs imposed on its key Asian competitors — viz. China

(125 per cent), Vietnam (46 per cent), Thailand (36 per cent), Bangladesh (37 per cent) etc. In textiles and garments, India will have a clear edge over China and Bangladesh.

In electronics and telecom, steep tariffs on exports from Vietnam and Thailand should give India a leg up. In January 2025, the US imposed restrictions on the export of computer chip — making equipment, software, and high-bandwidth memory chips to China. This has undermined the latter's capabilities to boost the production of its goods such as electronics, automobiles etc.

China has also been impacted by EU countries imposing tariffs on their imports of Chinese EVs. These measures targeting China should help India find space for its electronics, EVs and automobiles in US/EU markets.

Trump has kept pharmaceutical formulations (besides energy and semiconductors) out of the purview of reciprocal levies. India caters to nearly half of the US market for branded generic medicines. The Americans get these medicines very cheaply when compared to the

stuff made by US firms. It is, therefore, natural that the Administration has exempted their imports.

The US has offered some relief from its tariff assault to a country that takes significant steps to remedy non-reciprocal trade arrangements. For such countries, Trump says "I may decrease or limit in scope the duties imposed under this (reciprocal tariff) order."

India has already taken some steps such as cutting taxes on bourbon whiskey, fish feed, motorcycles, mobile phone components and satellite parts. It could offer more under the Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) with the USA it intends to conclude by the end of 2025. But Trump won't be satisfied with some more cuts here and there.

He has put forth big demands such as reforming India's stockholding programme for food security, allowing the import of GM (genetically modified) food, lowering tariffs on farm products, amending its Patent Act to allow evergreening (a fancy term for extending patent protection for older drugs and delaying generic alternatives), removal of ban on inventory-based model in e-commerce, granting US firms access to Government contracts including defence.

It won't be possible for India to yield ground in any of these areas. In February 2025, during a joint press conference at the White House, Trump said Modi was "a much tougher negotiator" than him. Events seem to be proving otherwise.

(The writer is a political analyst and columnist. Views are personal)

Centre extends financial aid to indigenous indoor air purification solution

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

In a significant step toward advancing indigenous clean air technologies, the government on Thursday extending financial support to Gurugram-based Urban Air Labs for their unique project in this field.

The financial assistance by Technology Development Board (TDB), under the Department of Science and Technology (DST), is given to the company for their project, titled "Development & Commercialization of a Made in India Efficient Wall-Mounted Air-Purification System for Indoor Premises."

This intervention marks a commitment to improve the Air Quality Index (AQI) indoors through innovative, plant-based purification systems that remove both particulate and gaseous contaminants.

TDB's financial assistance to this promising startup underscores its



confidence in the project's potential to deliver sustainable, science-backed air purification solutions.

The support aims to promote innovation in climate-responsive technologies while strengthening India's self-reliance under the 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' missions, said Ministry of Science and Technology.

The core technology harnessed in this product blends natural plant-based filtration with advanced engineering. Based on

the 'Urban Munnar Effect' and a patented innovation called 'Breathing Roots', the system enhances the natural air-purifying capacity of leafy indoor plants.

Air from the room is pulled toward the plant leaves, then directed into the soil-root zone, where the purification process intensifies. The device features a centrifugal fan that creates suction pressure, allowing the purified air—processed through the roots—to be released

in 360 degrees across the indoor space.

Fitted within a specially designed planter box, the 'uBreathe Life' system stands out as a compact, aesthetic, and effective wall-mounted solution tailored for homes, offices, hospitals, and other indoor environments.

It directly addresses the growing public health concern over poor indoor air quality and represents a game-changing innovation in the field of sustainable air purification.

"TDB's support to Urban Air Labs reflects our mission to back indigenous solutions that address pressing environmental challenges. The fusion of biotechnology and engineering in this project offers a scalable, sustainable way to enhance indoor air quality, aligned with the nation's clean technology goals," said Rajesh Kumar Pathak, Secretary, TDB.

Ditch the Fridge Water & Switch to Earthen Pots to Beat the Heat This Summer

The scorching sun and rising temperatures often tempt us to reach for an ice-cold drink. While a chilled plastic bottle from the fridge may seem refreshing, drinking ice-cold water regularly can do more harm than good.

A healthier and more sustainable alternative is water stored in earthen pots—also known as matka or clay pots. These traditional containers offer a host of health and environmental benefits.

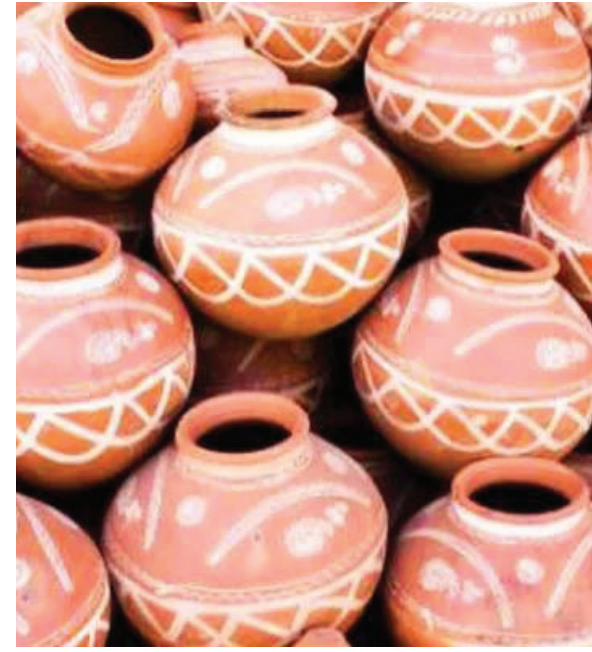
Health Benefits of Drinking Water from Earthen Pots

1. Natural Cooling Effect

Clay pots cool water naturally through their porous structure, allowing slow evaporation that brings down the temperature—an energy-free cooling method that's perfect for summer.

2. Gentle on the Throat

Unlike fridge water, which can be too cold and harsh, matka water



is soothing and less likely to cause sore throats or colds.

3. Naturally Alkaline Water

Clay is alkaline in nature and helps balance the pH level of water by neutralizing acidity. This supports better digestion

and reduces acid-related issues.

4. Boosts Metabolism

Water stored in clay pots may contain trace minerals from the clay, which can help stimulate metabolism and aid overall health.

5. Mild Detoxification

The tiny pores in the clay act as a basic filter, potentially removing some impurities and enhancing the water's quality—though it's not a substitute for proper purification.

Environmental & Practical Benefits

1. Eco-Friendly
Clay pots are 100% natural, biodegradable, and plastic-free. They also don't rely on electricity, making them an environmentally sustainable choice.

2. Cost-Effective
Affordable and durable, earthen pots require no maintenance or power—just fill and use.

3. Enhances Taste
Many people say that water from clay pots has a naturally sweet, earthy taste that's more refreshing than refrigerated water.

Switching to earthen pots isn't just a throwback to tradition—it's a smart, health-conscious, and planet-friendly move.

India, UK close to clinching trade deal as Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal wraps up talks in London

AGENCIES
LONDON/NEW DELHI, APR 30 (UND)

India and the UK are close to clinching a free trade deal, following the talks held between the two sides during the London visit of Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal told a business roundtable in London on Tuesday that "25 of 26 matters have been agreed" upon during the negotiations, Politico quoted him as saying.

Amanda Brooks, director general for Trade Negotiations at the Department for Business and Trade, told reporters that a trade deal with India is close.

However, Minister Goyal had raised outstanding issues in a meeting with UK Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds. These included India's calls for a carve-out from Britain's forthcoming tax on high-emissions imports like steel and aluminium that the UK government has promised to roll out in 2027, Politico said.

Other issues include the description of Indian territory in the deal and the sunset clause in the pact's parallel investment treaty.



Both nations had begun talks on a bilateral trade deal in early 2022, however, the talks stalled.

After the Labour government came to power last year, Trade Secretary Reynolds travelled to Delhi in February this year to restart the negotiations. A breakthrough in the talks came after India accepted Britain would only offer minor changes to its visa regime, with the two sides closing the mobility chapter of the deal in recent weeks.

Politico quoted a UK official as saying that the new rules will lead to "only 100 new visas for Indian workers per year".

A No. 10 spokesperson said on Tuesday afternoon that negotiations were "constructive and productive". They added: "We've been clear that we will only sign

a deal in our best interest." Meanwhile, Minister Goyal posted on X on his meetings in the UK.

"Wonderful to be joined by @DavidLammy, Secretary of State for @FCDOgovUK at the joint India-UK business reception held at Lancaster House.

"Addressed the gathering along with UK Secretary of State for Business and Trade @JReynoldsMP and spoke about the bright future ahead for the India-Great Britain partnership.

"Immensely grateful for the warm and gracious hospitality extended by our UK partners. Looking forward to tangible outcomes of our shared vision.

"It was a pleasure to meet @RachelReevesMP, Chancellor of the Exchequer along with @JReynoldsMP,

Secretary of State for Business and Trade, UK.

"Had a fruitful exchange on advancing India-UK economic ties and further building on our strong partnership."

Goyal also met with Mark Tucker, Group Chairman HSBC.

"Exchanged views on sustainable finance, innovation-led investments, strengthening India's integration with global financial systems & HSBC's plans to expand their presence in India.

"Delighted to learn that Mr. Tucker along with the entire HSBC Board will be visiting our country later this year.

"Under the leadership of PM @NarendraModi ji, India is truly emerging as a global hotspot for investments.

He also addressed the India-UK Business Roundtable.

