

North in News

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JK at critical juncture, mass movement needed against drug menace: LG Sinha

JAMMU, APR 10 : The Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said that Jammu and Kashmir stands at a "very critical juncture" and called for a united mass movement to combat the growing menace of drug abuse among the youth. Jammu and Kashmir will launch a massive assault on the drug addiction ecosystem and is all set to roll out a 100-day intensive campaign under 'Nasha Mukh Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan' from April 11, with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha reviewing its preparedness on



Thursday. The campaign will start from the Panchayat level to the Union Territory level, with the LG himself leading it. It will not

only involve all sections of society but also target the issue on legal, criminal and rehabilitation fronts. "Friends, Jammu and Kashmir today stands at a very critical juncture. Under a certain conspiracy, there is an ongoing attempt to push our youth into drug addiction and destroy an entire generation," Sinha said while addressing people of the union territory through a video message. Referring to efforts taken so far, the Lieutenant Governor said that the 'Nasha Mukh Bhat Abhiyan' launched in 2020 under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has led to significant anti-drug initiatives in the Union Territory. "Since

then, significant efforts have been made in Jammu and Kashmir to combat drug abuse. Last year, in 2023, a major anti-drug campaign was carried out. The actions of the police and security forces have also been effective," he said. However, Sinha emphasised the need for a broader societal response, stating that a comprehensive plan, including a 100-day programme, has been prepared to intensify the fight against drugs. Announcing the launch of the campaign, Sinha said that a

(Contd on Pg 2)

'Iranians alive today is to negotiate': says Trump ahead of talks with Iran

NEW DELHI, APR 10 : Hours before talks between US and Iran are scheduled to be held in Pakistan, US President Donald Trump said the only reason Iranians "are alive today is to negotiate." He said Iranians don't seem to realize they have no cards, other than a 'short-term extortion' of the world by using International Waterways, limiting an Iranian control over the strategic Strait of Hormuz. Taking a dig at Iranians he said they (Iranians) are better at handling 'Fake News Media' and 'public Relations', than they are at fighting. The comments by Trump on his social media platform come after a US delegation led by Vice President J D Vance arrived in Islamabad for the talks. Iran is yet to send a delegation for the talks. Before leaving for Islamabad the US Vice President said he will work with Iran if they act in "good faith." He warned that if Iran tries to 'play us', the US won't be receptive. Iran's Parliament Speaker stressed the



need for a ceasefire in Lebanon before any negotiations begin. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Thursday that they are ready for talks with Lebanon as soon as possible.

CDS Chauhan underscores need to make armed forces integrated, tech-driven

BENGALURU, APR 10 : Chief of Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan, on Friday underscored the urgent need for India's armed forces to evolve into an integrated, agile and technologically driven warfighting instrument capable of operating seamlessly across multiple domains. He also said that modern warfare is rapidly transcending traditional boundaries and timelines. Delivering the closing address at the 'Ran Samvad' seminar, he highlighted that Multi-Domain Operations



(MDO) are no longer a conceptual buzzword but an emerging operational reality, driven by advances in data analytics, artificial intelligence and the changing character of conflict. "MDOs were chosen for

this year's theme not because it's a buzzword, but I think it's a kind of new reality," the CDS said. General Chauhan noted that the seminar, conceptualised to place serving officers at the centre of strategic discourse, had enabled mid-level and junior officers to articulate perspectives on future warfare. "Normally, it's veterans or think tanks who would express their views. So I reversed that particular trend," he said. He added that those actively engaged in service

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CM Omar expresses grief over loss of lives of J&K residents in Kuwait road accident

Assures early repatriation of mortal remains of deceased

SRINAGAR, APRIL 10 : Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has expressed profound grief over the tragic loss of lives of residents from Thanamandi and Surankote in a road accident in Kuwait. In a condolence message, the Chief Minister conveyed his heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved families, sharing in their pain during this moment of immense sorrow. He prayed for eternal peace to the departed souls and



strength to the families to bear this irreparable loss. The Chief Minister stated that the Government of Jammu and Kashmir is in close coordination with the

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L-G Vinai Kumar Saxena inaugurates Old Age Home (Zimskhang) at Saboothang

Emphasises dignity, care and inclusive development for senior citizens MoU signed between UtAdmin & MIMC for management of Old Age Home

LEH, APRIL 10 : The Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Ladakh, Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena, today inaugurated the Old Age Home (Zimskhang) for senior citizens at Saboothang, marking a significant step towards strengthening social welfare and inclusive development in the region. This Old Age Home has been constructed at a cost of ₹19.74 crore, spread over an area of 1,925 square metres. The facility has been de-



signed as a state-of-the-art structure to accommodate 50 to 55 elderly residents, including both men and women, with 12 rooms and

four dormitories. It also includes a reception and waiting area, TV room, dining-cum-kitchen space, medical

(Contd on Pg 2)

Shocked To See Suspended Officers Still Working": Dy CM Choudhary Flags Illegal Mining, Orders Probe

LG Sinha Expresses grief over loss of lives of J&K residents in Kuwait road accident

JAMMU, APRIL 10 : Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary on Friday said he was "shocked" to find officers, who had earlier been suspended or transferred on serious allegations, still working at the Directorate of Mining office in Jammu, and announced that an inquiry would be initiated into the matter. Speaking to reporters DyCM Choudhary said, "I was shocked to see officers suspended by me still working at the Directorate of Mining office Jammu. These employees were ei-

ther suspended or transferred to Kashmir on serious allegations, but I found them working here." The Deputy Chief Minister further said that during his visit, both the Director and Joint Director were not present in the office. "I was told that the Chief Secretary had called a meeting. I will go to the Secretariat and take up the matter," he added. Acknowledging concerns over illegal mining, Choudhary said, "I admit that illegal mining is going on due to

of Globalization. Legal Technology, Economic Development & Cross Border Disputes". In his inaugural address at the fifth edition of the two-day conference, CJJ Kant said that technological development has improved accessibility in arbitration and reduced logistical delays, especially in cases with serious geographical constraints, but it has also brought "new responsibilities". "The increasing use of artificial intelligence in decision support tools raises a legitimate concern relating to confidentiality and the preservation of independent judgement. Arbitration derives its legitimacy not only from efficiency but from the

Use of artificial intelligence in arbitration should be regulated, not shunned: CJJ Surya Kant

NEW DELHI, APR 10 : Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Friday said the use of artificial technology in arbitration should not be shunned over concerns of confidentiality and independent decision-making; instead, its use should be regulated through a procedural framework. CJJ Kant emphasised that protocols on cyber security and confidentiality should "keep pace" so that technology becomes arbitration's "powerful ally" in a fast-paced world. The country's top judge was speaking at the inaugural session of the Indian Council of Arbitration's international conference on the theme, 'Arbitration in the Era



of Globalization: Legal Technology, Economic Development & Cross Border Disputes". In his inaugural address at the fifth edition of the two-day conference, CJJ Kant said that technological development has improved accessibility in arbitration and reduced logistical delays, especially in cases with serious geographical constraints, but it has also brought "new responsibilities". "The increasing use of artificial intelligence in decision support tools raises a legitimate concern relating to confidentiality and the preservation of independent judgement. Arbitration derives its legitimacy not only from efficiency but from the

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Bihar CM Nitish Kumar Takes Oath As Rajya Sabha Member

NEW DELHI, APR 10 : Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Friday took oath as a member of the Rajya Sabha. The oath was administered by Rajya Sabha chairman C P Radhakrishnan in his chamber at a brief ceremony. Kumar took the oath in Hindi in the presence of Union Minister J P Nadda, who is also leader of the house, and Finance Minister Nirmla Sitharaman and Minister of State for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal. JDU leader



and party's working president Sanjay Kumar Jha and Congress leader Jairam Ramesh, besides BJP MP and former union minister

(Contd on Pg 2)

Box fitted with two grenades recovered area cordoned off

RAJOURI/JAMMU, APRIL 10 : Security forces on Friday recovered a suspected IED-type box containing two grenades in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, prompting authorities to cordon off the area, officials said. Locals spotted suspicious material in the Thandiapani area of the Sunderbani belt, following which security personnel rushed to the spot and secured the area, they said. The suspected explosive material, containing two grenades sealed inside a box, was found lying near a water body, officials said. A bomb disposal squad has been called in to safely destroy the material, they said.

CAG flags over 10 pc shrinkage in Dal lake's open water between 2007 and 2020

JAMMU, APRIL 10 : The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has flagged significant spatio-temporal changes in land use and water cover of the iconic Dal lake, pointing to a shrinkage of the water body from 15.40 square kilometres in 2007 to 12.91 square kilometres in 2020, registering a decline of 10.15 per cent in 13 years. The CAG recommended a robust lake management policy to ensure effective functioning and upgrade of sewage treatment plants (STPs) to ensure proper treatment of sewage and solid waste

(Contd on Pg 2)

Census 2027 a digital mission to power 'Viksit Bharat': CS

JAMMU, APRIL 10 : Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Friday said the Census 2027 will be a "national digital transformation mission" that will lay the foundation for a 'Viksit Bharat' and enable evidence-based policy planning, asserting that India is at a crucial "data inflection point". Addressing the Census 2027 Summit at Abhinav Theatre here, Dulloo said the exercise will go beyond routine enumeration to become a cornerstone for data-driven governance. The summit was attended by senior administrators, development partners and policy experts who deliberated on the roadmap, preparedness and significance of Census 2027, the country's first fully digital and paperless census exercise, an official spokesman said.



Delivering the keynote address, the chief secretary said India is entering a new era of governance driven by technology and real-time insights. Contrasting it with the manual and time-consuming 2011 census, he highlighted the shift to a technology-first, citizen-centric framework using mobile-based enumeration, artificial intelligence and

cloud technology to ensure accuracy, transparency and speed. He said data will be the "key driver and fuel" of economies in the AI-driven future, adding that India's vast demographic diversity offers a strategic advantage in building globally competitive data systems. Dulloo also underlined that integration of trusted na-

tional datasets with the JAM trinity -- Jan Dhan (human resource), Aadhaar and Mobile -- has enabled targeted delivery of benefits, significantly reducing leakages. He said the evolving data ecosystem will allow micro-level scientific planning for urban and rural areas, strengthening health, education and employment infrastructure. (Contd on Pg 2)

Doda SSP prioritises tourist safety, communal harmony

BHADERWAH/JAMMU, APR 10 : The Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Doda, Kartik Shrottriya, on Friday said that maintaining peace and brotherhood and providing foolproof security to tourists, especially at high-altitude destinations of Bhaderwah valley, will be their first priority. Shrottriya, who has recently taken over as the district police chief of Doda following a massive reshuffle of the police administration by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on April 2, laid focus on ensuring a safe environment for visitors, which is paramount to maintaining the region's hospitality and economic growth. "I have specifically set two targets, especially

(Contd on Pg 2)

JK at...

Large gathering has been planned at MA Stadium in Jammu on April 11, where civil society members, political leaders, academicians and sports persons will participate. "On that day, we will take a pledge against drug abuse and also undertake a padayatra. This march will continue across the entire Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Calling for public participation, the Lieutenant Governor said the campaign is not limited to any individual but concerns the future of the youth. "This campaign does not belong to any one individual-it concerns the future of the youth of Jammu and Kashmir. Painful incidents are being reported almost every day, which are truly heartbreaking," he said.

Urging people to actively join the initiative, Sinha added, "This is not merely a march, but a journey with a purpose-to make Jammu and Kashmir drug-free and to ensure effective action against drug traffickers."

He said the administration has prepared a comprehensive strategy involving all departments, along with the police and security forces, to carry forward the campaign.

"I will also make efforts to reach every district of Jammu and Kashmir, to energise this campaign through padayatras and to appeal to people directly," he added.

CDS...

are better attuned to the pace of change in warfare. The CDS said the deliberations examined critical issues, including force design, organisational structures and the adequacy of existing hierarchies in a battlespace that no longer respects domain boundaries.

According to him, discussions also focused on intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR), where "the bottleneck is not information, but the speed and quality of its interpretation." Highlighting the growing role of emerging technologies, General Chauhan said artificial intelligence and data analytics are poised to transform decision-making cycles and operational superiority.