"Addressed the India-UK Business Roundtable, bringing together prominent business leaders and CEOs from both countries."

"Highlighted opportunities to strengthen economic ties, drive innovation-led growth, and expand investment avenues between India and the UK.

Common diabetes drug may help manage knee arthritis, obesity

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

A common diabetes drug can help reduce pain in people with knee osteoarthritis (OA) and obesity, as well as delay the need for knee replacements, revealed a study on Friday.

Researchers from Monash University in Australia showed that metformin -- commonly prescribed to treat type 2 diabetes -- can reduce knee arthritis pain in people without diabetes.

"Metformin is a potentially new and affordable way to improve knee pain in those with knee OA and overweight or obesity," said lead researcher Professor Flavia Cicuttini, who heads Musculoskeletal Unit at the varsity.

The six months-long randomised clinical trial, performed entirely as a community-based study using telehealth, involved 107 participants with pain from knee osteoarthritis



(73 women and 34 men), with a mean age of 60. The participants took up to 2,000 mg of metformin daily for six months. Others took the placebo. None had diabetes.

Knee pain was measured on a 0-100 scale, with 100 being the worst.

In the results, published in JAMA, the metformin group reported a 31.3 point reduction in pain after six months, compared to 18.9 for the placebo group. This was considered a moderate effect on pain.

Knee OA treatments include lifestyle approach-

es such as exercise and weight loss, which patients often find difficult, and medications such as paracetamol, topical anti-inflammatory creams, and oral anti-inflammatory medications which have small benefits and may be unsuitable for some patients for safety reasons.

Professor Cicuttini said effective treatments that improved knee pain in osteoarthritis were limited. She said this led some patients and their doctors to seek alternative treatments including surgery.

This resulted in major problems managing knee

OA, including an increase in the rate of knee replacements performed for earlier stages of OA.

Professor Cicuttini said metformin now provided GPs an alternative they could offer patients in addition to managing weight and increasing activity.

"Metformin works in a number of ways on the knee, including affecting low-grade inflammation and other metabolic pathways that are important in knee OA," she said.

Stating that Metformin is "low-cost and safe medication," the expert noted it "has the potential to delay people having knee replacements before they are absolutely needed. If people on metformin have less knee pain and are able to do more physical activity, then knee replacements can wait."

However, the researchers also called for a larger clinical trial as the study had a small sample size.

SC questions advocate Prashant Bhushan on India's poverty status

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, APRIL 30 (UND)

The Supreme Court on Wednesday posed a pointed question to advocate Prashant Bhushan, asking whether India still carries the tag of a poor country, while hearing a suo motu matter related to the welfare of migrant workers during the Covid-19 lockdown.

The query came from a bench comprising justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh after Bhushan presented data suggesting a rise in poverty levels since 2011.

"Mr. Bhushan, 2011, now we are in 2025. Are we still



carrying the tag of being poor? Are we still on the premise that this country hasn't progressed? What is troubling us is that in 2011, 70% of people were poor -- now it has increased to perhaps 80%?" the bench remarked during the hearing.

Bhushan clarified that

the observation was not based on his personal opinion but was supported by statements from former chief economists who have also pointed to a rise in poverty in recent years.

The discussion unfolded during proceedings in a suo motu petition initiated

by the court in 2020 to ensure welfare measures for migrants affected by the nationwide pandemic lockdown.

Appearing for the Central government, additional solicitor general Aishwarya Bhati submitted that the Centre has complied with the directions issued by the court.

However, Bhushan contended that several shortcomings still persist in the implementation of welfare schemes for migrant workers.

Due to a special bench matter scheduled post-lunch, the Supreme Court deferred further hearing to the next date.

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Artificial intelligence (AI) systems failed at understanding social dynamics and context necessary for interacting with people and the problem may be rooted in the infrastructure of AI models, Johns Hopkins University research said on Thursday.

Humans, it turned out, are better than current AI models at describing and interpreting social interactions in a moving scene -- a skill necessary for self-driving cars, assistive robots, and other technologies that rely on AI systems to navigate the real world, said the researchers from the top US university.

"AI for a self-driving car, for example, would need to recognise the intentions, goals, and actions of human drivers and pedestrians. You would want it to know which way a pedestrian is about to



start walking, or whether two people are in conversation versus about to cross the street," said lead author Leyla Isik, an assistant professor of cognitive science at Johns Hopkins University.

"Any time you want an AI to interact with humans, you want it to be able to recognise what people are doing. I think this sheds light on the fact that these systems can't right now," Isik added.

To determine how AI models measure up compared to human perception, the researchers asked human participants to

watch three-second video clips and rate features important for understanding social interactions on a scale of one to five.

The clips included people either interacting with one another, performing side-by-side activities, or conducting independent activities on their own.

The researchers then asked more than 350 AI language, video, and image models to predict how humans would judge the videos and how their brains would respond to watching. For large language models, the

researchers had the AIs evaluate short, human-written captions.

The results provided a sharp contrast to AI's success in reading still images.

"It's not enough to just see an image and recognise objects and faces. That was the first step, which took us a long way in AI. But real life isn't static. We need AI to understand the story that is unfolding in a scene. Understanding the relationships, context, and dynamics of social interactions is the next step, and this research suggests there might be a blind spot in AI model development," Kathy Garcia, a doctoral student working in Isik's lab, explained.

Researchers believe this is because AI neural networks were inspired by the infrastructure of the part of the brain that processes static images, which is different from the area of the brain that processes dynamic social scenes.

Brahmin Pratinidhi Sabha Akhnoor organizes Sacred Yagnipavit Ceremony on Akshaya Tritiy

J I NEWS SERVICE
AKHNOOR 30 APRIL

On the auspicious occasion of Akshaya Tritiya, the Dogra Brahmin Pratinidhi Sabha Akhnoor organized a grand one-day Yagyopavit Sanskar at the Bhagwan Parshuram Ji Temple in Akhnoor. The event featured a Vedic havan, yajna, and a community feast (bhandara), conducted with full traditional rituals, in which hundreds of devotees and respected members of society participated.

President of the Sabha, Pt. Ashok Shastri, highlighted the significance of the event, stating that Yagyopavit Sanskar is one of the sixteen major sacraments (sanskars) in Hinduism. It symbolizes a commitment to knowledge, discipline, and the path of



righteousness. He emphasized that preserving and promoting religious traditions is the Sabha's core mission. Organizing such events on sacred occasions like Akshaya Tritiya helps connect the younger generation with their cultural and spiritual heritage.

On this occasion, Mahant Rohit Shastri, President of the Shri Kailakh Jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust, was present as a special guest. In his address, he stated that

Yagyopavit Sanskar is not merely a religious ritual but signifies initiation into the Brahmacharya Ashram, marking the beginning of spiritual awareness and responsibility in one's life. He further remarked that such events foster religious consciousness and social unity, thereby strengthening the Dogra cultural heritage.

The entire ceremony was conducted with Vedic chants by learned Brahmins, culminating in a

sacred yajna, where all invited guests offered oblations and received spiritual merit. The event concluded with a grand bhandara, where the assembled devotees partook of the sacred prasadam.

Other Sabha office bearers and members including Sudesh Mangotra, Tara Mani, Shri Nivas, Sham Lal Bral, Ratna Lal Sharma, Babbu Mangotra, Babbu Takiya, Vinod Ballu, Shiv Kumar Saraf, Moni Pandit, and from the Shri Kailakh Jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust, Vice President Sunil Sharma and Lucky Sharma, played an active role in ensuring the success of the event. Local residents and devotees appreciated the organization of the ceremony and expressed a desire for more such events in the future.

DHS-J accords warm send off to retiring Senior Assistant

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 30

Directorate of Health Services Jammu today accorded a war send off to Prathma Devi, Senior Assistant on her superannuation here at a function organised in the premises of the Directorate. Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar appreciated her sincerity and helping nature towards all the employees and wished her a healthy and prosperous post retirement life. Deputy Director Dentistry Dr.



Sanjay Sharma complimented Mrs Prathma for her devotion towards her work. The staff wished her good health and success in her future endeavours.

DIC Udhampur bids farewell to retiring Senior Assistant Rakesh Kumar



J I NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, APRIL 30

The District Information Centre Udhampur today organized a warm and impressive farewell ceremony in honor of Rakesh Kumar, Senior Assistant at the Information Department, TIC Ramnagar, who retired from government service today after an illustrious and dedicated career.

The farewell programme was attended by District Information Officer Rajinder Digra along with other officials and staff of the department.

The DIO and other officials lauded the invaluable contribution of Rakesh Kumar to the department.

They appreciated his commitment, sincerity and the professionalism he exhibited during his years of service.

While extending best wishes for his retired life, the DIO expressed hope that his vast experience and work ethics would continue to inspire others in the department.

The programme concluded on an emotional note, with colleagues and peers sharing fond memories and extending heartfelt wishes for his future endeavors.

Later, as a mark of respect and affection, a memento was presented to the retiring employee during the farewell function.

Surinder praises PM Modi's caste-based census decision

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 30

MLA Surinder Kumar has welcomed the Prime Minister's decision to conduct a caste-based census, stating that it will facilitate need-based development of the weaker sections of society. The MLA emphasized that this initiative is a significant step towards achieving equitable development and prosperity for all sections of society. Surinder observed that caste-based census will enable the government to identify and address the specific needs of different sections of society, particularly the weaker ones. The MLA praised the PM Modi government for its commitment to equitable development and prosperity for all sections of society. The decision to conduct a caste-based census is seen as a step towards achieving inclusive growth and ensuring that no section of society is left behind. "The caste-based census will provide valuable insights into the needs and requirements of different sections of society,



enabling the government to formulate targeted policies and programs." "The PM Modi government's commitment to equitable development and prosperity for all sections of society is commendable, and this decision is another step towards achieving that goal, added MLA." The MLA's praise for the PM's decision reflects the government's efforts to promote inclusive growth and development. The caste-based census is expected to play a crucial role in identifying the needs of different sections of society and formulating policies that cater to their specific requirements.

Mandeep Kour, others visit Animal Care Centre, Roop Nagar

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 30

Mandeep Kaur (IAS), Commissioner Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department, Jammu and Kashmir, and Dr. Devansh Yadav (IAS), Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation, conducted an official visit to the Municipal Animal Care Centre at Roop Nagar and the SPCA Centre at Chowadhi. The purpose of the visit was to review the status and progress of the Animal Birth Control (ABC) program and associated civil works.

At Roop Nagar, the dignitaries inspected the ongoing ABC program and reviewed the condition of sick and injured stray animals under treatment. Commissioner Secretary



Kaur emphasized the importance of maintaining hygienic conditions, providing timely medical treatment, and ensuring the humane handling of all animals. She interacted with the veterinary staff, directed them to maintain efficient records, and stressed the need to expand outreach efforts for stray dog sterilization to effectively manage the

population. The team then visited the upcoming ABC Centre at SPCA Chowadhi. A detailed review of the ongoing civil works was conducted. Commissioner Secretary Kaur urged that construction and operational preparations be expedited. The new facility is expected to significantly boost sterilization capacity and help scale up stray dog

sterilization efforts across the city. Directions were given to engineering and veterinary teams to ensure timely project completion and infrastructure readiness.

The visit concluded with a reaffirmation of the department's commitment to animal welfare, effective stray dog population management through sustained ABC operations, and the provision of the best possible care for injured and sick animals.

Also present during the visit were Mr. Abdul Star, Joint Commissioner (Health and Sanitation), Dr. Gaurav Chowdhary, Animal Welfare Officer; Mr. Ashwani Mitra, DFO Urban; Executive Engineers from the Electric, Civil, and Project Divisions of JMC; and other concerned officials.

Raman Bhalla listens public grievances in Nai Basti area



J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 30

JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla today interacted with residents of Nai Basti area, listening to their grievances and concerns. During the interaction, Bhalla assured the public of all support and care, emphasizing the party's commitment to addressing their issues. Bhalla engaged with residents, understanding their problems and concerns. He assured the public that the party would extend all possible support to address their grievances. Bhalla reaffirmed the party's commitment to serving the people and working towards their welfare.

Residents expressed gratitude for Bhalla's visit and his willingness to listen to their concerns. The interaction instilled hope among the residents

that their issues would be addressed in a timely and effective manner. Raman Bhalla's visit to Nai Basti area demonstrates the party's commitment to public service and its dedication to addressing the concerns of the people. The interaction reflects the party's efforts to stay connected with the public and work towards their welfare.

Bhalla demanded Govt for timely resolution of public issues. He urged Govt to address all public issues in a time-bound manner, fulfilling the aspirations of the people and catering to the sentiments of all sections of society. He demanded Govt to ensure affordable electricity for all citizens, providing consistent and reliable access to clean water besides addressing the needs of the public by ensuring the availability of other essential services.

Bhalla further said that government is expected to function efficiently, resolving public issues in a timely and effective manner, prioritizing the welfare of the people by addressing their concerns and meeting their expectations. The government is urged to consider the sentiments and needs of all sections of society, ensuring that no one is left behind, fostering equitable development that benefits all segments of the population. By addressing public issues in a time-bound manner and fulfilling the aspirations of the people, the government can build trust and ensure the well-being of its citizens. It is essential for the government to prioritize the needs of the people and work towards providing essential services that improve their quality of life, added Bhalla.

Last opportunity to GOI for reply in MLA nomination case, hearing deferred to July 25

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 30

The Division Bench of J&K High court hearing the public interest litigation (PIL) regarding nomination of five MLAs, today granted last & final opportunity of four weeks to the GOI to file reply in matter and fixed July 25 as the date for final hearing.

The PIL filed by Former MLC and Chief Spokesperson of JKPCC Mr Ravinder Sharma advocate challenging powers of the LG to nominate five MLAs, today came up for hearing before the special Division Bench of Mr Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Mr Justice Rajesh Sekhri.

The counsels for the Petitioner Mr D K Khajuria alongwith Mr Shah Mohammed Chaudhary apprised the court that the respondent UOI has not filed reply, so far, despite several opportunities and on last date the court had ordered that the case shall be heard today, in the absence of reply, if not filed. They pleaded for closing right of respondents to file reply and fix the final date for hearing.

Upon this ASGI Mr

AHD Jammu bids farewell to retiring Deputy Director

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 30

The Department of Animal Husbandry organized a farewell programme in honour of the retiring Deputy Director, Poultry, Dr. Sunil Kumar Bazaz, today here at the Directorate of Animal Husbandry, Talab Tillo, Jammu.

Director Animal Husbandry Jammu, Dr. Parvinder Singh shared a brief profile of Dr. Sunil Kumar Bazaz's career which began as Veterinary Assistant Surgeon in Kathua district in year 1994. Over



the years he served in various capacities in the department before retiring on 30th April, 2025. He further congratulated Dr. Bazaz and thanked him for his dedicated services to the department.

Prof. Uppal confers India Iconic Award for Outstanding Contributions in Education and Research

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 30

Professor (Dr.) Rajinder Kumar Uppal, an eminent scholar and educationist, has been honored with the prestigious India Iconic Award in recognition of his outstanding contributions to education, research, and social change. The award celebrates his lifelong dedication to academic excellence, innovation in banking and finance,



and his visionary role in uplifting rural communities through education and technology.

DDC inspects developmental projects in Poonch



J I NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, APRIL 30

District Development Commissioner Vikas Kundal today asked the executing agencies to expedite pace of work on the Major Bridges on NH144A and the Minor Bridge at Sukha Katha.

He was inspecting progress of work on different projects, including road projects in different parts of the district. The DDC was accompanied by OC

GREF, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Tehsildar Haveli and other concerned officers.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner received detailed briefings on the construction progress by OC GREF and reiterated the need for acceleration.

The DDC also directed ACP and staff of RDD to expedite various Rural Development Works and ensure quality.

SP South inaugurates Free Eye Screening Camp at Bahu Fort

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 30

District Police Jammu and Samvedna Society Chairman Keshav Chopra Organizes 98th Free Eye Screening Check Up camp for the Devotees, Pujaris and Sewadars of Mata Bawe Wali Temple Bahu Fort, The Camp was inaugurated by Superintendent of Police Jammu South Ajay Sharma (JKPS) accompanying Station House Officer Bahu Fort Inspector Ashwani Sharma, Incharge Police Post Bahu Fort Mandir S.I Lekh Raj and others.

The camp was organized with the collaboration of Department of Ophthalmology Government Medical College Jammu, A Total of 103 Patients were provided free of Cost Treatment including



Refraction, NCT, AR Check Up, Vision Check Up by a team of Experts, Free Medicines were also given to the patients.

Speaking on the Occasion SP Ajay Sharma emphasized on the need of regular check-ups, preventive tests and compliance to medicines prescribed by doctors. He asked the Samvedna team to make the people aware about "Eye Donation" Ajay Sharma also Lauded the

efforts of the Samvedna team and assured full support and cooperation to the Society.

Keshav Chopra While speaking said that Our primary goal is to bridge gaps in healthcare accessibility and ensure that Best Medical facilities should reach to every individual no matter where they are from, Keshav also said that his team is committed to organize such camps in the coming future also so

that maximum people can take benefits of it.

Dr Nancy Sharma (Registrar), Dr Tapan Sharma (Registrar), Dr Sushant Kharka (PG), Dr Mohammad Abid (PG), Anil Kumar (Sr Refractionist), Anil Kumar (Refractionist), Wasim Hafiz Ophthalmic Assistant, Vikas Kumar, Anju Chopra, Manoj Tandon, Ritika Chopra, Rajesh Nischal, Amit Bagotra and others were also present.

Guru Gosain Brij Bhushan ji maharaj Visit Ayodhya & Courtesy Meeting

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SUNDERBANI, APR 30

The Present Guru Gaddi Aseen, Guru Gosain Brij Bhushan Ji Maharaj of Guru Gaddi 1008 Sadguru Baba Kanshi Giri Ji (Bangang Wale) Banpuri-Bhawal Sunderbani, reached Ayodhya Dham with his disciples to have darshan of Lord Shri Ram Lala Ji's divine idol. He fulfilled his resolve made during the Pran Pratistha ceremony of the grand Ram temple to have the first darshan with his disciples.

During the visit, Guru Gosain Brij Bhushan Ji Maharaj had a courtesy meeting with Shri Champat Rai Ji, General Secretary of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, and Dr. Anil Mishra Ji, Trustee of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, and



others. They discussed various social, religious, and community development initiatives and shared their thoughts and experiences. Guru Gosain Brij Bhushan Ji Maharaj appealed to everyone to come together to spread

the flag of Sanatan Dharma in all directions. He fulfilled his resolve to have darshan of Ram Lala with his disciples and inspired everyone to work together for the promotion of Sanatan Dharma.

Prior to his visit to

Ayodhya, Guru Gosain Brij Bhushan Ji Maharaj was warmly welcomed in Ambala with traditional folk music, flower garlands, and other festivities by the local devotees and well-wishers at Sadguru Dham, Haryana.