Referring to the classical OODA loop conceptualised by John Boyd, he said, "Whoever completes this particular cycle faster than the adversary will win a combat." However, he pointed to a paradigm shift driven by predictive technologies. "Today, because of the predictive nature of AI, you should be able to orient yourself first before you can even observe," he said.

On the evolving nature of warfare, the CDS emphasised that conflict is no longer confined to the physical domain. "All warfare till now has been in the physical domain. Then for us to imagine that warfare will move into a new kind of reality, synthetic in nature and cognitive in nature, is actually difficult to understand," he said.

He argued that warfare must also be viewed at the political level, where outcomes are shaped beyond battlefield victories.

"If you can achieve your political objectives without actually firing, then of course, it's a different kind of reality," he said, noting the increasing role of information manipulation and influence operations.

General Chauhan introduced the concept of multi-dimensional warfare, expanding beyond traditional domains. He said that in addition to land, sea and air, new dimensions such as time, cyber, electromagnetic spectrum and cognition are shaping modern conflict. "We are maybe moving into an era of not only multi-domain, but multidimensional warfare," he observed. He also highlighted the convergence of kinetic and non-kinetic means, manned and unmanned systems, and traditional and emerging domains.

"It's not destruction, it's actually a paralysis of the adversary," he said, explaining that the cumulative effect of such convergence could disrupt and incapacitate adversaries at multiple levels.

The CDS stressed the importance of institutional architecture, including networks, standard operating procedures and shared understanding, in enabling effective multi-domain operations.

He said the seminar had provided valuable insights into the level of jointness among the three services, as well as gaps that need to be addressed. Referring to the broader implications, he said the security challenges do not respect borders, underlining the importance of collaboration and dialogue among like-minded nations.

Announcing the next edition, General Chauhan said the 2027 "Ran Samvad" will be hosted by the Indian Navy, focusing on "high-intensity operations in a transparent and expanded battle space," with greater participation expected

from younger and mid-level officers. (Agencies)

CM Omar...

concerned authorities to ensure that all necessary formalities are expedited for the early repatriation of the mortal remains. He assured that every possible assistance will be extended to the affected families.

L-G Vinai...

and office rooms, and all essential internal and external utility connections such as water supply, electricity and sewerage systems.

Additional features of the facility include a geodesic dome with seating arrangements for prayer, a fire-fighting system with fire alarms and a public address system, passenger lifts and accessibility features for differently-abled individuals. The Old Age Home also incorporates several green and energy-efficient features, including the use of eco-friendly construction materials, adherence to green building norms, an ECBC (Energy Conservation Building Code)-compliant electrical substation, maximum utilisation of natural light, and thermal insulation through natural earth walls. The geodesic dome design helps in trapping solar heat, ensuring energy efficiency and comfort.

Addressing the gathering, the Lieutenant Governor described the inauguration as a moment of great significance, stating that the facility is not merely a building but a symbol of the society's values, compassion and collective responsibility towards its elderly population.

Highlighting Ladakh's cultural ethos, he said the region has always upheld deep respect for senior citizens, who serve as custodians of traditions and guiding forces in society. He acknowledged the contributions of organisations such as the Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre, HelpAge India and Tibetan Settlement Chonglamsar, which have been working tirelessly for the welfare of the elderly.

The Lieutenant Governor noted that this marks the first instance of the UT Administration directly establishing such a facility for senior citizens, ensuring a safe, dignified and well-managed environment. This facility will be run on a collaborative model with the Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre.

Emphasising the invaluable role of senior citizens, Shri Saxena said they are repositories of wisdom, experience and cultural values. Their guidance not only unites families but also helps shape a cohesive and resilient society.

The Lieutenant Governor also underlined the moral responsibility of society to care for its elderly, particularly in their later years when they require both physical care and emotional support. He noted that with advancing age, loneliness can become a concern, and urged families to spend time with their elders, listen to them and make them feel valued and included.

He emphasised that the objective should go beyond providing shelter, aiming instead to ensure that every senior citizen lives with dignity, security and a sense of belonging.

Reaffirming the Administration's commitment, Shri Saxena stated that efforts will continue to promote inclusive development, strengthen social security mechanisms and ensure that governance reaches every section of society, especially senior citizens.

Shocked To...

some officers and there are weaknesses in the department." He went on to allege that such activities appear to be supported internally. "It seems illegal mining is being encouraged and patronized from the Director Mining office Jammu," he said. Announcing further action, he said an inquiry would be ordered into the functioning of the department and the presence of such officers. He also pointed to administrative challenges, stating, "We don't have a state and are functioning as a Union Territory. Some officers misuse this and indulge in wrongdoing, which defames the government." Describing the situation at the office, he remarked that it had "become a fish market and a source of illegal mining."

Use of...

confidence that decisions remain the product of impartial human expertise. The solution, therefore, lies not in shunning technology altogether but regulating its use through a procedural framework," CJI said.

"Arbitration tribunals must retain autonomy over the manner in which such tools are used so that protocols governing cyber-security and confidentiality keep pace with technological adoption. When governed by such safeguards, the technology

becomes a powerful ally of arbitration in a fast-paced world," he added.

CJI Kant also cautioned against "excessive judicial intervention" in matters of arbitration, saying it weakens faith in the arbitration and risks "unsettling" the assurance that parties would respect their agreement and the tribunal would be permitted to determine its own procedure.

He asserted that courts should remain "passive" in arbitral proceedings unless it is manifestly abusive and an anti-arbitration injunction should be exceptional. CJI Kant further said that arbitration plays a central role in ensuring that disagreements in "modern commerce" are resolved with clarity and predictability and India has made a purposeful effort to modernise its arbitration framework. Yet the task today is no longer simply one of reform but responsiveness to the emerging needs of business, he said.

"The credibility of India's dispute resolution mechanisms will increasingly influence how investors assess the country as a reliable destination for sustained investment. Globalisation ultimately depends not only upon the movement of capital, but upon the stability of expectations."

"Arbitration provides that stability. It reassures investors, supports commercial partnerships, and ensures that disagreement does not become disruption," he said.

The inaugural session was held in the Delhi High Court auditorium.

Bihar...

Rajiv Pratap Rudy were among those present during the oath-taking. As Kumar assumes the Rajya Sabha role, it marks the end of his rule in Bihar. The NDA is likely to elect a new chief minister of Bihar on April 14.

CAG flags...

the report on conservation and management of lakes in the Union Territory for the year ended March 31, 2024, said there was a decrease in vacant land with or without vegetation from 0.40 to 0.36 square kilometres (0.17 per cent) due to dredging of some acquired land. The decrease in open water area was at the cost of other land use changes.

The CAG said the shifting land use pattern reflects growing pressure on the lake ecosystem, with shrinking open water and expanding human-induced activities altering its ecological balance.

The CAG observed that no concrete measures were taken by the Lakes Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA) to regulate land use, nor were reasons for such changes adequately analysed.

Audit findings attributed the deterioration to non-acquisition of land from Dal lake dwellers, malfunctioning STPs, failure to arrest pollution inflows, improper de-weeding, and weak monitoring.

As a result, the inflow of nutrients increased, leading to excessive weed growth and further shrinkage of the lake's open water area, the report said, adding that encroachments in areas such as Mir Behri, Lati Mohalla and Nandapora contributed to expansion of floating gardens and habitation.

The audit also flagged serious deficiencies in the implementation of conservation programmes under the National Lake Conservation Programme (NLCP) and the Prime Minister's Reconstruction Programme (PMRP).

"Key activities such as installation and upgradation of STPs, solid waste management, sewer networking, relocation of houseboats and hotels, catchment management, and rehabilitation of Dal dwellers were either delayed or inadequately executed," the report stated.

Despite an expenditure of more than Rs 45 crore on STPs, the audit found that sewage was not treated as per prescribed standards, resulting in continued deterioration of water quality. "Untreated waste from households, houseboats and hotels continued to flow into the lake due to incomplete sewer networks and delays in connecting households and houseboats to treatment systems."

The report further highlighted underutilisation of funds, ranging between Rs 48.63 crore and Rs 280.68 crore during 2017-22, and pointed to delays caused by stalled board meetings, lack of project management consultants, and failure to prepare detailed project reports for pending works.

Efforts to relocate Dal dwellers and houseboats also fell short, with only a fraction of targeted land and structures acquired and no significant dredging carried out on acquired land. Similarly, shifting of hotels and establishment of effective surveillance mechanisms remained incomplete, it added.

The CAG noted that catchment management works were inadequate, with only four out of 15 identified micro-watersheds taken up, also flagging shortcomings in structural

and vegetative measures, training programmes and monitoring systems.

Describing the lake as the "liquid heart" of Srinagar, located at an altitude of 1,583 metres, the audit warned that continued delays and inadequate conservation efforts have hindered restoration of its water expanse and ecological health.

The CAG recommended periodic monitoring of water spread, a robust lake management policy, effective functioning of STPs, improved sewage and solid waste treatment, and expedited implementation of key conservation measures.

It also called for public awareness campaigns to curb unauthorised construction and better monitoring of nutrient inflows into the lake.

The audit said unless systemic gaps in planning, execution and monitoring are addressed, restoration of Dal lake's shrinking water body would remain a challenge.

Census 2027...

structure tailored to local needs.

The chief secretary directed deputy commissioners and district administrations to ensure seamless execution at grass-roots level, including completion of training for census officers and enumerators. He said self-enumeration will begin on May 17, followed by house-to-house fieldwork from June 1, 2026.

Highlighting the importance of census data, he said it plays a crucial role in determining financial allocations to states and Union territories and shaping development policies for the next decade.

Earlier, Chief Principal Census Officer Amit Sharma outlined the two-phase structure of Census 2027. The first phase will include house listing and housing census with a self-enumeration period from May 17 to May 31, followed by fieldwork till June 30, 2026.

The second phase - population enumeration - will begin in September 2026 for snow-bound areas and in February 2027 for non-snowbound regions, he said.

Sharma said the exercise will be fully paperless, with enumerators using a dedicated mobile app, while citizens can opt for self-enumeration through a secure multilingual web portal. A Census Management and Monitoring System will enable near real-time tracking of field operations, he added. Speaking on the occasion, Andrea M Wojnar, Representative for United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) India, said digital and self-enumeration-based census practices are being adopted globally and expressed confidence in India's preparedness.

She stressed that an accurate and inclusive census is essential to ensure no section of society is left out of welfare schemes and policy decisions, calling it fundamental to equitable and evidence-based governance.

Doda SSP...

for Bhaderwah, as I came from Anantnag, where I joined as ASP immediately after the Pahalgam terror attack. So tourist security, social coordination among locals and communal harmony should be maintained at any cost," Shrotiyia told reporters here.

"When I joined Anantnag in the month of May, just one week after the Pahalgam terror attack, it was painful to see the condition of locals there as they had lost their only source of livelihood generated from the arrival of tourists. So I hope such a situation doesn't arise anywhere in India again, especially in Jammu and Kashmir, be it due to communal discord or terrorism," he said.

Laying his focus on building a terror-free ecosystem, he further said, "So, I have promised to myself that my focus should always remain on increasing business opportunities from tourism activities and for that I need your help and cooperation."

Urging people to make the beautiful Bhaderwah valley more attractive for visitors, he said, "It can happen only if you share inputs, in formation and truthful opinions regarding unscrupulous and anti-national elements in society, as there is no other way to keep our booming tourism industry going."

Commenting on the security scenario around high-altitude tourist destinations of Bhaderwah valley, the SSP said, "Security for tourists, especially at high-altitude destinations, is a constantly evolving domain and for that, be it civil administration or other security forces, we keep meeting so that we are always updated about the level of security we are able to provide, ensuring that tourists can enjoy all the beauty that this place has to offer."