Indian Army distributes School Desks for Border area Schools at Beripattan, Rajouri

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI: 30 APRIL 2025

In a significant step towards strengthening educational infrastructure in remote border areas, the Indian Army successfully sponsored 61 school desks for five Government schools located in Tehsil Beripattan, Rajouri. The effort was aimed towards enhancing the learning environment and provide better facilities for students in remote areas.

During interaction with students in past visits to these schools, it was observed with deep concern that students were sitting on bare ground due to the absence of basic classroom infrastructure. This not only hindered their learning experience but also impacted their health and morale. Recognising this critical need, Indian Army took swift



and decisive action to bridge the gap. The Indian Army fulfilled the long-standing requirement of school desks for these schools and handed over the desks in the presence of teachers, students and local residents, creating a moment of pride and happiness for the community. These institutions, located in the rural and challeng-

ing terrain of Sunderbani sector have long faced infrastructural deficiencies, directly affecting the educational development of students. The provision of new desks is expected to significantly improve classroom conditions, foster better academic engagement and boost the morale of students and teachers alike.

Congress will stand against BJP Govt's failure in J&K: Sawhney

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 30

A Nukkad meeting was held by Congress party on Sunday at Bawe Wali Galli, Ward No. 6, Shaheedi Chowk, Jammu, chaired by senior Congress leader and former J&K Minister Yogesh Sawhney. The meeting witnessed the joining of several new members into the Congress party. It was organized by Ward President Amit Gupta along with Surjeet Singh and others. Various locals and prominent leaders were present at the meeting to discuss important local issues and participate in the joining program of new members, demonstrating strong grassroots support for the Congress party.

Block President Ajay Kumar Kaka, Raj Kumar Sodhi, and a host of other prominent Congress activists and youth leaders



were present at the event. Pawan Dev Singh, Ajay Kumar, Raj Kumar Sodhi, Amarjeet Singh, Amit Gupta with Surjeet Singh, Surjit Singh, Kundan Kumar, Irfan Malik, Asif Mir, Farooq Choudary, Jamshed Chib, Janjew Bhatt, Akram Khan, Tawrej Chiba, Babbar Chib, Jatin Kohli, Amjad Khan, Neha Gupta, Preeti Rajput, Sidaarth, Paras Basson,

and Kamakshi Basson were also in attendance. J&K Youth Congress Secretary Dr. Suhaib Manhas, Anmol Kohli, from NSUI J&K Mehul Abrol also attended.

Welcoming the new members, former Minister J&K and ex-MLA Jammu East Yogesh Sawhney stated that the Congress party can see growing trust and enthusiasm among the people, particularly

ing the ideals of the Congress Party at every level.

Further addressing the gathering, Sawhney strongly criticized the Centre and the BJP-led government, accusing them of gross mismanagement of Jammu and Kashmir's issues. He pointed to the alarming rise in terrorism, referring to the most recent brutal Pahalgam attack and other tragic incidents resulting in civilian deaths. He expressed grave concern over the deteriorating security situation, rising unemployment, lack of economic opportunities, and the growing instances of crime across the region. Sawhney emphasized that the Congress party stands firmly with the people of Jammu and Kashmir and will continue to oppose the BJP's policies that have failed to protect the interests of the Union Territory and its citizens.

Pushkar Singh Dhami attends Surya Drona Tech 2025 Showcasing India's Drone Capabilities for Defence Innovation

J1 NEWS SERVICE
DEHRADUN: 30 APRIL 2025

The Surya Drona Tech 2025, held on April 29-30, 2025, at Jaswant Ground, Dehradun Cantonment, concluded with resounding success, marking a significant milestone in India's pursuit of self-reliance in defence technology. Organized by Central Command, Indian Army, in collaboration with the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM), the two-day expo highlighted indigenous drone technologies tailored for high-altitude defence applications, aligning with "Atmanirbhar Bharat" initiative.

The event showcased an impressive array of advanced drone systems, including ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance) drones, loitering munitions, kamikaze drones, swarm drones, logistics drones, FPV (First-Person View) drones, and specialized systems for electronic warfare, synthetic aperture radar, and communication/electronic intelligence (COMINT/ELINT). Anti-drone systems and unmanned automated systems for aerial, ground, and underground operations were also demonstrated.

The second day of the event commenced with address by Major General PK Saini, Principal Advisor of the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM), who emphasized the importance of strengthening India's indigenous drone ecosystem and the collaborative role of states like Uttarakhand in national defence manufacturing initiatives and further the opening address was delivered by Major General Navin Mahajan, GOC, 14 Infantry Division.

A key highlight of the day was a series of seminars on critical themes shaping the future of drone technology in India. Topics included "Best Practices of the UP Defence Corridor," by Mr DSR Raju, MD, SIDAK, UPDIC, "Enhancing Operational Capability through Autonomous Unmanned Systems by Major General PK Saini", "Drone Requirements of the Indian Army by Colonel Manoj Singh Silot Director, ADB," and "Potential of the Drone Ecosystem in Uttarakhand by Mr YS Pundhir GM Planning SIIDCUL" with participation from experts, industry leaders, and defence officials who shared insights into policy frameworks, industry growth opportunities, and



operational requirements. In his virtual address, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttarakhand commended the Indian Army's Central Command and SIDM for organising such a technological and futuristic event and underscored the state's vision to become a hub for drone innovation and manufacturing. "Uttarakhand is committed to fostering an environment that supports cutting-edge technology and entrepreneurship. We aim to build a thriving drone ecosystem that contributes to both national security and economic growth," said the Hon'ble Chief Minister. The second day of the Surya Drona Tech Expo 2025 witnessed another landmark occasion as the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttarakhand graced the event as the Chief Guest.

The Chief Minister was received by Lieutenant General Navin Sachdeva, COS, Central Command, setting a dignified tone for the day's activities.

The Chief Minister felicitated participants for their valuable contributions and further ceremonial exchange of mementoes was conducted, further strengthening ties between the government, defence forces, and industry stakeholders.

Following the formal proceedings, the Hon'ble Chief Minister visited the exhibition stalls, interacting with innovators and entrepreneurs showcasing their latest drone technologies. The event concluded with a live equipment display and flying demonstration, offering a dynamic view of India's growing capabilities in unmanned

systems. Surya Drona Tech 2025 achieved key objectives, including thorough evaluations of drone systems, identification of high-performing systems for potential defence integration, and actionable feedback for manufacturers to refine their offerings. Insights from the event will guide future R&D and shape Quality Requirements (QRs) for defence procurement, reinforcing the readiness of Indian drones for 24/7 deployment.

The expo fostered collaboration among drone manufacturers, defence personnel, paramilitary forces and government representatives, driving the adoption of indigenous unmanned solutions. The presence of Hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand, Lieutenant General Gurmit Singh, (Retd) and Hon'ble Chief Minister, Mr. Pushkar Singh Dhami underscored the event's significance.

Lieutenant General Anindya Sengupta, GOC-in-C, Central Command, Indian Army, lauded the event, stating, "This expo has provided invaluable insights into the capabilities of indigenous drone systems, paving the way for their integration into our operational framework." A senior SIDM representative added, "Surya Drona Tech 2025 has been a game-changer, bridging the gap between India's vibrant drone industry and the defence sector, showcasing our growing prowess in unmanned systems."

The event was hugely subscribed by school children, NCC Cadets, Government agencies, Police and Para military Forces. The success of Surya Drona Tech 2025 reaffirms India's commitment to building a robust, self-reliant defence ecosystem. By showcasing cutting-edge technologies and fostering collaboration, the event sets a new benchmark for unmanned systems development, paving the way for a secure, tech-empowered future.

Dr. Narinder Singh chairs development review meeting; emphasizes inclusive growth and societal responsibility

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RS PURA, JAMMU, APRIL 30

In a significant move to accelerate developmental initiatives in RS Pura-Jammu South, Dr. Narinder Singh, Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) and BJP National Secretary, chaired a high-level meeting of senior government officials. The meeting focused on assessing ongoing projects and strengthening inter-departmental coordination to ensure faster and more efficient implementation of development schemes.

The meeting witnessed the presence of key officials, including SDM Anuradha Thakur, Tehsildar Chander Shekhar, Block Development Officers (BDOs), Child Development Project Officer (CDPO), and senior officials from departments such as PWD, PDD, and other essential government bodies. The agenda revolved around reviewing current infrastructure projects, discussing future proposals, and identifying areas that require urgent attention.

While addressing the officials, Dr. Singh reviewed the progress of various works in the pipeline and stressed the importance of

timely execution and inter-departmental synergy. He called upon officials to anticipate future infrastructure needs and devise comprehensive plans to meet the growing aspirations of the people in the region.

In a noteworthy initiative aimed at inclusive development, Dr. Singh urged all senior officials present, including himself, to adopt at least one underprivileged child, preferably from Scheduled Castes (SC) or other marginalized communities. He appealed to them to take complete responsibility for the adopted child's education, nutrition, and overall well-being. "This is not merely a gesture of charity, but a step toward building a compassionate and inclusive society," Dr. Singh said. "We must ensure that the poor and needy do not feel left behind in the journey of progress. Societal participation is key to uplifting the socio-economic status of the underprivileged."

The MLA's call for personal accountability and societal involvement received a positive response from the attending officials, who acknowledged the need for both infrastructural and human development.

368 JEs elevated as AEs in major HR boost to Jal Shakti Department

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 30

In a significant move aimed at strengthening the human resource framework of the Jal Shakti Department (JSD), the Government has promoted 368 Junior Engineers (JEs) to the rank of Assistant Engineers (AEs).