LG Saxena Launches Project Him Sarovar To Strengthen Water Security In Ladakh

Leh, Apr 10: In a proactive step towards ensuring long-term water security in the cold desert region, the Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Ladakh, Vinai Kumar Saxena, today launched Project Him Sarovar. The project aims at scientific snow harvesting and the creation of water bodies to address the pressing challenge of water scarcity in Ladakh. The initiative focuses on harvesting snow and conserving snowmelt to strengthen water security across Ladakh, where water availability remains a critical concern due to unique climatic and geographical conditions. Saxena launched the project with the beginning of excavation works for the creation of 50 water bodies, simultaneously in Leh and Kargil. These water bodies, measuring 40x30



meters and 2 meters deep, are designed to store the snowmelt / glacial-melt that otherwise goes to waste every year. This will provide the people of Ladakh a reliable source of water for irrigation. Describing the initiative as historic, the Lieutenant Governor stated that Project Him Sarovar marks a decisive and scientific intervention to tackle the growing issue of water availability in Ladakh, where water is not merely a resource but a lifeline for the people. Notably, soon after assuming office as Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh on March 13, Saxena had directed the Chief Secretary to identify locations and prepare an action plan for the construction of 50 small water bodies across the Union Territory. Highlighting the importance of the project, the Lieutenant

Governor said that it is directly linked to Ladakh's water security and will play a crucial role in addressing irrigation challenges faced by farmers who depend on limited water sources. He emphasised that these water bodies will help conserve both rainwater and the annual snowmelt, which otherwise goes to waste, thereby creating a reliable source of water for agricultural purposes. He stated that Project Him Sarovar will not only fulfill irrigation needs but also generate sustainable livelihood opportunities for local communities.

The project is being designed using scientific methods, taking into account Ladakh's fragile ecosystem and climatic conditions. The Lieutenant Governor said Project Him Sarovar would serve a larger goal of reversing the degradation of land, which

is aligned with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of restoring 2.6 crore hectares of degraded land by 2030. The Lieutenant Governor further stated that the initiative has received strong support from various stakeholders, including the Indian Army, Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Border Roads Organisation (BRO), and the local population. He also lauded the people of Ladakh for their encouraging support of Project Him Sarovar. Saxena informed that Project Him Sarovar has been conceptualised keeping in mind Ladakh's unique geographical and climatic conditions. He also highlighted that these water bodies will be developed in consultation with local communities to ensure that they meet specific regional requirements. In addition to water conservation, the project will also



MLA Arvind to replace Dumpyard into Vertical Garden; starts Rs 25 lakh project at Ward No 24 Public participation must for development works: Arvind

Jammu, April 10: In a significant step towards urban beautification and cleanliness, MLA Jammu West Arvind Gupta today kick started work on a vertical garden in Ward No. 24, converting a site that had remained a garbage dump for nearly three decades into a green public space. The project, estimated at ₹25 lakh, is being developed on the key approach road to Rehari Colony, connecting Wards 24, 25, 26, and 39. Despite being part of a well-developed area, this stretch had long been plagued by waste dumping, affecting the locality's image and hygiene. Speaking on the occasion, Arvind Gupta said that the initiative reflects a commitment to improving civic infrastructure and quality of life for residents. He emphasised that while development work has begun, its long-term success depends on strong public participation. "Today marks the beginning of a long-



overdue transformation. For nearly 30 years, this vital approach road remained a garbage dumping site. With this vertical garden project, we are not only beautifying the area but also restoring dignity to the entrance of Rehari Colony", said Arvind Gupta adding that public participation is a must in all development works. People should take responsibility for keeping their surroundings clean, especially their peripheries, and must refrain from dumping garbage in open spaces. Only with collective effort can we sustain such initiatives and ensure a cleaner, greener Jammu." Former corporator Anu Bali, Vinu Khanna, Mandal President Sanjeev Gupta, Kushant Prajapati and Mohit, were present during the launch. Officials from Jammu Municipal Corporation, including Xeni Lokesch Gupta, along with senior citizens Kuldeep Gupta, Anil Gupta, Raksh

Choudhary, Jagdish Gupta and promoted market members also attended the programme. BJP workers including Atul Bakshi, Keshav Chopra, Rohit, and Sudesh were also present. Locals and prominent residents of the area hailed the efforts of MLA Jammu West Arvind Gupta for initiating the long-awaited transformation of the site. They said that converting a decades-old garbage dump into a vertical garden reflects his commitment to development and cleanliness. Residents expressed gratitude, stating that the move has not only improved the area's appearance but also restored dignity to the entrance of Rehari Colony. They further appreciated the focus on sustainable development and echoed the need for public participation, assuring their support in maintaining cleanliness and preventing garbage dumping in the future.

Rich Harvest School proudly hosted a three-day Mega Awareness Programme

Jammu, Apr 10: RHS participated by focusing on the vital themes of Nasha Mukta Bharat, Save water, save Birds, mental health awareness and de-addiction. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from students across all classes and featured a series of engaging and thought-provoking activities, including painting, essay writing, and quiz competitions. These activities provided a creative platform for students to express their views on the importance of a drug-free society and mental well-being. A highlight of the event was a vibrant awareness rally conducted by the students, spreading strong messages against substance abuse and promoting a healthy, responsible lifestyle within the community. The programme was further enriched by an insightful lecture delivered by renowned environmentalist Dr. C.M. Seth, who emphasized the urgent need for environmental protection and sustainable living. His address inspired students to become responsible citizens not only towards society but also towards the environment. Ms Anita Bhatia, Head of the Institute, complimented students for the mass participation. The three-day event concluded on a positive and impactful note, reinforcing the commitment of the institution and the government towards building a healthier, aware and drug-free society.



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ICccR & HRM, University of Jammu celebrates Foundation Day of ISTD

Jammu April 10: The International Centre for Cross Cultural Research and Human Resource Management (ICccR & HRM), University of Jammu, in collaboration with the Indian Society for Training & Development (ISTD), Jammu Chapter, successfully celebrated its Foundation Day by organizing an interaction and special lecture on the theme "Spiritual Intelligence: The Next Leadership Competency." Prof. Ashok Aima, Chairperson, ISTD Jammu Chapter, delivered an insightful address on the transformation in leadership mindset from "people work under me" to "people work with me" and ultimately to "I work for the people." He emphasized that true leadership evolves



through the integration of Vichar (thought), Aachar (behaviour) and Sanskar (values), which together shape ethical and purpose-driven leadership. Prof. Hardeep Chahal, Director, ICccR & HRM and Vice Chairperson, ISTD Jammu Chapter, highlighted the progression of leadership from a rational leader to an empathetic leader and ultimately to a spiritual leader. She introduced the concept of "Sacha Sauda" (true ser-

vice), emphasizing selfless action and value-based leadership as the foundation for sustainable success and meaningful organizational impact. Dr. K. S. Chandrasekar, Mentor ISTD Jammu Chapter, and Dr. Shahid Mushtaq, Secretary, ISTD Jammu Chapter, Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Treasurer, ISTD Jammu Chapter along with other ISTD Members were instrumental in conceptualizing,

Shiv Sena stages fierce protest against Pakistan, burns 'jackal-like effigy'; demands implementation of National Bunker Policy

Jammu: In strong protest against Pakistan's provocations, anti-India conspiracies, and inflammatory statements, the Jammu & Kashmir unit of Shiv Sena (Udhav Balasahb Thackeray) today held a massive demonstration in Jammu. Hundreds of party workers took to the streets and burned a "jackal-like effigy" of Pakistan, registering their firm opposition.

Leading the protest, Party State President Manish Sahni launched a sharp attack on Pakistan's double standards. He said that on one hand, Pakistan pretends to advocate peace on international platforms, while on the other, it con-



tinues to promote infiltration and terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir. He further stated that recent threats targeting major cities like Kolkata, along

with hollow warnings of nuclear attacks, expose Pakistan's frustration and desperation.

On the occasion, Sahni strongly demanded the

immediate implementation of a National Bunker Policy to further strengthen the security of the nation and the region. He emphasized that countries like

Pakistan and China cannot be trusted, and in the changing nature of warfare, enemies may directly target cities and civilians. In such a scenario, bunkers have become essential for civilian safety.

He urged the Prime Minister, Union Home Minister, and the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir to establish a widespread network of modern "safe bunkers" across Jammu & Kashmir and other sensitive and border areas of the country to ensure the safety of civilians during emergencies. A formal memorandum regarding the same has also been submitted.

Central University of Jammu Celebrated Alumni Reunion "Bio-Sangam"

JAMMU, 10 April 2026: The School of Life Sciences at the Central University of Jammu under the patronage of Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor successfully organized its landmark alumni meet, titled "Bio-Sangam," today at the Brig. Rajinder Singh Auditorium. The event served as a vibrant platform for former students to reconnect with their alma mater and engage with the current academic community. The program commenced with a traditional lamp-lighting ceremony accompanied by Saraswati Vandana. Prof. Richa Kothari, Head Department of Environmental Sciences, delivered the formal welcome address, setting a warm and nostalgic tone for the gathering. The event was graced by distinguished Guests of Honour Prof. Deepak Pathania, Prof. B.S. Bhau, and Prof. Mushtaq Ahmed who shared their insights and experiences. Prof.



Deepak Pathania remarked, "Our alumni are the torchbearers of the innovation fostered at this university. Your success in diverse fields—from biotechnology to environmental conservation—serves as a testament to the rigorous academic foundation provided by the School of Life Sciences. Prof. B.S. Bhau spoke on the importance of maintaining a life-long connection with the alma mater. "The 'BioSangam' is not just a reunion; it is a convergence of

experience and potential," he stated. Prof. Mushtaq Ahmed highlighted the value of mentorship. He noted, "The journey of our alumni inspires our current students to strive for excellence. By sharing your professional journeys today, you provide a roadmap for the next generation of scientists and researchers at Central University of Jammu." In his presidential remarks, Prof. Sunil Dhar, Dean of the School of Life Sciences, delivered a pro-

found message that emphasized the enduring relationship between the institution and its graduates. He appreciated generous contributions made by Dr. Sarita Bamotra an alumna of the Department of Environmental Sciences and by the parents of Ms. Ruchika an alumna of the Centre for Molecular Biology to the Alumni Fund. He described the alumni as the "living legacy" of the university, noting that their professional milestones are the true measure of the department's success.

An institution is not merely defined by its physical infrastructure, but by the intellectual footprints its students leave across the globe," Prof. Dhar remarked. Prof. Dhar concluded by reminding the gathering that while their paths may diverge, the "academic DNA" they shared at Central University of Jammu would always keep them connected to their alma mater.

NC ensured to Accelerating Development in Far-Flung Areas of Ramban, Udhampur and Jammu City: Rattan Lal Gupta

Meets Party's functionaries delegations from Udhampur, Ramban and Jammu

Jammu, April 10: Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, today reiterated that the government led by Omar Abdullah is firmly committed to ensuring equitable development and accelerating progress in far-flung regions, particularly the Chenab Valley, Udhampur Districts and Jammu Municipal Corporation.

He made these remarks while interacting with a delegation comprising District President Ramban Abid Magray, District President Jammu Urban Chandar Mohan Sharma, Block President Batote Arshad Mir, Block President Ukral Intiaz



Mughal, District President Udhampur Sunil Verma, Additional Spokesperson Akash Verma, Sardar Guman Singh, and other party functionaries. During the interaction, Gupta acknowledged the concerns raised by the delegation and concurred that although attention has started returning to remote

areas across various sectors, the complete upgrade of civic infrastructure will take time. He remarked that significant gaps remain due to neglect over the past decade, but assured that the present dispensation has renewed its focus on the development of Chenab and Pir Panjal regions.

Raman Bhalla Flags Rising Public Distress, Seeks Immediate Relief Measures

JKPCC Working President holds mass awareness programme in Greater Kailash; warns of serious fallout if grievances remain unaddressed



Jammu, April 10: Intensifying his outreach among the masses, JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla on Thursday organized a mass awareness programme at Greater Kailash, where he interacted with residents and listened to a wide range of public grievances. Addressing the gathering, Bhalla expressed strong resen-

ment over mounting public distress across both urban and rural areas of Jammu and Kashmir. He alleged that people are still waiting for tangible welfare measures from the Omar Abdullah-led UT government, while also criticizing the BJP-led Union Government for "leaving the people in the lurch." Bhalla highlighted that multiple sections of society

are facing layered challenges. Farmers, he said, are struggling with rising input costs, erratic weather, and delayed compensation for crop losses, leaving them financially vulnerable. Youth continue to grapple with unemployment and lack of meaningful job opportunities, fuelling frustration and uncertainty about the future. Traders and business owners are reportedly dealing with sluggish market conditions, reduced purchasing power, and limited policy support. Government employees, along with daily wagers, contractual,

The Law School, JU organizes legal literacy camp to empower rural community in RS Pura

Experts stress awareness as key to justice delivery; Lakrishna Foundation lauded for sustained social support

RS Pura, April 10: In a significant step towards strengthening grassroots legal awareness and access to justice, The Law School, University of Jammu, in collaboration with Lakrishna Foundation, Miran Sahib organized comprehensive Legal Aid and Legal Literacy Camp at village Gagian in RS Pura today. The programme witnessed active participation from legal experts, academicians, and social activists, creating a vibrant platform for dialogue, awareness, and community engagement. The initiative aimed at bridging the gap between legal institutions



and rural populations, ensuring that vital legal knowledge reaches those who need it the most. Prominent among those who graced the occasion included Prof. Seema Rohmetra, Director, The Law School, University of

Jammu; Dr. Monica Narang, Coordinator, Legal Aid & Legal Literacy Committee; Advocate Meenakshi Sathia, Deputy Advocate General, High Court of J&K and Ladakh; Advocate Sugandh

Gandotra, Fellow, NLU Delhi; Dr. Swati Sharma, Social Activist, and Advocate Aman Suresh Sharma. The proceedings of the programme were conducted by Dr. Nitan Sharma, Assistant Professor, The Law

School, who ensured smooth coordination and active engagement throughout the event. The camp featured insightful deliberations by legal experts and resource persons who elaborated on critical legal and social issues affecting rural communities. Key topics covered during the sessions included consumer protection laws, legal safeguards for women, rights and welfare of senior citizens, child rights, prevention of drug abuse, and legal aid provisions for defence personnel. The experts emphasized that lack of awareness often deprives

DHO Doda reviews implementation of NVBDCP
Stresses Micro-Planning, Field Intensification

DODA, APRIL 10: To review the functioning of the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) in the district, District Health Officer Dr. Raj Kumar Sharma chaired a meeting of Malaria staff and field functionaries at his office chamber here today.

At the outset, the Malaria staff presented indicator wise progress and highlighted various activities carried out under the NVBDCP across the district. The meeting focused on reviewing surveillance activities, preventive measures, awareness campaigns and field level interventions undertaken to control vector borne diseases.

After a detailed review of the progress, the DHO impressed upon the concerned staff to devise a comprehensive micro-plan followed by a structured



tour plan to further intensify activities under the programme. He emphasized strengthening surveillance, ensuring timely reporting, enhancing community awareness and improving field monitoring to achieve better outcomes.

Dr. Sharma also stressed the importance of coordinated efforts, regular field visits and close monitoring to ensure effective implementation of the programme and prevention of vector-borne diseases in the district. The meeting was attended by Malaria Inspector, JHIs, BHWs and other field functionaries associated with the programme. The meeting concluded with a commitment from all participants to further strengthen the implementation of NVBDCP and ensure improved public health outcomes in the District.

DC reviews progress of ABDP, Sampoonata Abhiyan 2.0 in Aspirational Block Marwah

KISHTWAR, APRIL 10: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the implementation of the Aspirational Block Development Programme (ABDP) and Sampoonata Abhiyan 2.0 in the Aspirational Block Marwah.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed key performance indicators across major sectors, including health and nutrition, education, agriculture and allied activities, basic infrastructure, drinking water supply, sanitation, financial inclusion and social development.

A detailed sector-wise assessment was carried out, focusing on the status of ongoing works, identification of critical gaps and measures required to expedite the implementation of various schemes and projects in the block. The meeting was informed that all six indicators under Sampoonata Abhiyan 2.0 have been fully satisfied. The Chief Education Officer (CEO) was directed to improve



transition rates at the secondary and higher secondary levels. Further, the Chief Agriculture Officer (CAO) was instructed to intensify efforts for the expansion and promotion of micro-irrigation facilities in Marwah and Warwan areas to enhance agricultural productivity and support the farming community. The Chief Medical Officer (CMO) was directed to complete the NQAS certification process and expedite the generation of ABHA IDs in the block to strengthen healthcare delivery systems.

While reviewing the progress of revolving funds for Self Help Groups (SHGs), the Deputy Commissioner expressed concern over the slow pace of implementation and directed the concerned

departments to achieve targets in a time-bound manner. The Deputy Commissioner also directed the Lead District Manager (LDM) to increase banking access points in Sub-Division Marwah, with special emphasis on establishing ATM facilities. The DC underscored the importance of timely execution, inter-departmental coordination and focused monitoring to ensure the effective achievement of the objectives of the Aspirational Blocks Programme for the socio-economic upliftment of the people of Marwah.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Vinod Kumar Behnal, PO ICDS Dr. Rishi Kumar Sharma, CPO Akhli Thakur, ACD Manoj Kumar, ACP Neeraj Sharma, DSWO Tariq Parvesh Qazi, AD FCS&CA Shaqfat Ali Keen, CAO Kushal Chandel, CHO Sajid Mustafa, DSHO Dr. Jameel Nasir, CEO Sanjay Dogra, BDO, Executive Engineers, along with other officers and officials.

Mega 3-day Awareness Drive concludes in Kishtwar
More than 2000 individuals participate in final day rally

KISHTWAR, APRIL 10: The three-day district-level awareness programme organized by the Department of School Education, concluded successfully today, witnessing enthusiastic participation from the line departments, teachers, students and civil society members across the district.

The programme focused on key social themes including road safety, social awareness, environmental protection, mental health, drug de-addiction and career guidance.

The programme focused on key social themes including road safety, social awareness, environmental protection, mental health, drug de-addiction and career guidance.

The overall district-level event was organised under



the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma, Chief Education Officer Sanjay Dogra coordinated the event.

On the second day, a district-wide grand poster-making and slogan-writing competition was organized across educational institutions, drawing large-scale participation from students.

The main district-level event was held here at

Government Boys' Higher Secondary School, where students from various schools participated in the poster-making competition.

An awareness session on road safety was also conducted during the event. District Traffic Inspector Anil Raina was the resource person. He shared valuable insights on traffic rules, safety measures and responsible road usage.

On the concluding day, a grand awareness rally was organized from the New DC Office to TRC Kishtwar. The rally was flagged off by the Deputy Commissioner and saw participation from over 2,000 individuals, including officers from the line departments, students, teachers and civil society members. Participants carried IEC posters conveying messages on environmental protection, road safety and social responsibility. The Motor Vehicle Department (MVD) distributed road safety IEC materials among the participants. Similar rallies were also taken out by the educational institutions across the district, spreading awareness through impactful slogans such as "Plant Trees and Save the Earth," "Nazam Hat, Durgahata Ghati," and "Say No to Drugs, Save Lives," among others. ADDC Vinod Kumar Behnal; ACD Manoj Kumar; ARTO Tasleem Wani; CEO Sanjay Dogra; Dy. CEO Mussood Ahmed Qazi; ZEO Ashok Kumar; DTI Anil Raina and other district officers were present on the occasion.

3-day Divisional-level awareness programme concludes in Udhampur
DC flags off Padyatra under Nasha Mukta Udhampur Abhiyan

UDHAMPUR, APRIL 10: The three-day Divisional-level awareness programme concluded today with the District Administration Udhampur, in collaboration with School Education Department, organizing a padyatra to promote Nasha Mukta Udhampur Abhiyan, with the message 'Say No to Drugs, Yes to Life.'

The padyatra was flagged off from Domail Chowk by Deputy Commissioner Mingsha Sherpa in presence of Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh; Joint Director School Education Udhampur-Reasi; Dr. Jashish Chander Mehra and Chief Education Officer Subash Gupta. Briefing the media, the Deputy Commissioner



informed that a series of activities were conducted across the district during the three-day programme to sensitize students and other stakeholders on essential issues such as road safety, environmental protection, mental health, drug de-addiction and career guidance. He emphasized the need to promote responsible behaviour and strengthen grassroots outreach.

The DC stated that the main objective of organizing the padyatra was to educate people about the harmful effects of drug and substance abuse. He reiterated that awareness and education are the most powerful tools in the fight against drug abuse.

A large number of staff members, students and other stakeholders participated enthusiastically in the rally.

DLSA Reasi promotes environmental conservation

REASI, APRIL 10: Under the visionary leadership of Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, Reasi (also Pr. District and Sessions Judge) Khalil Choudhary and the guidance of Secretary Pooja Gupta, awareness events on Afforestation was organized today at Legal Aid Clinic Arabia, Shibrass and several other places in Mahore. The programme was conducted by the PLVs of TISC Mahore to sensitize the locals about the importance of tree plantation, environmental conservation for maintaining ecological balance. The PLVs highlighted the adverse effects of deforestation and encouraged the participants to actively contribute towards planting and preserving trees. A poster-making competition on the theme "Save Environment" was organized at Government Middle School-Nangal-Katra. Ten students took part in the competition and showcased their artistic skills while spreading the message of saving the environment. The winners of the competition were felicitated with medals.



Awareness programme on Water Conservation of Water was organized at Bus Stand Reasi by the Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) of DLSA to sensitize the local populace about the importance of water conservation, sustainable use of water resources and the urgent need to prevent wastage of water in daily life.

DC Kathua reviews arrangements for JKSSB Junior Assistant Examination

KATHUA, APRIL 10: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today reviewed the arrangements for the smooth conduct of the upcoming JKSSB examination at a meeting held in the DC Office Complex, here.

The JKSSB written examination for the post of Junior Assistant is scheduled to be held on April 19, 2026. The Deputy Commissioner held a detailed discussion with concerned officers regarding the arrangements for the smooth conduct of the examination. It was



informed that 10 examination centres have been established across the district for the purpose. The meeting reviewed key aspects including drinking

water facilities, power supply, seating arrangements, security deployment and videography at all examination centres. The Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of close coordination among all stakeholders. He directed them to work in a coordinated manner to ensure smooth and fair conduct of the examination. He also briefed officers on their roles and responsibilities for efficient execution of the process. The Deputy Commissioner impressed upon the designated officers to strictly adhere to the protocols laid down by JKSSB to maintain transparency and fairness during the examination process. The Police Department was directed to ensure adequate security arrangements, including proper frisking and deployment of personnel at all examination centres. General Manager DIC Mushtaq Chaudhary; ADC Vishvajit Singh; BDO Surinder Sharma; ACR Vishav Partap Singh; SE PWD Arun Gupta; Tehsildar Vikram Kumar; DIO Rajinder Digr; CMO; Dr Vijay Raina; Dy SP H O Ravinder Singh, besides other concerned officers, were present in the meeting.

Mega Awareness Rally held in Doda to promote drug-free society, sense of social responsibility

DODA, APRIL 10: A grand Awareness Rally was organized today by the School Education Department, marking the culmination of the 3-day Divisional-level Awareness Programme. The rally commenced from Government Higher Secondary School Boys and marched towards the Sports Stadium via Clock Tower. A large number of students, officials and the general public participated in the Rally.

The event was attended by MLA Doda West Shakti Raj Parihar; ADC Anil Kumar Thakur; ASP Headquarters Mohd Aslam; Joint Director Education Mohd Asfaq;



DYSP Headquarters Krishan Rattan; CEO Bhubhan Kumar Pathak; Dr. Anis Ahmed along with School heads and officials from the Health, Traffic and other Departments. The programme was effectively coordinated by District Nodal Officer

Education Department Umesh Kumar, who ensured smooth execution and active participation across all levels. Speaking on the occasion, the ADC emphasized the district administration's firm resolve to make all 237 panchayats of Doda drug-free. He urged students to act as ambassadors of Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan and spread awareness about the ill effects of drug abuse. The MLA also called for strict action against drug peddlers and appealed to society to safeguard children from the menace of substance abuse.

The rally witnessed massive participation from students of the government and private schools, who carried banners and placards highlighting themes such as environmental protection, anti-drug campaign and career awareness. Slogans promoting a drug-free society and social responsibility echoed across the town, making the rally a vibrant and impactful awareness drive. Meanwhile, similar awareness rallies were held in all schools and cluster levels on the identified themes. The programme concluded with a strong message of unity, youth empowerment and collective responsibility towards building a progressive and drug-free society.