The promotions were formalized through Government Order No. 103-JK(JSD) of 2025 and Government Order No. 104-JK(JSD) of 2025, both dated April 30, 2025.

Jal Shakti Minister Javed Ahmed Rana, who has been proactively addressing the Department's long-standing HR deficiencies, had earlier directed officials to ensure timely Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) meetings and undertake regular reviews to mitigate the



shortage of officers across various cadres.

In a related development, 25 Executive Engineers were recently promoted to the position of Superintending Engineers (SEs), addressing the acute shortfall—reportedly exceeding 90%—at the SE

level. Furthermore, over 300 vacancies have already been referred to the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) for recruitment.

Following the promotion of the 368 JEs, the Minister has instructed the Department to immediately refer the resultant vacancies to the relevant recruiting agencies, enabling swift recruitment through targeted special drives.

The 2015 and 2016 batches of Jal Shakti engineers expressed their gratitude to the Hon'ble Minister, the Additional Chief Secretary, and departmental authorities for their efforts in filling the long-pending AE posts.

BJP leadership visits cloudburst-hit Dharamkund in Ramban, assess relief measures

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, APR 30

A high-level delegation of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) led by Jammu & Kashmir BJP President Sat Sharma today visited the cloudburst-affected areas of Dharamkund in Ramban district to assess the ground situation and ongoing relief efforts. Yudhvir Sethi, Vice-President & MLA, Dr. Devinder Kumar Malyal, General Secretary & MLA, Vibodh Gupta, General Secretary, Neelam Langeh, District President, BJP's DDC, & Ex. BDCs, and other senior leaders of party accompanied the BJP President on the occasion.

The visit comes in the aftermath of a severe cloudburst and flash floods that caused extensive damage

to life, property, and infrastructure in the region. During the visit, Sat Sharma interacted with affected families and local residents to understand their immediate concerns and long-term needs.

Speaking on the occasion, Sharma expressed deep concern over the scale of destruction and stated that while administrative efforts are ongoing, the damage to normal living conditions is unprecedented. "The suffering of the people is immense. While government officials and public representatives have made efforts, more support is urgently needed," he said.

Sharma shared that the BJP earlier constituted a committee under the leadership of Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma, which

is already overseeing and facilitating the relief operations.

The BJP President has requested the release of substantial financial assistance from both the Chief Minister's Relief Fund and the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) through the Deputy Commissioner's office. He also confirmed communication with Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh for best possible relief efforts.

Yudhvir Sethi emphasized the importance of immediate repair and reconstruction of damaged roads and houses. "Our activists are on the ground, working tirelessly to support those in distress. BJP stands firmly with the people of Ramban in this hour of crisis," he said.

BSP will support every step taken by govt to avenge Pahalgam terrorist attack: Darshan Rana

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 30

Regarding the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, J&K Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) has said that for the internal security of the country, all political parties need to stand united with the government in every step.

BSP has said that along with the Congress party, some other political parties are making political gains on this issue, which is not good for the internal security of the country. Bahujan Samaj Party President Darshan Rana issued a press statement today and said that the Pahalgam terrorist attack cannot be condemned enough, but the politics being done

by the Congress party as well as other opposition political parties regarding the tension between the two countries due to this attack cannot be considered good in any way. He said that in view of the current situation, all political parties need to stand with the

government in every step. Rana said that whatever decision will be taken by the government in the interest of the country, Bahujan Samaj Party will support that decision of the government. Along with this, he said that the countrymen have full faith in the Indian Army that the Indian security personnel are fully capable of teaching a lesson to the enemy country.



Lt Gen JP Mathew relinquishes appointment of Chief of Integrated Defence Staff upon his superannuation

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APR 30

Lt Gen JP Mathew relinquished the appointment of the Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (CISC) on April 30, 2025 upon the culmination of nearly four decades in service. On the day of his superannuation, he laid a wreath at the National War Memorial, New Delhi and paid homage to the fallen heroes. He was also accorded a ceremonial Tri-Service Guard of Honour at the South Block laws.

The General Officer had been holding the appointment of CISC since April 2023, promoting jointness and synergy among the three Services. Lt Gen Mathew has made significant contributions in



the expansion of Defence Cyber Agency and Defence Space Agency towards achieving credible capability in these critical domains. He also encouraged deeper collaboration with the Indian defence industry and academia, reflecting the Government's Aatmanirbhar Bharat vision. From steering

major reforms and reviewing the curriculum in the Defence Service Staff College of Defence Management, Military Institute of Technology and National Defence Academy to encouraging participation of women, he was instrumental in enhancing diversity and inclusion in the Armed

Forces.

In order to maintain defence cooperation with neighbouring countries and promote regional stability & security, Lt Gen Mathew represented the Indian Armed Forces in various fora. In addition, he was instrumental in enhancing the Armed Forces' Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief capabilities. Commissioned into the Punjab Regiment in December 1985, the General Officer became the Colonel of the Regiment on January 09, 2022. For his illustrious services, he was conferred with Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Uttam Yudh Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal and Vishisht Seva Medal.

Central University of Jammu organizes Panel Discussion on Trump's Tariff

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 30

The Department of Educational Studies, Central University of Jammu organized a compelling panel discussion titled "Economic Consequences of Trump's Tariffs: A Global and Indian Perspective" under the academic platform, Shiksha Shastrarth held at Pt. Malviya Shiksha Bhawan. The event was conducted under the esteemed patronage of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sanjeev Jain, and brought together academicians, faculty members, scholars and students for a thought-provoking engagement with one of the most debated economic policies of the 21st century.

The event commenced with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp (Deep Prajwalan) and Pushpanjali ceremony, following a formal welcome and contextual introduction to the theme by the Head of the Department, Prof. Asit K. Mantry wherein he warmly welcomed the distinguished panellists and participants. He highlighted the significance of the Shiksha Shastrarth platform as a meaningful space for academic dialogue and critical engagement. Prof. Mantry also focused on the multifaceted impacts of U.S President Donald Trump's tariff policies on global



trade dynamics, with particular emphasis on the Indian economy and also emphasized the evolving identity of human beings as 'economic beings' over the classical definition of 'social animals.' The panel discussion was presided over by Prof. J.N. Baliya, a distinguished academic from the Department, who also moderated the discussion with great finesse. Prof. Baliya set the thematic tone for the panel by contextualizing the global shift towards protectionist policies and their ramifications for emerging economies like India. The panel comprised esteemed experts from diverse academic disciplines: Prof. Aswini Nanda, Department of Economics, Prof. Suram Singh, Department of Physics, and Dr. Ranjeet Raman, Department of TTM. Each panellist brought a unique analytical lens to the discussion, integrating perspectives from economics, education, international relations, and science and

technology. Dr. Ranjit Raman delivered the opening remarks, exploring the consequences of tariffs in the Indian context before extending the lens to a global perspective. Dr. Raman discussed the implications for India's economic strategy, culture, agriculture, and key sectors like Banking, and IT, and emphasized that these sectors are performing notably well. The discussion continued with Prof. Suram Singh, Dean Academic Affairs, who emphasized the deep interlinkage of tariffs with Science and Technology. Prof. Suram strongly advocated that tariffs should not be imposed on scientific and research materials, as these are essential for innovation and development. Prof. Aswini Nanda followed, noting that the tariff war would impact the United States more than India, reassuring attendees that India is in safe hands. Prof. Nanda also highlighted the importance of analyzing trade rivals first

and emphasized that the impacts of such tariffs are not universal.

Following the panel presentations, an open-floor interaction was held, where research scholars and students raised insightful queries, fostering critical discussion on trade diplomacy, economic nationalism, and global interdependence. The enriching exchange of ideas underscored the relevance of such academic platforms in facilitating meaningful discourse on contemporary global issues.

The event was efficiently convened by Dr. Yad Ram, Dr. Vishal, and Dr. Nidhi, whose coordinated efforts ensured the smooth execution of the programme. The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks by Dr. Nidhi and the National Anthem, marking a successful culmination of yet another intellectually stimulating session under the Shiksha Shastrarth Forum. This initiative reaffirmed the Department's commitment to nurturing informed academic engagement on globally pertinent themes. Faculties from various Departments, Dr. Neerendra, Dr. Rahu Thakur, Dr. Anuj, Dr. Kiran, Dr. Aman, Dr. Ravi Vanguri, Dr. Mohan; research scholars and students participated in this event.

Kavinder distributes poems on Dr. Ambedkar among party leaders



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 30

Kavinder Gupta, former Deputy Chief Minister & BJP senior leader, distributed two poems—Ambedkar - Ek Naam and Daliton ke Massiah—among BJP senior leaders.

The poems, written by Balbir Ram Rattan, reflect his deep admiration for Ambedkar's contributions to social justice, equality, and the upliftment of marginalized communities.

Kavinder Gupta, on this occasion, said that the entire life of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar is full of hard work, struggle, and a source of inspiration.

He said that Dr. Ambed-

kar was not just the architect of our Constitution, but a symbol of courage, intellect, and relentless struggle for equality. "Through these poems, an attempt has been made to express what Ambedkar means not only to a class or community but to millions across India who continue to draw strength from his vision.

Kavinder Gupta elaborated that the first poem, Ambedkar - Ek Naam, explores Ambedkar as a timeless figure—one whose name stands for justice and wisdom. It delves into his life's journey, from facing discrimination to becoming a guiding light for India's

democratic ideals. The second piece, Daliton ke Massiah, portrays Ambedkar as a saviour of the oppressed. It highlights his revolutionary efforts to ensure dignity, education, and representation for Dalits and other marginalized groups.