NDRF conducts Disaster Management Awareness, Training Programme at GDC Billawar

KATHUA, APRIL 10: The Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), Activity Club, NSS & NCC unit of Government Degree College Billawar, in coordination with the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), organized an Awareness and Training Programme on Disaster Management in the college premises, today. The event was organized under the patronage of the College Principal Dr. Alka Sharma. The NDRF team, comprising around 30 trained personnel and led by Deputy Commandant Parveen Singh, conducted the programme. The event witnessed active participation from the college faculty, non-teaching staff and students, making it a highly



engaging and informative session. The Deputy Commandant provided valuable insights into the role, responsibilities and functioning of the NDRF in managing the disaster situations. The session aimed at creating awareness and building preparedness among the participants. The NDRF team conducted detailed live demonstrations on handling different disaster scenarios.

DC Anantnag reviews JK Samadhan

Stresses on ensuring Time-Bound, quality Redressal of Public Grievances

ANANTNAG, APRIL 10: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiud Din Bhat, today directed officers to ensure time-bound and quality redressal of public grievances received through the JK Samadhan and CPGRAMS portals, adding that prompt response by concerned officials is essential to enhance public service delivery. He also called for the speedy disposal of offline grievances pertaining to various departments to clear pendency in the district. The public must get the benefits of responsible and accountable governance which focuses on expeditious and quality grievance redressal, he remarked. The DC issued these directions while chairing a comprehensive review meeting of all departments at Dak Bungalow, Khanabal.



Principal GMC Anantnag, ADC, GM DIC, SE PWD, ACR, CPO, SDMs, ACD, Executive Engineer R&B, Jal Shakti, PDD and I&FC, all district and sectoral officers attended the meeting. On the occasion, the DC took a detailed review of the JK Samadhan and CPGRAMS grievances of each department and enquired about the status of their resolution. He was informed that out of 5418 grievances received on JK Samadhan and 5908 on CPGRAMS, 4934 (91.07 percent) and 5350 (84.90 percent) respectively have

been resolved so far. Further, a total of 03 and 19 grievances in different departments are pending resolution above 28 and 60 days respectively. Taking note of the grievances pending above 28 & 60 days, the DC directed the concerned departments to immediately resolve the same adding it should be a norm that no grievance remains unresolved beyond 28 days. Regarding status of citizen registration on JK Samadhan, Dr. Bilal directed the departments to make efforts to push the figures to 100 percent from current 89 percent, in near future. Asking officers to personally monitor the grievance redressal process on JK Samadhan and CPGRAMS Portals, the DC directed them to make proper analysis of grievances received with special focus on their nature and place of origin. The map-

ADC Handwara chairs meeting on digitization of backlog Mutations



HANDWARA, APRIL 10: Additional Deputy Commissioner, (ADC), Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi on Friday chaired a meeting to review the progress of digitization of backlog mutations across the sub division. During the meeting, a detailed assessment of pending mutation cases was carried out. The ADC emphasized the importance of timely and accurate digitization of revenue records to ensure transparency, efficiency, and ease of access for the public. He directed all concerned Tehsildars to expedite the process and clear the backlog within the stipulated timeframe. The ADC stressed the need for close coordination among revenue officials and instructed Tehsildars to closely monitor the progress at the field level. He also underscored the importance of maintaining data accuracy and adhering to prescribed guidelines during the

digitization process. Officers were asked to identify bottlenecks, if any, and take immediate corrective measures to ensure public service delivery and speedy completion of the task. The ADC reiterated that digitization of land records is a key step towards strengthening governance and improving public service delivery. The meeting was attended by Tehsildars, Naib Tehsildars, and other concerned revenue officials.

AGS Hajinar Students Felicitated at BB Cantt, Srinagar for making Innovative Mathematics Projects

Karnah: Army Goodwill School Hajinar proudly celebrates the outstanding achievement of Inaam Naseer and Huzaiif Amjid, who showcased exceptional talent in Mathematics. Modelling by developing an innovative Mathematics model. Their remarkable performance earned them recognition at both the Corps Zone and National level, bringing immense pride to the institution and the entire region. The young achievers were honoured and felicitated during the prestigious AGS Achievers Event held at BB Cantt, Srinagar in the distinguished presence of Lt. General Pratik Sharma, SYSM, PVSM, AVSM,



SM, GOC Northern Command, and Mrs. Sheini Sharma, President ANWA Northern Command. Senior Army officers, dignitaries, school heads, teachers, and proud parents also graced the occasion, making it a memorable and inspiring event. The felicitation ceremony recognized meritorious students from across the region who have excelled at higher platforms. The achievement of these two students reflects not only their dedication and hard work but also the growing culture of innovation and academic excellence within Army Goodwill Schools. Inaam Naseer and Huzaiif Amjid were guided and mentored by Mr. Tahir Gaffar, whose constant encouragement and academic

DC Budgam chairs follow-up review to assess progress of 125-Bedded Hospital, 100-Bedded CCU at Reshipora

Emphasises timely completion, quality standards & strengthened healthcare infrastructure

BUDGAM, APRIL 10: In a follow-up review meeting, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Amir Khan, today assessed the progress of the under-construction 125-bedded hospital and the 100-bedded Critical Care Unit (CCU) at Reshipora Budgam. The DC conducted a comprehensive review of both projects, which are being developed to significantly enhance healthcare infrastructure and ensure improved medical services for the people of the district. During the meeting, the DC took a detailed appraisal of the proposed hospital infrastructure, including building arrangements, functional requirements, and floor-wise facilities. He emphasised that the hospital must be developed as a modern, patient-centric institution equipped with all essential healthcare services. A detailed status of the 100-bedded CCU, a G+3 structure, was also reviewed. The CCU is envisioned as a key facility for strengthening emergency and critical care services in the district. Officials informed that since the project was hand-

Art meets music: MSCBMC Trust's workshop concludes with grand concert, creativity

Platforms like these empower youth: Minister

Srinagar, April 10, 2026: The National Art Workshop under Jashan-e-Bahar, organized by the Master Sansar Chand Baru Memorial Charitable Trust (MSCBMC Trust) in collaboration with Petronet LNG Limited, concluded today on a grand and artistic note at NIFT Srinagar. The final day witnessed a vibrant display of creativity, as students showcased their artworks developed during the workshop, turning the venue into a colourful celebration of imagination and talent. Renowned artists from across the country, including Suraj Kumar, Sandeep Murli, Pratik Asher, Rahul Jagannath Mhetre, Vijaylaxmi Deepak Me, Navnath Ramchandra Kshirsagar, Sachindha Nath Jha, Javed Iqbal, Sharmila Sharma, Zargar Zahoor, Syed Mursaleen, and Suhail Ahmad Hakem, continued to mentor students, leaving a lasting artistic impact. The concluding ceremony was graced by the blessings of Hon'ble Minister for Sports, Satish Sharma, along with Director Monica, who appreciated the initiative and encouraged young artists to pursue their creative passions. Speaking on the occasion, Satish Sharma said, "Such initiatives provide a vital platform for young talent to explore their creativity and gain confidence. Art and culture play a crucial role in shaping a vibrant and progressive society." In a special highlight of the event, Anuradha Rishi, President of MSCBMC Trust, was honoured with a Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of her outstanding contribution to art, culture, and social service.

DDC Shopian reviews preparation of District CAPEX Budget 2026-27

Assesses achievements of District Capex 2025-26

SHOPIAN, APRIL 10: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta today chaired a meeting to review and discuss the preparation of the District CAPEX Budget 2026-27. At the outset, the DDC emphasized the importance of timely and comprehensive planning for the upcoming financial year. All departments were directed to prepare and submit well structured, realistic, and need based proposals in line with the developmental priorities of the district. The meeting primarily focused on identifying priority sectors, ensuring optimal allocation of resources, and streamlining the planning process for effective implementation



of works under CAPEX 2026-27. Officers were instructed to give due importance to projects of public utility and long-term impact. During the deliberations, review of District CAPEX 2025-26 was also discussed. It was highlighted that the district achieved 100% physical targets, reflecting effective execution and monitoring of developmental works across sectors. The DDC stressed the need for improved coordination among departments and adherence to timelines to avoid delays in project execution. Emphasis was also laid on maintaining quality standards and ensuring transparency in implementation.

ties to promote tourism and generate local employment. Officers were further directed to ensure timely submission of inputs, removal of bottlenecks, and proactive planning to facilitate smooth execution of works in the upcoming financial year. The meeting was attended by the Additional District Development Commissioner Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone; CEO, Durbjan Peer Ki Gali Development Authority, Rouf ul Rehman; ACD, Muzafar Ahmad; Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Zainapora, Bilal Ahmad; CPO, CEO, CMO, CAO, CHO, Executive Engineers of R & B, Irrigation, PHE, REW, KPDCI, and other concerned officers.

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
TENDER NOTICE	
No. of lots: 1 (1) - 125-Bedded Hospital and 100-Bedded CCU at Reshipora Budgam.	
Tender Notice No.	TR-2026-558-2028 Dated 10.04.2026
Name of Work	125-Bedded Hospital and 100-Bedded CCU at Reshipora Budgam.
Approximate Cost of the Work	Rs. 100.00 Crores (One Hundred Crores)
Completion Period	2 (Two) Years
Bid Security to be deposited	Rs. 2,00,000.00
Salability of tender documents on Bidding	Tender documents will be available on 10.04.2026 at www.nwr.org.in from 10.04.2026.
Last date of submission of tenders	10.05.2026 (10.05.2026)
Opening of Tender	10.05.2026 (10.05.2026) at 11.00 AM.
Note: Tender bidders will be required to deposit the bank guarantee for the execution of the work within 30 days of the award of the contract. The tender bidders will be required to deposit the bank guarantee for the execution of the work within 30 days of the award of the contract. The tender bidders will be required to deposit the bank guarantee for the execution of the work within 30 days of the award of the contract.	
For further details, please refer to the tender notice and the tender documents. The tender bidders will be required to deposit the bank guarantee for the execution of the work within 30 days of the award of the contract.	
No. 17-42461-C-OPS-558-2028 Dated: 10.04.2026 12152321	
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	

Swift Government action ensures safety of Nandimarg Students crossing River

Classes shifted to ensure safety of Students

KULGAM, APRIL 10: Taking cognizance of a video circulating on social media showing students from the upper belt of Kulgam crossing a flowing stream to reach school, the Chief Education Officer (CEO) Kulgam today visited the area to assess the situation on the directions of the Education Minister. During the visit, the CEO observed that nearly 90 students from the upper areas were required to cross the

stream daily due to the absence of a bridge while commuting to school. Considering the seriousness of the issue and to ensure the safety and uninterrupted education of the students, the matter was addressed on the spot. It was decided to facilitate teaching for Classes 9th and 10th at the newly constructed double-storey concrete school building located in the upper area of Nandimarg, where the majority of students from these classes are enrolled. Accordingly, three well-qualified subject-specific teachers have been deployed to conduct classes at the said building, enabling students to continue their studies without facing the difficulty of crossing the stream. With this arrangement put in place, the issue has been resolved and normal academic activities for the concerned students will now continue smoothly and safely.

Bharat Priye meets Digvijaya Singh, flags plight of J&K farmers

JKPCC Kissan Congress seeks urgent intervention to address agrarian distress in the Union Territory



Bharat Priye raised a wide range of issues affecting the agrarian sector in J&K, including declining farm incomes, inadequate Minimum Support Price (MSP) coverage, rising input costs, erratic weather

patterns, and limited access to modern agricultural infrastructure. He also emphasized the challenges faced by orchardists and small-scale farmers, particularly in terms of market access, transportation, and

post-harvest losses. He stressed that farmers in the region are grappling with unique geographical and logistical constraints, which necessitate tailored policy interventions and sustained governmental support. Seeking urgent redressal, Bharat Priye urged Digvijaya Singh to advocate for comprehensive policy measures aimed at strengthening the agricultural sector in J&K. These include better implementation of central schemes, expansion of crop insurance coverage, financial assistance to distressed farmers, and enhanced support for horticulture, which forms the backbone of the region's rural economy. He also called for special focus on youth engagement in agriculture, noting that lack of incentives and opportunities is pushing younger generations away from farming. Digvijaya Singh, while listening attentively to the concerns raised, assured that the issues highlighted would be taken up within the party forum and raised at appropriate platforms. He acknowledged the importance of addressing the challenges faced by farmers in Jammu and Kashmir and emphasized the need for inclusive and region-specific agricultural policies.



North in News

AI reaching more into our lives, it really matters who has the control

As AI increasingly integrates into our daily lives, concerns about who controls AI companies are growing. The concentration of power in the hands of a few tech giants raises questions about accountability, bias, and the potential for misuse. With AI influencing everything from healthcare to finance, the values and priorities of those controlling AI systems become crucial. If a small group of companies dictate AI's direction, it could lead to a lack of diversity in AI applications and exacerbate existing social inequalities. Moreover, without proper oversight, AI systems can perpetuate biases, invade privacy, and even pose security risks. The need for transparency, regulation, and diverse representation in AI development is becoming increasingly urgent. The influence of AI is evident in various sectors such as healthcare, education and employment etc. The concentration of AI power can also have far-reaching consequences. AI systems can perpetuate existing biases if trained on biased data. AI-powered surveillance and data collection raise concerns about individual privacy. AI systems can be vulnerable to cyber attacks and data breaches. To mitigate these risks, it's essential to promote transparency. Ensure diverse representation in AI development and governance. Implement regulations to prevent AI misuse and ensure accountability. AI governance refers to the frameworks, policies, and regulations that ensure AI systems are developed and deployed responsibly. Effective governance is crucial to mitigate risks like bias, privacy concerns, and security threats. Companies can adopt best practices and standards for AI development by involving diverse stakeholders in AI governance decisions. AI initiatives are gaining momentum globally, with various organizations and governments working together to promote responsible AI development and deployment. The European Union has introduced the AI Act, a comprehensive legal framework for AI that addresses risks to health, safety, and fundamental rights. The Act establishes a risk-based approach, categorizing AI systems into four levels including unacceptable risk, high risk, limited risk, and minimal risk. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has developed AI principles that promote inclusive growth, human-centered values, transparency, robustness, and accountability. Countries like Japan, Canada, and Singapore are developing national AI strategies, prioritizing industrial promotion, competitiveness, and innovation. These initiatives aim to promote trustworthy AI, ensure accountability, and foster innovation. Holding developers and users responsible for AI outcomes, ensuring AI systems are unbiased and equitable, protecting AI systems from cyber threats human should be the main priorities. Governments can establish laws and guidelines for AI development industry standards.

Quality Over Cost: A New Era in Public Procurement

KK Kapila

It is time for the government to move away from the outdated practice of lowest bidding (L1) in public procurement and adopt the globally accepted Quality-cum-Cost-Based Selection (QCBS) method. This transition is particularly critical for infrastructure-related departments, as already envisaged in the General Financial Rules issued by the Ministry of Finance. Public procurement, especially in infrastructure projects, demands a careful balance between cost efficiency and quality outcomes. Traditionally, many government departments have relied on awarding contracts to the lowest bidder. While this approach may appear economical in the short term, it often leads to significant long-term challenges. The most critical drawback of the L1 system is the compromise on quality. Contractors quoting the lowest price frequently cut corners in materials, technology, or workmanship. This results in substandard infrastructure that fails prematurely, leading

to higher lifecycle costs due to frequent repairs, maintenance, or even complete replacement. Moreover, the lowest bid often excludes essential components such as installation, maintenance, or after-sales support. These hidden costs emerge later, eroding any initial savings and placing an additional financial burden on government agencies. Another concern is the reliability of bidders. Extremely low bids are often submitted by firms lacking sufficient experience or capacity. Such contractors may struggle to meet project requirements, causing delays, disputes, and increased administrative oversight. In addition, the L1 approach tends to focus on immediate cost savings rather than long-term value. This results in a cycle of repeated procurement and inconsistent project outcomes, ultimately increasing overall expenditure. The Quality-cum-Cost-Based Selection (QCBS) method offers a more balanced and sustainable approach. Under QCBS, contracts are awarded based on a combination of technical quality and financial

cost, ensuring that both competence and competitiveness are taken into account. This method prioritizes proven expertise, innovation, and reliability alongside reasonable pricing. As a result, it leads to better project execution, improved durability of assets, and reduced lifecycle costs. QCBS also streamlines procurement processes by incorporating structured evaluation frameworks. This reduces administrative complexity and enables government agencies to focus on efficient project delivery. Importantly, QCBS encourages the adoption of modern technologies and best practices, ensuring that public infrastructure keeps pace with global standards. A significant step in this direction has already been taken by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MORTH), which recently issued a circular introducing a structured framework for evaluating contractors and concessionaires engaged in National Highway projects. This framework assigns scores across multiple performance parameters, enhancing transparency,

accountability, and quality assurance. Such progressive measures should now be extended across other key sectors, including railways, power, ports, and airports.

The adoption of QCBS is no longer optional; it is an imperative. All government ministries and departments must urgently implement this method in line with the General Financial Rules. A decisive shift to QCBS will ensure higher quality infrastructure, greater accountability in execution, improved lifecycle value for public investments and reduced long-term costs. The government must issue clear and immediate directions to institutionalize QCBS across all infrastructure projects. This reform will not only address persistent quality challenges but also align India's procurement practices with global standards.

(The writer is President Emeritus, International Road Federation Chairman, ICT, a global infrastructure consultant company. Views are personal.)

Commercialization of Faith: VIP Darshan and Neglect of Common Devotees

DR. SATYAVAN SAURABH

In a country like India, where religion and faith are not merely a matter of personal belief but an integral part of social and cultural life, temples and pilgrimage sites have played a vital role. For centuries, these places have been considered symbols of equality, peace, and spiritual balance. "All are equal in God's court"—this statement is not just an ideal but a deeply held belief in Indian society. However, in recent years, this belief has been questioned. Many major temples and pilgrimage sites across the country charge hefty fees for VIP darshan, special pujas, abhishekam, and aarti. In exchange for these services, devotees are promised relief from long queues, reduced darshan time, and a more convenient experience. At first glance, this system appears to be an alternative, but when it impacts the experience of ordinary devotees, it becomes a serious social problem. Today, the situation is such that on one hand, there are those who, by paying extra money, can easily have darshan in a few minutes, while on the other, large numbers of ordinary people stand in queues for hours, sometimes even entire days. During this time, they face crowds, jostling, rude behavior, and sometimes even physical violence. This experience is not only

uncomfortable but also humiliating—especially when one has come there with faith and devotion. It's natural to question whether faith itself is becoming a "premium service"? Should there be discrimination based on economic status even for the sake of seeing God? This situation isn't limited to religious sites, but rather reflects the growing inequality in our society. From ration shops to gas cylinder lines, and now even temples—the middle class and common people often face chaos and struggle.

The argument in favor of VIP culture is that it provides additional revenue to temples, which can be used to improve their facilities and services. This argument is somewhat valid. Large temples receive millions of devotees daily, making it difficult to manage them. Therefore, if some people pay an additional fee and demand special arrangements, the proceeds could be used for public amenities. But problems arise when this system becomes unbalanced. When VIP privileges become so abundant that the resources and time available to ordinary devotees begin to fall short, it becomes a form of injustice. It has often been observed that general queues are blocked for VIP darshan, further prolonging the wait for ordinary people. This naturally leads to dissatisfaction and resentment. Furthermore,

the behavior of temple staff and security personnel is also a significant issue. In many cases, ordinary devotees are treated rudely and disrespectfully, while VIPs are treated with extreme courtesy.

This duality further deepens the existing class divide in society. This is also negatively impacting the very spirit of religious sites. Temples are not just places of worship, but also centers of mental peace and spiritual balance. When visitors encounter chaos, crowds, and discrimination, their spiritual experience is affected.

This experience can leave them feeling disappointed and frustrated. The solution to this problem is not easy, but it is not impossible. First, temple administrations should ensure that the number and impact of VIP services are limited. These services should only be intended to provide additional convenience, not to curtail the rights of ordinary devotees. Second, modern technologies can be used for crowd management. Measures such as online booking, time slot systems, and digital queue management can better manage crowds, ensuring an orderly and respectful experience for all devotees. Third, staff and security personnel should be trained in sensitivity and courtesy. Every devotee, whether VIP or ordinary, deserves respect. This senti-

ment should be reflected not only in policies but also in practice. Fourth, the government and relevant trusts should establish clear guidelines on this issue. Ensuring equality and transparency at religious sites is not just an administrative responsibility, but also a moral one. Finally, it's also essential that society itself becomes aware of this issue. As long as people continue to accept this inequality as normal, it's difficult to bring about change. Faith isn't just about worship, but also about embracing values like equality, compassion, and justice. It's time to reflect on the direction we're headed. Are we heading toward a society where even the vision of God is determined by money and access? Or will we preserve the original spirit, where every person enjoys equal rights and respect? The sanctity of temples is determined not merely by their grandeur or order, but by the experience one receives there. If that experience is fraught with discrimination and inequality, the foundation of faith will be weakened. Therefore, it is essential that we take this issue seriously and work together to create an environment where every devotee feels truly present in the court of God—where all are equal.

(Dr. Satyavan Saurabh, PhD (Political Science), is a poet and social thinker.)

Curiosity, creation, and the quiet instinct to possess

BY SANJAY CHANDRA

Humans possess an insatiable curiosity, a restlessness that continually pushes them to explore new boundaries. It is this quest that has given rise to newer technologies, enabling progress that often appears both inevitable and admirable. Yet, the same impulse carries within it a quieter, more troubling tendency — the desire not only to discover, but to possess; not only to reach, but to claim what was never inherently theirs, whether it be land, boundaries, or even fellow human lives. Over the past few months, I have come across two pieces of news that, in very different ways, reinforced this belief in the complex duality of human ambition. One of them was about researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, who have developed a solar-powered thermochemical battery using strontium bromide—an innovation capable of storing summer

heat and releasing it during the freezing Himalayan winters. It offers a clean and cost-effective alternative to diesel-based heating, especially in remote, high-altitude regions, and holds the potential to significantly improve conditions for the local population, as well as for soldiers stationed in some of the harshest environments on Earth. Here, curiosity manifests as care, as problem-solving, as an extension of human ingenuity directed towards sustaining life. And yet, the same impulse that enables such life-sustaining innovation can, when left unchecked, take on a very different character.

Another development pointed to this more unsettling possibility. It concerned emerging claims over the Moon by countries that have successfully landed spacecraft on its surface — an exclusive and growing club. What appears as exploration often carries the early language of possession, something history has shown us repeatedly.

Beneath the language of scientific progress lies a quieter assertion of presence and, eventually, of ownership. The idea of creating "parking facilities" in space, of positioning oneself closer to future interplanetary journeys, echoes perhaps uncomfortably the history of terrestrial colonisation, when empires stretched across continents under the guise of discovery, leaving behind legacies that are still being reckoned with. Placed side by side, these developments reveal the paradox at the heart of human progress. The same curiosity that warms a soldier in a Himalayan outpost can also extend its reach outward, seeking to imprint ownership upon distant celestial bodies. It is not curiosity alone, then, that defines us, but the direction in which we choose to take it — and the restraint, or the lack of it, that accompanies our pursuit. This tendency is not confined to distant frontiers alone; it continues to shape our conduct much closer to home. One

would have thought that the experiences of earlier centuries might have evolved us into a more mature and self-aware race. Yet, the persistence of sustained conflicts across different parts of the globe in the twenty-first century quietly belies that hope, suggesting that while our technologies have advanced, our instincts perhaps have not kept pace. And yet, it would be too easy—and perhaps too convenient — to conclude that this is all that defines us. The same curiosity that drives us to claim can also compel us to correct, to collaborate, and to care. History, after all, is not merely a record of excesses, but also of gradual learning-of institutions built, of norms negotiated, and of individuals and societies choosing restraint over impulse. If there is hope, it lies not in abandoning our instinct to explore, but in refining it — so that discovery does not inevitably lead to domination, and progress does not come at the cost of our shared humanity.