Balbir Ram Rattan emphasized that his poems are humble effort to keep Ambedkar's message alive in our hearts and minds.

The poems were distributed among Dr. Pardeep Mohtra, Sanjay Baru, Vinay Gupta, Prof. Kulbhushan Mohtra, Ankit Gupta, Dil Bahadur Singh.

Retrieve PoK, make culprits shed tears of blood: Shiv Sena



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 30

Every Indian wants to make the criminals of Pahalgam shed tears of blood and see PoK become a part of India, stated by Manish Sahni, President, Shiv Sena UBT Jammu-Kashmir unit.

In a press conference held today at the party's state central office, state chief Manish Sahni said that the time has come to teach a lesson to the criminals who have carried out nefarious and cowardly acts in Jammu and Kashmir for the last three and a half decades, including Pulwama, Pahalgam, Uri attacks. A strong military attack should be made on the terrorist hideouts and launching pads, including the army and ISI headquarters located in Pakistan, including Lahore, Karachi, Rawalpindi.

Along with this, the promise of making PoK a part of India and Jammu and Kashmir should be fulfilled.

Pakistan's attempt to create communal divide will never succeed: Adv. Purnima

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 30TH APRIL 2025:

Strongly condemning the recent terror attack in Pahalgam that claimed the lives of 26 innocent tourists, BJP Spokesperson, J&K, and former Deputy Mayor, Adv. Purnima Sharma lashed out at Pakistan for its repeated attempts to disrupt peace and communal harmony in Jammu & Kashmir.

In a press statement issued here today, the senior BJP leader said that Pakistan is once again trying to create a rift between Hindus and Muslims by orchestrating such cowardly acts of terrorism. "These attempts are aimed at derailing

the peace process and instigating division among communities. But let me make it very clear—Kashmir is not alone this time. Every Indian stands with the people of the Valley," she asserted.

Adv. Sharma hailed the efforts of the Modi Government in restoring normalcy and bringing tourism back to the Valley nearly after three decades. "Due to the peaceful atmosphere under Modi Ji's leadership, tourism in Kashmir has seen a remarkable revival. This resurgence has



opened up new avenues of employment for the youth, boosting the local economy and instilling fresh hope," she said. She further noted that the Modi Government's strong will and decisive

policies have succeeded in ending the era of stone pelting, hartals, and bandh culture that had gripped the region for years. "Today, Kashmir is scripting a new chapter of development, unity, and integration with the rest of the country," she added.

Adv. Purnima Sharma vowed that the people of India will never allow Pakistan to succeed in its sinister designs after the Pahalgam terror attack. "Kashmir is, was, and will always remain an integral part of India. No force in the world can change that," she added.

JAC of SC/ST/OBC organizations urge everyone to watch 'Phule' movie on April 27

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 30

Joint Action Committee of SC/ST/OBC organizations organized a press conference regarding release of Phule Film.

At the outset members of all organizations expressed extreme happiness on the release of Phule Film throughout the country.

While addressing the media person, Sham Lal Basson, president All J&K Dalit Chetna Manch and Ex Councillor said that Phule Film is based on the lives of Jyotirao Phule and Savitri Bai Phule. The film stars are Pratik Gandhi and Patralekha. The film was scheduled to release on 11 April 2025 (Birth Anniversary of Jyoti Rao Phule) but got

postponed to 25th April 2025. It was released on 27th April 2025 at wave mall, Jammu. The film was directed and written by Anant Mahadeven.

It is a proud movement for all Bahujans and women. The Phule couple opened the country's first girls school on 1st January 1848 at Bhidewada Pune in Maharashtra which is also known as Kranti Shala. This act was met with strong opposition. Savitri Bai Phule faced extreme harassment, enduring attacks with stones and cow dung Yet, this ostracism did not deter the couple from their mission.

Sham Basson further expressed that he met with Nitatai Ramakant Hole, descendant of Phule



couple during March 2013. This iron lady along with other organizations started a struggle to transform the country's first Girls school into National Memorial. It is a proud movement for all of us that work on the National Memorial has been started at Bhidewada Pune.

Basson appealed all public in general and Bahujan Samaj in particular to watch this film. The

film is worth watching. While briefing the media Sunita Bangotra Principal Savitri Bai Phule Modern School Bari Brahmana and president Savitri Bai Phule Mahila Sangathan appealed to all women and particularly students to watch a Phule movie which is worth watching. She said Bahujans and women are facing sexual and other harassment in spite of provi-

sions enshrined in the constitution of India. We can well imagine the condition of Shudra and women when there were no laws in favour of Bahujans and women. About 177 years ago when the country's first Girls school was established. Today women are not less than men in any field. They are DM, CM, PM. It is because of education. Now we should know who has snatched a pen from the hands of girls and who has given a pen in their hand which can be differentiated from Phule Movie. It is not out of place to mention here that the country's first school was not meant for a particular caste, it was meant for girls from all castes. Now the university of Pune is

named Savitri Bai Phule University. Many institutions and schemes have been started in the name of the Phule couple. All of us know that Phule couple deserves the Bharat Ratna Award. The Govt. of India should consider this demand.

Those who addressed and attended the press conference included Er. R.C Bhasin, Prof C.L Shivgotra, T.C. Bavouria, C.L. Banal, Sewa Dass Digra, Mohan Lal Hans, P.L. Angral, Prof Kali Dass, M.R. Bangotra, R.L. Bangotra, Surinder Devgoda, Surjeet Heer, Tarsam Kumar, Gourav Ravidasia, Sham Lal, Girdari Lal, Kuldeep Fauji, Ganesh Bangotra, Dharamvir, Surinder Kumar, Darshan Lal and others.

Dr. Narinder Singh, Vikram Randhawa holds public darbar at BJP headquarters

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 30TH APRIL 2025:

Dr. Narinder Singh, MLA RS Pura-Jammu South and BJP National Secretary, and Choudhary Vikram Randhawa, MLA Bahu Assembly Constituency listened to the grievances of masses in a Public Darbar held at party Headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Dozens of deputations visited the BJP headquarters to share their grievances and matters related to personal, societal and development issues.

Multiple deputations from sector 10/7 Trikuta Nagar, Bhour Camp, Shastri Nagar and others areas raised issue of acute water shortage due to various reasons. Deputations from Sanjay Nagar, Last Morh Gandhi Nagar, Kunjawi Bypass and other areas raised their concern about

the issues of construction and repair of Lanes & Drains. Deputation from Shiva Colony Trikuta Nagar requested for desilting of Nallah. A Deputation from Greater Kailash raised issue of repair and maintenance of road adjoining Tawi Canal. A deputation from Greater Kailash ward 68 requested for naming a street as 'Lane Canal View'. Few deputations from Chowadi and other areas presented revenue department related issues. A deputation from Nai Basti requested to raise the issue of allotment of shop. A case of SRO 43 of PDD-JKPDCL department was

also raised in the Darbar, which was referred to MD PDD.

MLAs immediately took up most of the issues with the concerned department officials and issued written communications for the remaining matters.

Dr. Narinder Singh, while listening to the grievances, said that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is the only party that is committed to the masses at the ground level. He said that the BJP has always taken the core issues at every hierarchy leading the masses from the front and has secured the results in the favour of common masses. He said that the doors of the BJP are always open to the public, and anyone is welcome to meet with party leaders to voice their concerns and seek assistance in this Public Darbar.

Randhawa emphasized that a large number of people have a limited access to the government departments resulting into delays in the redressal of their genuine issues. These aggrieved people happily visited the party headquarters to share their issues, where the senior leaders of party aid them to get their issues resolved at the earliest.

Er. TK Sharma, co-convenor Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, J&K BJP coordinated the darbar proceedings. Kulbeer Charak and Gurmeet Randhawa were also present on the occasion.

SCJS celebrates Parshuram Jayanti & Akshay Tritiya

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 30

The Senior Citizens Joy Society (SCJS) celebrated Shree Parshuram Jayanti and Akshay Tritiya with great enthusiasm and spiritual devotion. The event was graced by Sh. K. S. Samyal, President of the Senior Citizens Rejuvenation Centre and Advisor to Vichar Kranti Manch International, as the Guest of Honour. The programme was presided over by Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, Chairman of SCJS and the Indian Yoga Association.

The celebration commenced with the chanting of Om and the Gayatri Mantra, creating a serene and devotional atmosphere. Sh. Ashok Gupta, President of SCJS, welcomed the guests and recited a heartfelt poem reflecting the life and teachings of Bhagwan Parshuram Ji. A soulful bhajan rendered by Sh. K. S. Samyal added a deeply spiritual touch to the event.

Delivering the keynote address, Dr. Shreyansh Jain emphasized the contemporary relevance of Lord Parshuram's teachings:

Protection of Dharma: Standing against injustice and promoting righteousness.

Mastery of Knowledge and Skills: Balancing intellectual and practical wisdom.

Guru-Disciple Tradition: Upholding respect for teachers and education.



Discipline and Austerity: Practicing self-control and fostering spiritual growth.

He encouraged the youth to adopt values of discipline, ethical strength, and harmony to lead fulfilling lives and contribute positively to society.

Dr. Jain also elaborated on the significance of Akshay Tritiya, a day considered auspicious in both Hinduism and Jainism:

The term "Akshaya" means "never diminishing." Actions like charity, chanting, and penance performed on this day are believed to yield everlasting benefits.

In Hindu tradition, it marks the birth of Lord Parshuram, the gifting of the Akshaya Patra to Draupadi by Lord Krishna, and the onset of Treta Yuga.