NOTICE

I, Massaber Ali S/o Gulzar Ali, R/o Kunfer Chanderkote, inform that my vehicle number plate JK19-7566 is missing. I have applied for a duplicate. If anyone has any objection, please inform the concerned authority within 7 days.

NOTICE

NADIA BEGUM W/O NAVID UR REHMAN R/O SUJMATNA TEH RAMSOO DISTRICT RAMBAN PN 182145 HAVE APPLIED FOR D CLASS CONTRACTOR CARD ANYBODY HAVING OBJECTION THE REGRAD MAY CONVEY TO THE SE PWD R&B UDHAMPUR RAMBAN CIRCLE WITH IN SEVEN DAYS FROM THE DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTES .AFTER THAT PERIOD NO OBJECTION SHALL BE ENTERTAINED.

NOTICE

I Indeerjeet Singh S/o Sh. Lochan Singh R/o Hottar Tehsil Billawar Distt. Kathua J&K U.T That the Date of Birth Certificate of my Son Samarthy Pathania has been issued by the Registrar Birth and Death Station House Officer Malhar on 21-03-2021 under registration No.412/15-A in which his name is inadvertently written AS Krishiv Pathania instead of Samarthy Pathania. Now I am applying for correction of his name in DOB certificate as Samarthy Pathania insted of Krishiv Pathania in the office of registrar BDO Office Billawar. objection if any may be conveyed to concerned authority with in 7 days, from the date of publication of this notice

NOTICE

I. SEWA SINGH S/O PREM NATH R/O THATA TEHSIL & DISTRICT RAMBAN That deponent's Daughter's Name has been wrongly written in her Aadhar Card having no. 7379 2878 6343 as SEMRAN DEVI instead of SIMRAN DEVI. That the actual name of Deponent's Daughter is SIMRAN DEVI as per Birth Certificate issued by BDO office Ramban. Objection if any may be conveyed to the concerned authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice

NOTICE

I Manisha Kumari, D/o Krishna Mahto, R/o Gram-Ubahi, Tehsil Siswan, District Siwan, State Bihar, have applied for correction of my sister namely Arti Kumari her Date of Birth which has been wrongly written as 01-01-2013 instead of correct DOB is 22-07-2012 in her school records objection if any may be conveyed to the concerned authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

NOTICE

I PATAIL SINGH SON OF PARAS RAM R/O SENABATHI, TEHSIL POGAL PARISTAN UKHRAL, DISTRICT RAMBAN J&K (U.T) That date of birth of my child/children is not recorded in the office of registrar birth and death i.e. Block Development Officer Ukhral/Ramsoo. That my child/children was/were born at Village Senabathi of Tehsil Pogal Paristan Ukhral District Ramban. That the deponent approached the concerned authorities for issuance of date of birth certificate, but they have informed that the date of birth has not been recorded in the concerned chowkidar register.. That information of the date of birth of my child/children is tabulated as under. I further state that my son & daughter's namely Rishika Devi Thakur, Disha Devi Thakur & Devansh Singh Thakur is not attending/admission in any school/college/university till date and date of birth certificate is required for school admission/aadhar enrolment purpose. Objection if any may be conveyed to the concerned authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice

Army Commander Northern Command Reviews Operational Preparedness in North Kashmir

Rajouri, April 10 Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma, Army Commander Northern Command, conducted a visit to hinterland formations and units in North Kashmir to assess their operational readiness and review the prevailing security situation. During the visit, the Army Commander was comprehensively briefed by senior field commanders on the current security scenario in the region. Detailed discussions were held with a special focus on enhancing synergy and coordination among various security and intelligence agencies to effectively counter emerging challenges.



Lt Gen Pratik Sharma appreciated the unwavering dedication, professionalism, and commitment of the troops deployed in the region. He commended their sustained efforts in maintaining a high state of alertness and operational preparedness, which have been instrumental in keeping the region free from terror activities and ensuring peace and stability. The Army Commander also emphasized the importance of continued vigilance, inter-agency cooperation, and community engagement to further strengthen the security environment in North Kashmir.

ADDC reviews civic, security arrangements for smooth celebrations

DODA, APRIL 10: Additional Deputy Commissioner Anil Kumar Thakur today reviewed civic and security arrangements for smooth celebration of Baisakhi Festival across the district. During the meeting, the ADC directed concerned officers to make comprehensive arrangements and provide necessary facilities at designated venues. Emphasis

was laid on maintaining law and order, sanitation and public safety. The police department was tasked with ensuring adequate security arrangements, while the Municipality was instructed to maintain proper sanitation and cleanliness in and around festival sites. Magistrate duties were also assigned to ensure effective on-ground supervision.

MLA Rajouri, MLA Thannamandi flag Off Public Awareness Rally in Rajouri Under Ongoing Awareness Programme



Rajouri, April 10: As part of the ongoing awareness initiative, a Public Awareness Rally was successfully organized today in Rajouri to disseminate key social messages among the community. The rally was flagged off from Dak Bungalow Rajouri by MLA Rajouri, Ifkhar Ahmed, and MLA Thannamandi, Muzaffar Khan. Gaurav Tripathi IPS (Prob) The rally commenced from Dak Bungalow Rajouri, passed through Gujjar Mandi, and culminated at Boys Higher Secondary School Rajouri. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and staff of various schools, reflecting a strong commitment towards spreading awareness at the grassroots level. Gaurav Tripathi IPS (Prob), Chief Education Officer Rajouri, Mohd Hafiz, District Information Officer Rajouri, Ashiq Rafiq; District Social Welfare Officer, Abdul Rahim; ARTO Rajouri, Rajesh Gupta; Principal Boys Higher Secondary School Rajouri, Mohd Muslim Wani; and Principal GHSS Rajouri, Gulzar Ahmed Qasmi were also present on the occasion.

Chief Education Officer Rajouri, Mohd Hafiz, while speaking on the occasion, stated that the School Education Department will continue to organize such awareness programmes in the future as well, with the aim of sensitizing students and the wider community on important social and environmental issues. Similar rallies were also organized in different parts of the district, witnessing large-scale participation of students and staff, thereby amplifying the reach and impact of the awareness campaign. Iqbal Khan emphasized that awareness rallies play a vital role in educating the masses and addressing pressing social issues. He highlighted the need for collective action and active youth participation to bring about meaningful change in society.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR JAMMU AND KASHMIR SERVICES SELECTION BOARD

Subject: Final Selection List for the post of Dhoib, UT Cadre under Item No. 15 advertised vide Advertisement Notification No. 04 of 2025 dated 28.04.2025 of Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat, Jammu and Kashmir.

Notification No. 15 - Selection of 2025
Dated: 09th of April, 2025

Whereas, the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat, Jammu and Kashmir, vide Order No. LGS-123/Secy/2025/25807 Dated: 21.02.2025, LGS-123/Secy/2025/1144 Dated: 20.03.2025 and LGS-123/Secy/2025/1454 Dated: 15.04.2025, among other posts, forwarded the requisition for making direct recruitment to the following vacant posts as mentioned as under in the following break up:

S. No.	Item No.	Name	Cadre	OH	SC	ST-1	ST-2	OBC	ALC / JIS	RBA	EWS	Total
1	15	Dhoib	UT Cadre	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

Whereas, as per the order/Advertisement Notification, the prescribed qualification for the post above is as under:

Item No.	Name	Cadre	Qualification
15	Dhoib	UT	1. B.Tech. and 13th by profession. 2. And: The professional conditions to be as given by the concerned authority.

Whereas, the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) advertised the above post among other posts of Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat, Jammu and Kashmir vide Advertisement Notification No. 04 of 2025 dated 28.04.2025 and after the call-off date, i.e. the last date for applying for the aforementioned posts and for depositing the requisite academic qualification and validity of category certificates and other such documents of the candidates which may be required as per intimation was 18.06.2025; and

Whereas, as per the Notification, the selection to these posts was to be made on the basis of Written Examination only and, accordingly, the JKSSB conducted the OMR Test for these posts on 13.07.2025 and after holding the exams, the Result/Score-sheet of the candidates was notified vide notification No. JKSSB-COEEXAM/UT/23/2025-03 (7695962) dated 04.06.2025; and

Whereas, on the basis of merit obtained by the candidates, the Document Verification was conducted vide Notice No. JKSSB COEEXAM/UT/23/2025-03 (7695962) dated 24.09.2025 both at Jammu and Srinagar by the DV Committees. Supplementary DV for the left-out candidates was also conducted vide Notice No. JKSSB-COEEXAM/UT/23/2025-03 (7695962) dated 07.10.2025; and

Whereas, the Selection Committee for preparing the selection to the aforementioned posts was constituted vide Order No. 334-553 of 2025 dated 28.10.2025. The committee was again re-constituted vide order No. 389-558 of 2025 dated: 15.12.2025 and the selection stands framed by the Selection committee strictly in accordance with the intimation received from the Indenting Department. It is pertinent to mention that the horizontal reservation in this particular selection could not be implemented due to less number of posts in the items for the block as required for ESM and PwDs; and

Whereas, the provisional selection list for the aforementioned posts, prepared as per the merit/eligibility of the candidates and having regard to the extant rules/regulations was approved by the Board in its 334th Meeting held on 02.01.2026 and subsequently notified vide Notification No. JKSSB-Secy/23/2025-03 (E-792513) dated 06.01.2026, seeking objections from the candidates; and

Whereas, the selection committee was re-constituted vide office order No. 95-556 of 2026 Dated 03.03.2026. Subsequently, after examination of the representations received regarding the Provisional Selection List, the Board, in its 345th Board Meeting held on 07.04.2025, deliberated and approved the proposal for notifying the Final Selection List for the above said posts.

Now, therefore, the Final Selection List of the candidates for the aforementioned post of Dhoib, UT Cadre under Item No. 15 advertised vide Advertisement Notification No. 04 of 2025 dated 28.04.2025 of Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat, Jammu and Kashmir is hereby notified as **Annexure-A** to this Notification. It is further notified that:

- (1) The above Final Selection List shall be subject to the outcome of OMR/Writ Petition(s), if any, pending adjudication before any Competent Court of law.
- (2) The List shall also be subject to the outcome of such inquiry, involving any candidate(s), as figuring in this List.
- (3) The formal recommendations to the concerned Indenting Department shall be made separately.
- (4) The candidate(s), whose recommendations are kept withheld, shall submit the requisite documents/certificates within a period of one month.
- (5) The Selection of the candidates has been made on the basis of Self-declaration/Certificates submitted by them and if at any stage, it comes to the light that any candidate(s) has submitted false information or has secured selection on the basis of fake documents/certificates, the selection shall be liable to cancellation at any stage.

By Order.

S/-
(Atul Kumar) JKAS
Secretary,
J&K Services Selection Board

No. JKSSB-Secy/33/2025-03 (E-7792513) Dated: 09.04.2026

DIP/J-402/26

Annexure-A													
FINAL SELECTION LIST FOR THE POST OF DHOIB, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT, UT CADRE, ADVERTISED VIDE NOTIFICATION NO. 04 OF 2025 DATED: 28.04.2025 UNDER ITEM NO. 15													
S.No.	B.V. S.No.	Application Id.	Roll No.	Candidate Name	Father Name	DOB	Selection Category	TOTAL MARKS	PERMANENT ADDRESS	QUALIFICATION	NAME OF THE INSTITUTION/UNIVERSITY	YEAR OF PASSING	REMARKS
SELECTION LIST UNDER OPEN MERIT (OM)													
1	J KVR	252447000085	1020002	MAJID IQBAL DOBI	MOHAMMAD IQBAL DOBI	15.09.1997	OMV/OBC	100.75	65 FEDERAL CROOKY SUKORA ABAD NAG, 281108	10TH	JIBOEE	2022	
WAITING LIST UNDER OPEN MERIT (OM)													
1	JMU	252447000048	1020016	TANVIR AHMAD	MOHD SALEEM	12.09.1996	OM	95.50	899 ANJUM MUMBAI CHIKHAR ANJUM COLONY JAMINA WEST, 150070	10TH	JIBOEE	2022	R/W Subject to production of Valid Professional Certificate

S/-
Atul Kumar (JKAS)
Secretary
J&K Services Selection Board.