In Jain tradition, it commemorates Lord Rishabhadeva breaking his year-long fast with sugarcane juice (Ikshu Ras), observed

with penance, charity, and fasting.

Traditions on this day include bathing in holy rivers, donations, purchasing gold, and starting new ventures—practices believed to bring prosperity and spiritual merit.

The event concluded with a message of unity, truth, and spiritual resilience, celebrating the timeless legacies of Lord Parshuram and the auspiciousness of Akshay Tritiya.

Sh. C. M. Sharma, General Secretary of VKMI, conducted the proceedings of the programme.

A special moment of joy was the celebration of the birthdays of four SCJS members—Prof. Virender Gupta, Sh. Sudha Chander Sharma, Dr. Vijay Sharma, and Mrs. Meenakshi Gupta—which added a vibrant and festive spirit to the event.

The vote of thanks was presented by Sh. H. C. Vaid, and the programme concluded with the National Anthem, as per tradition.

Amit Advocates Robust Funding for SCAs at NMDFC NER review in Mizoram

JNEWS SERVICE
AIZAWL, MIZORAM, APRIL 30

Amit Sharma, Secretary to Government, Cooperation & ICT Departments, Mizoram put forth a strong case before the visiting CMD, National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC) Abha Rani Singh and her entire team for extending liberal funding to State Channelizing Agencies (SCAs) like Mizoram Cooperative Apex Bank (MCAB) and ZIDCO here so that the benefit of same could be ultimately extended to the public of the state.

During his address in the Norther Eastern Region States' Review Meeting held at Mizoram this time, Secretary Cooperation Amit Sharma expressed deep gratitude to NMDFC for selecting Mizoram amongst all NER states to organise this all-important Meeting where-in he requested NMDFC to adopt liberal funding stance to SCAs especially MCAB here which is the Apex Cooperative Bank of Mizoram and it has maximum branches and reach to citizens in all districts of the state.

CMD NMDFC Abha Rani Singh placed on-record appreciable work being done by MCAB in Mizoram and complemented the working of Secretary Cooperation Amit Sharma



for taking regular financial performance reviews of these Cooperative Agencies here and NMDFC, on his request, further offered complimentary automation software and support towards hiring a professional agency for automation of Banking Operations of MCAB, as per RBI guidelines, for which Secretary Cooperatives is pushing hard since his taking over as Secretary Cooperation here.

Apart from this, Secretary Cooperation Amit Sharma also requested that another old and reputed Apex Cooperative Agency in Handloom and Handloom sector MAHCO from Mizoram should be registered as SCA by NMDFC at the earliest, for which Mizoram Government has already extended a recommendation, as it shall indeed offer a great help and financial support to high potential handloom & handicrafts sector artisans of Mizoram

which are struggling for adequate funding.

While noting down all take-aways during this important Regional Review Meeting of NMDFC held at Mizoram, Secretary Cooperation Amit Sharma assured the visiting team of much proactive work and close coordination by Mizoram Government with NMDFC in times to come.

The visiting NMDFC team also happened to meet Chief Secretary Mizoram Khilli Ram Meena and they requested the Government to extend pending performance guarantee to NMDFC which shall facilitate more liberal funding to the state here. Apart from Mizoram, the status of other NE states like Assam, Sikkim, Tripura, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur was also reviewed during the Regional Review Meeting by NMDFC team.

Arvind listens visits Hazuri Bagh, listens public problems



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 30

Senior BJP leader and MLA Jammu West, Arvind Gupta today visited Hazuri Bagh, Ward No. 41, as part of his ongoing outreach

efforts to directly engage with constituents and address local issues.

During the visit, he interacted with a large number of residents and patiently listened to their grievances regarding civic amenities, infrastructure, and other day-to-day challenges.

Sh. Arvind Gupta assured the residents that all genuine concerns raised during his visit would be taken seriously and promptly communicated to the concerned departments for swift action. He stated that no issue, whether big or small, would be overlooked and that every effort would be made to resolve them in a time-bound and effective manner.

Emphasizing the BJP's core principle of people-centric governance, he reiterated the party's commitment to ensuring that the voices of common citizens are not

only heard but also acted upon. He highlighted the importance of transparency, accountability, and direct engagement with the public in a vibrant democracy.

The MLA further reaffirmed his dedication to the holistic development of Jammu West, pledging to work tirelessly to improve infrastructure, civic amenities, and quality of life in the constituency. He called upon the residents to continue their cooperation and trust in democratic institutions for long-lasting, positive change.

He was accompanied by senior party leader Sh. Jatin Sethi and several prominent residents of the ward, including Sh. Chuni Lal Raina ji, Sh. Ramsaroop Sharma ji, Sh. Rohit Sharma ji, Sh. Chand ji, Pandita, Sh. Dilip Pandita ji, Sh. Rattan Lal Bhagat ji, Sh. Rattan Lal Pandita ji, Sh. Jawahar Lal Bhat ji, Dr. M.T.K. Dhar ji, Sh. Rajinder Koul ji, Sh. Desh Lal Raina ji, Sh. Vinod Raina ji, Sh. Ravinder Raina ji, Sh. Sanjay Sapori ji, Sh. Sanjay Koul ji, Sh. Ramesh Koul ji, and Sh. P.L. Padroo ji.

Nrityanjali: A Classical Dance Academy pays Glorious Tribute to Rajmata Ahilyabai Holkar

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, APR 30

In connection with World Dance Day, Nrityanjali: A Classical Dance Academy organized a mesmerizing cultural evening at its 'Amphitheatre', at Gharonda, Talab Tillo Road, Hazuri Bagh, Jammu, where a host of dignitaries and art lovers gathered to witness a unique tribute to Rajmata Ahilyabai Holkar through classical dance. The event, conceptualized and choreographed by Dr. Priya Dutta, featured a beautiful Kathak Ballet depicting the life and contributions of Rajmata Ahilyabai Holkar.

Dr. Priya Dutta, a celebrated Kathak exponent, performed along with her talented disciples, bringing alive the legacy of one of India's most revered women leaders. The Music



Track of the Ballet was professionally designed by the able team like Guru Purshotam Kumar, Samuel MasihSami, Amarjeet Singh, Rajkumar Behrupia, Vijay Kumar and Dr. Priya Dutta. The evening commenced with a Paramparag Kathak presentation, performed in the traditional style. The live musical ensemble added grandeur to the performance with Dr. Priya Dutta herself on Padhant, Rajkumar Behrupia on Harmonium, Vijay

Kumar on Tabla, Parshotam Kumar on Pakhawaj and the newly inducted Bindu Sharma on Sitar.

The participants who showcased their talent were: Ritika Sountra, Sonia Devi, Sabha Majid, Manu Saini, Simpy, Pragma Sharma, Akshita Lamba, Radhika Sharma, Maithili, Ojasvi Gupta, Aadya Sharma, Naamya Mangotra, Priha Sharma, Anandita Dutt, Annaya, Aaradhya, Namasya, Maiyra, Bhavani, Madhvi,

Devanshi, Kangana, Ridhi, Agamya, Aryahi, Aarvi and Aaradhya.

Speaking on this occasion, Padma Shri (Prof.) Lalit Mangotra appreciated the endeavors of Nrityanjali under the guidance of Kathak exponent Dr. Priya Dutta and her team. He said that the presentations showed the hard work, research and display of excellence through the classical art form, which deserve great applause. RJs Juhi Mohan and Shwetma

Jamwal also expressed their views and appreciated the role of the community to make the event a success.

Earlier, in her welcome address, Dr. Priya Dutta expressed her gratitude towards her dedicated team and the parents who have been continuously supporting the Academy's vision. She emphasized the importance of building a nurturing environment for young artists to grow and excel. The event was

graced by several eminent personalities including Padma Shri Lalit Mangotra, Sunaina Mehta JKAS, Sh. V K Samyal, Sh. Suresh Sharma, Deepak Kumar, Pankaj Pardhan, Sunny Dua, RJ Juhi Mohan, RJ Shwetma Jamwal, Amarjeet Singh, Madam Anjana Badyal, O P Sharma and Jang S. Verman, among others.

NCORD meeting

DM Reasi calls for stepping up anti-drug measures

JINews SERVICE
REASI, APRIL 30

A meeting of the District Level Committee under the Narco Coordination Center (NCORD) was convened today under the chairpersonship of District Magistrate Reasi Nidhi Malik here at the DC Office Complex. The meeting aimed to formulate a comprehensive strategy to combat the menace of drug abuse in the district.

The DM reviewed key aspects, including bails and acquittals in NDPS cases, seizures of drugs in commercial quantities, and the adherence to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in handling such cases. She emphasized the need for a multi-pronged approach focusing on enforcement, treatment, and awareness to effectively tackle the drug menace.



The DM emphasized the need to intensify actions against drug abuse and trafficking. Special focus was laid on monitoring and eliminating poppy cultivation. She instructed the local police to identify hotspots where drug peddling and addiction are prevalent and take strict action against offenders.

Recognizing the impor-

tance of community involvement, DM Reasi directed the Block Development Officers to organize drug awareness camps in collaboration with other departments in their respective jurisdictions. SDMs were instructed to supervise these camps to ensure their effectiveness.

The District Magistrate further instructed

youth about the harmful effects of drug abuse

The DM directed CMO to ensure that representatives from the Health Department actively participate in the awareness camps to educate the public on the health hazards of drug use.

The Excise Department was asked to ensure the availability of quality

testing kits to the Police, Health, and Education Departments. Additionally, the DM instructed the Drug Control Department to carry out regular inspections of pharmacies to ensure adherence to legal regulations and to submit detailed action taken reports to the DC office.

The District Magistrate reiterated the administration's commitment to zero tolerance against drug abuse and called for sustained efforts from all stakeholders to create a drug-free Reasi. The meeting was attended by ADDC Sukhdev Singh Samyal; ADC Rakesh Kumar; ACR Nitin Verma; PO ICDS Rakesh Kumar; DSP(HQ) Vishal Singh Jamwal, DFO, CMO, CEO, DSWO, DIO(Info) and other concerned present in the meeting.

96 Panchayats in Bandipora achieve TB-Mukt status under NTEP

JINews SERVICE
BANDIPORA, APRIL 30

Under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP), 96 panchayats of Bandipora district have been declared TB-Mukt (Tuberculosis-Free).

To recognize this achievement, the District Tuberculosis Control Society Bandipora on Wednesday organized a Tuberculosis-Free Panchayat Award Ceremony at the Mini Secretariat, Bandipora.

The event was presided over by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, and was attended by Chief Planning Officer Mohammad Maqbool, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Rafi Ahmad, District Tuberculosis Officer Dr. Hafeezullah, MS DH Bandipora, BMOs, Medical



Officers, paramedical staff, panchayat secretaries and other concerned.

While presenting the progress of NTEP in the district, District Tuberculosis Officer informed that out of 151 panchayats in Bandipora, 96 panchayats have achieved TB-Free status.

He apprised that 25 panchayats have been awarded Silver status and 71 have achieved Bronze status based on their performance in TB control initiatives.

DC commended the efforts of the health department, frontline workers, and panchayat secretaries for their active participation in achieving this public health goal.

He emphasized the need for continued vigilance and community engagement to make Bandipora completely TB-free.

The event concluded with the distribution of certificates among the health workers and panchayat secretaries of TB-Free panchayats.

ECI strengthens field readiness with 2 day training for electoral officers at IIIDEM

JINews SERVICE
JAMMU, APRIL 30

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India, Gyanesh Kumar, today inaugurated a two day capacity building training programme for Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) and Booth Level Officers (BLOs) from Bihar and EROs and BLO Supervisors from Haryana, NCT of Delhi, and Uttar Pradesh at the India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM), New Delhi.

The training programme is part of the Election Commission of India's ongoing preparations for the upcoming General Elections to the Legislative Assemblies. A total of 369 grassroots election officials are taking part in this mixed-batch training



programme.

In his inaugural address, the CEC said that the BLOs and EROs along with the Booth Level Agents (BLAs) are responsible for ensuring correct and updated electoral rolls and they are to function strictly as per the Representation of People Act 1950, Registration of Electors Rules 1960 and instructions issued by the ECI from time to time. Earlier this month, around 280 BLAs of 10 recognised political parties from Bihar were also trained at IIIDEM.

The training has been designed to enhance participants' practical understanding especially in the areas of voter registration, form handling and field level implementation of electoral

procedures. The officials will be provided technical demonstrations and training of EVMs and VVPATs. They will also be familiarised with the provisions of first and second appeals against the final electoral rolls as published with the DM/District Collector/Executive Magistrate under section 24(a) of RP Act 1950 and Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of the State/UT under section 24(b) respectively. It may be recalled that no appeals were filed from Bihar, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh

and NCT of Delhi after completion of the Special Summary Revision (SSR) exercise as of 6th-10th of January 2025.

The curriculum included interactive sessions, role plays simulating house-to-house surveys, case studies and hands-on exercises for filling Forms 6, 6A, 7 and 8. Additionally, the participants will receive practical training on the Voter Helpline App (VHA) and the BLO App.

Likewise, the sessions are being conducted by the experienced National Level Master Trainers (NLMTs) and expert Resource Persons from the IT and EVM Divisions of the Commission. The sessions are interactive and will address common field-level errors besides explaining how to avoid them.

District Level Advisory Committee reviews implementation of FSSA Act in Poonch

JINews SERVICE
POONCH, APRIL 30

A meeting of the District Level Advisory Committee (DLAC) on Safe Food and Healthy Diets was convened today under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal at the DC Office Complex. The meeting focused on reviewing measures to ensure the quality of food in the district, emphasizing the effective implementation of the Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSA).

Key discussions included food safety measures, the role of various stakeholders, and the need for fast-track training and certification for food business operators, Anganwadi centres, and school cooks to ensure hygienic food services. The DC urged officers to maintain hygienic



standards in food served at temples, ziyarats, and Gurudwaras. Highlighting the importance of food safety for public health, Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal instructed officers to ensure the availability of quality food in the market and to establish inspection squads to moni-

tor and prevent the sale of unhealthy or expired products. He also stressed on the promotion of the Eat Right movement and millet cultivation in the district.

The meeting was attended by GM DIC, PO ICDS Poonch, CEO, CMO, CAO, AD FSC & CA, and other key officials.

DSEO Baramulla bids farewell to Gh Rasool Lone

JINews SERVICE
BARAMULLA, APRIL 30

District Statistics and Evaluation Office Baramulla today organized a farewell function in honour of Gh Rasool Lone, Accounts Official, who retired from active service on April 30, 2025.

The event was presided over by Joint Director Planning, Javid Ahmad.

Joint Director commended Lone's long-standing commitment, discipline, and integrity throughout his tenure. He noted that Lone's professionalism and dedication have left a lasting impact on the department.

Colleagues and staff members shared fond memories and praised Lone's work ethic, describing him as a dependable and sincere official. They wished him good health and happiness in his post-retirement life.

LSUC Ganderbal empowers children through Legal Awareness

JINews SERVICE
GANDERBAL, APRIL 30

Under the aegis of J&K Legal Services Authority and District Legal Services Authority Ganderbal, the Legal Services Unit for Children (LSUC) Ganderbal today organized a legal awareness program for children at PALAASH Child Care Institution (Boys), Kangan.

The program aimed to educate children about their rights and responsibilities, promoting legal literacy and empowering them for their rights.

Assistant LADC, Ganderbal, Shaheena highlighted the importance of educational opportunities for children, particularly those rescued from trafficking, abuse, and other challenging circumstances. She emphasized that education is key to breaking the cycle of vulnerability and empowering them to rebuild their lives with dignity in society.

Assistant LADC, Ganderbal, Romani Syed threw light on specific legal provisions which protect vulnerable children, including those with disabilities, transgender children, and children at risk of trafficking or abuse. She underscored the importance of awareness and implemen-



tation of these provisions to ensure the safety and well-being of children.

By highlighting these crucial legal safeguards, her insights empowered the children and caregivers at PALAASH, Child Care Institution to better understand their rights and navigate the legal system effectively.

Assistant LADC, Ganderbal, Aqib Ul Ahad provided clarity on legal provisions, children's rights, and remedies available through legal services for children in need and care. He elaborated on the various legal mechanisms in place to protect children's rights and interests, ensuring that children and caregiv-

ers are aware of the support systems available to them.

By demystifying complex legal concepts, his presentation enabled the children to better understand their rights and the resources accessible to them, empowering them to seek help when needed. He also took the oppor-

tunity to publicize vital helplines, including NALSA Helpline (15100), Child Helpline (1098), Diyasjan Helpline (14456) and Tele-Manas (14416), among others.

In his address, Secretary DLSA Ganderbal, Sheikh Babar Hussain highlighted that this program provided a vital platform for children to learn about their rights, access to justice, and the role of legal services in protecting their interests. He emphasized that the initiative is expected to have a positive impact on the lives of these children, enabling them to assert their rights and make informed decisions about their future.

The event saw active participation from members of the Legal Services Unit for Children (LSUC), superintendent and staff members of PALAASH Kangan, and students/children from Govt. Middle School Kangan & PALAASH Kangan also participated.

The event underscores the commitment of J&K Legal Services Authority and DLSA Ganderbal towards nurturing a legally aware and empowered younger generation and their efforts align with the mission to provide accessible justice and support to vulnerable sections of society, including children.

DDC Vice-Chairperson Udhampur advocates people-centric planning



JINews SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, APRIL 30

Vice Chairperson District Development Council Udhampur Juhi Pathania today called for formulation of a holistic and inclusive Area Development Plan to achieve participatory governance and grassroots level development.

While having detailed discussions with ADDC (CEO, DDC) Rajinder Singh, the Vice Chairperson Pathania underscored the importance of aligning gram sabha proceedings with the legal framework laid out in the Panchayati Raj Act and relevant rules and procedures.

Emphasizing the foundational role of community involvement, she stated that people must

be adequately informed and mobilized ahead of gram sabhas through traditional methods such as drum-beating, public announcements, and visible notices at key locations like panchayat ghars, chowks, and chaurahas. "Development plans must resonate with the genuine aspirations of the people," she remarked.

She reiterated that true Panchayati Raj entails not just planning but active participation of citizens in the execution of development schemes. The meeting witnessed participation from several stakeholders, including former Sarpanch Arti Sharma and prominent members of civil society.

Highlighting the transformative potential of the Jal Jeevan Mission, Vice

Chairperson Pathania laid strong emphasis on transforming the Jal Jeevan Mission into a vibrant, people-centric movement. "Water is not just a resource, it is a right. The Jal Jeevan Mission must not be seen as just a government scheme but as a collective movement of the people," asserted Juhi. She advised the identification of affordable and practical targets and stressed the urgency of initiating long-pending tendered works under the scheme.

She advocated for widespread community engagement, urging local bodies to identify practical, affordable targets and reliable sources of water supply tailored to each region's specific needs.