From struggle to spotlight: Rajouri teen becomes J&K's first Boxer on Asian stage

JAMMU, Apr 9: Rising from personal loss, financial hardship and years of quiet struggle, 14-year-old Mohd Yasser from Rajouri has scripted an extraordinary journey to become the first boxer from Jammu and Kashmir to be selected for the Sub-Junior (Under-15) Asian Boxing Championship – a milestone that has brought pride and hope to the Union Territory. The championship is scheduled to be held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, from May 1 (2026), where Yasser will step into the ring wearing India's colours for the first time, marking a defining moment in his young career. Yasser secured his place on the national squad after an impressive performance at the selection trials conducted at the National Institute of Sports (NIS), Patiala, from April 4 to 9.

Competing against some of the most promising sub-junior boxers from across the country, he demonstrated technical finesse, endurance and composure under pressure – qualities that ultimately earned him the selectors' nod. His selection is not merely a sporting achievement for Jammu and Kashmir but a breakthrough moment for a region that has long remained on the margins of India's boxing map. Trained by Mohd Ishtyaq, head coach at the Khelo India Boxing Centre in Rajouri, Yasser has been part of a structured training system since 2022. His coach, who has closely mentored him over the years, described the achievement as both emotional and historic. "It is a proud moment not only for Rajouri but for the entire Union Territory. Yasser has shown discipline, consistency and

determination since the day he started training. His success reflects the potential that exists in our youth when given proper guidance and infrastructure," Ishtyaq said. He added that Yasser had earlier trained at the Sports Authority of India's National Centre of Excellence in Rohtak for a brief period following his national success, but returned to Rajouri to continue training under familiar conditions. "We felt he needed more personalised attention at this stage. We are now focusing on correcting a few technical aspects before he joins the national camp in Pune for final preparations," he said. While the achievement marks a high point in Yasser's career, the road leading to it has been marked by hardship and resilience. A Class 9 student at the Government Boys Higher Secondary



School, Rajouri, Yasser's life changed drastically in 2018 when he lost both his father and his family home in the same year. Since then, his mother, Naseem Akhter, has been the sole breadwinner, working as a domestic help in local households to support the family. The burden of responsibility at a young age has shaped Yasser's outlook, instilling in him a sense of discipline and determination that reflects

in his sporting journey. Balancing school, training and family responsibilities, Yasser also takes up odd jobs in his spare time to contribute to household expenses and to support the education of his younger siblings – a brother studying in Class 9 and a sister in primary school. Despite the odds, he remained focused on his passion for boxing. His breakthrough came in August 2025, when he clinched a gold medal at the Sub-Junior National Boxing Championship in Noida. The victory brought him recognition and briefly turned the spotlight on his struggles. Following his win, the district administration announced a monthly financial assistance of Rs 4,000 for Yasser and similar support for his sister, along with assurances of better living conditions. However, according to

Yasser, the support has not been consistent. "I received only three instalments, and my sister has not received any assistance so far," he said. He added that despite promises made after his national success, his family continues to live in a modest and difficult environment, where basic issues like water seepage during rains remain a concern. Recalling the challenges he has faced, Yasser said, "In 2018, we lost our house and my father passed away due to illness. Since then, my mother has been taking care of everything. I try to help her by working in my free time so that I can support my family and continue my studies and training." Yet, amid these struggles, the young boxer remains grounded and focused on his goals. "I am very happy to be selected for the Indian team. It is the

biggest day of my life. My mother is very proud, and that means everything to me," he said. For his coach, Yasser's journey is a reminder of what can be achieved through perseverance and support at the grassroots level. "He is a product of the Khelo India system. His success shows that talent exists even in the most remote areas – it just needs the right platform," Ishtyaq said, adding that the focus now is on ensuring Yasser is fully prepared for the international stage. Deputy Commissioner of Rajouri Abhishek Sharma described Yasser's selection as a significant achievement for the district and the Union Territory. Acknowledging concerns regarding the delay in financial assistance, he attributed it to technical issues and assured that all pending dues would be cleared soon.

Sunny Verma Appointed BCCI-CoE Strength & Conditioning Coach for Senior Men's North East Camp

JAMMU, Apr 10: In a proud milestone for Jammu and Kashmir's sports fraternity, ace trainer Sunny Verma has been officially appointed as Strength and Conditioning Coach for the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Centre of Excellence (CoE) Senior Men's North East Camp. Scheduled from April 20 to May 14, 2026, at Ranchi, Jharkhand, the camp underscores BCCI's commitment to nurturing elite talent from the North East region. The appointment letter, issued by VVS Laxman, Head of Cricket at BCCI-CoE, directs Sunny Verma to report to Ranchi on April 19, 2026. It also requires him to promptly submit his ticketing and clothing details to facilitate seamless logistics for the high-intensity training program. Sunny Verma's selection is a testament to his proven expertise and transformative impact on cricketing fitness. He brings invaluable experience from accompanying the Jammu & Kashmir Ranji Trophy team during the triumphant 2025-26 season.



where his rigorous conditioning regimens played a pivotal role in the side's historic triumph as national champions – the first such feat for the union territory. Under his guidance, players elevated their physical resilience, endurance, and performance, setting a benchmark for regional cricket excellence.

Asian Wrestling Championships: Hansika, Neha clinch bronze medals, Meenakshi reaches final

Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan), Apr 9: Hansika Lamba and Neha won a bronze medal each in the women's 55kg and 59kg class respectively while two-time national champion Meenakshi Goyat came back from the brink to beat South Korea's Seoyoung Park and reach the final of the 53kg category at the Senior Asian Wrestling Championships here on Thursday. In the women's 55kg bronze medal bout, Hansika was cautious in the first round against Kyrgyzstan's Aruuke Kadyrbek Kyzy. The 19-year-old Indian then opened her account with a take down in the

first minute of the second round with a leg attack. She then pressed for the advantage and won the bout 6-1. Neha then added the seventh medal to India's tally when she registered a dominating 10-4 win over Mongolia's Bolortuya Khurelkhuu in the

women's 59kg bronze medal play-off. The men's Greco Roman wrestlers had bagged two silver and three bronze medals on the first three days of competition. Meenakshi, who made it to the Indian team after beating world championships bronze medalist Antim Panghal, was trail-



ing 0-2 till the last 30 seconds against the Korean on Thursday. However, the 25-year-old surprised her opponent with a four-point throw and then defended her position to reach the final. The former Asian U-23 champion will face China's Jin Zhang, who defeated Japan's Moe Kiyooka by fall, in the final. Meanwhile, Harshita (72kg) and Monika (65kg) will aim for bronze medals on Friday. Harshita went down 2-7 against 2024 Asian Championships gold medalist Mahiro Yoshitake of Japan in the women's 72kg semifinal and will now face

Sveinchoy Polvonova of Uzbekistan for the bronze medal. In the women's 65kg category, Monika lost to eventual finalist Nana Ikehata of Japan in the quarterfinals. She will now face losing semifinalist Hanbit Lee of South Korea in the bronze medal bout. Minakshi (57kg) and Mansi (62kg) will also have a chance to win a medal after making it to the repechage round. In the repechage round, Minakshi will face Kyrgyzstan's Tancholpon Kybalbekova and Mansi will take on Mongolia's Tserenmichid Sukhee on Friday.

Indians bag triple gold, Bangladesh win U-19 boys title

SHIMLA, Apr 9: India's Under-19 girls extended their unbeaten run with a series of commanding performances in the regional qualifiers for the ITTF-ATTU Asian Youth Table Tennis Championships here on Thursday. With Thursday's results after the completion of ten events, India claimed three of the four team titles – Under-19 Girls, Under-15 Boys, and Under-15 Girls – underlining the country's strength and depth at the junior level. The only title to elude the hosts came in the Under-19 Boys category, where Bangladesh finished on top in a closely fought contest. India did not field a team in this section, having already secured qualification during last year's Asian Championships in Tashkent. The hosts registered clinical 3-0



victories over Nepal, Maldives, and Bangladesh on Thursday, finishing comfortably at the top of the round-robin standings. On Wednesday, the hosts beat Sri Lanka by a similar margin. With four wins from as many ties, India not only retained the gold

medal in the category but also qualified as the top-ranked team for the continental championships. Sri Lanka, finishing second and claimed the other qualification spot from the region. The singles and doubles events across the sections begin on

Friday. Results Team: Under 19 Boys: Round 3: Bangladesh bt Sri Lanka 3-0; Nepal bt Maldives 3-0. Under 15 Boys: Round 3, 4 & 5: India bt Nepal 3-0 (Aditya Das bt Reevan Bajracharya 11-4, 11-5, 11-8, Rishan Chatterpadiyay bt Nischal Thapa 11-6, 11-5, 11-5, Akash Rajavelu bt Siddhartha Gyawali 11-4, 11-5, 11-8); Sri Lanka bt Maldives 3-0; India bt Sri Lanka 3-0 (Akshay Kirikara 8-11, 11-5, 11-9, 11-8, Aditya bt Venul Abeywickrama 11-4, 11-8, 11-6, Rishan bt Prityage Silva 11-5, 11-1, 11-6); Bangladesh bt Maldives 3-0; India bt Bangladesh 3-0 (Akshay bt Shahin Mohammed 11-8, 11-2, 11-6, Aditya bt Midul Mohammed 11-4, 13-11, 11-4, Akash bt Tamjid Porosh 11-9, 8-11, 11-3, 11-4); Sri Lanka bt Nepal 3-1.

KKR's pace woes exposed as LSG pull off last-ball win

KOLKATA, Apr 9: Kolkata Knight Riders' inexperience in pace bowling came back to haunt them yet again as Lucknow Super Giants rode on a stunning late assault from rookie Mukul Choudhary and a fifty from Ayush Badoni to clinch a three-wicket win in a last-ball IPL thriller here on Thursday. Defending 181, KKR looked in control when Cameron Green, making his much-anticipated debut this season, struck with his second ball to remove LSG skipper Rishabh Pant. But the Australian all-rounder, short on bowling rhythm following workload management after back surgery, could not



deliver at the death. Tasked to bowl the crucial penultimate over with 30 runs needed off the last two overs, Green conceded 16 runs as 21-year-old debutant Choudhary turned the game on its head with fearless hitting, smashing two sixes and a four, including a flat hit over long leg. With 14 required off the

final over, Vaibhav Arora, who has played the lead penultimate over with 30 KKR in the absence of Harshit Rana and Matheesha Pathirana, faltered under pressure. Choudhary sealed the contest in dramatic fashion, launching two sixes, including one off the penultimate.

Ravi Shastri calls Wankhede his 'karmabhoomi' after stand named in his honour

Mumbai, Apr 10: Former India all-rounder and head coach Ravi Shastri expressed heartfelt gratitude after a stand at the iconic Wankhede Stadium was named in his honour, calling it his "karmabhoomi," where his cricketing journey began. The Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) on Thursday paid tribute to some of Mumbai cricket's most celebrated figures by dedicating stands and stadium gates in their names. Alongside Shastri, the legends Dilip Sardesai, Eknath Solkar, and Diana Edulji also received honour for their contributions to the game. The Level 1 stand below the press box with, and known as the Ravi Shastri Stand, recognising a figure whose impact spans generations, as a member of



India's 1983 World Cup-winning team, former captain, coach, and commentator. The honours were unveiled by Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. The ceremony was attended by several dignitaries, including Cabinet Minister Ashish Shelar, MCA President Ajinkya Naik, and former India greats Sunil Gavaskar and Dilip Vengaskar. Shastri also thanked the officials and the association for the honour, saying, "My sincere thanks to Hon'ble CM Shri @Dev Fadnavis, Shri @ShelarAshish, Shri @ajinkyasnaik, the MCA Apex Council and the entire MCA management for this great honour. Mumbai gave me everything, and this honour at Wankhede means more than words can express."

Sheetal Devi sets sights on Para Asian Games glory

New Delhi, Apr 10: World No. 1 and reigning World Archery Para Champion Sheetal Devi is keeping her focus firmly on the present, choosing a step-by-step approach in her journey rather than looking too far ahead to the LA 2028 Paralympics. For now, her attention is centred on the upcoming Para Asian Games in Japan later this year. Fresh off a stellar 2025 season that saw her clinch a world title in Gwangju, Sheetal was recently named Para-Archer of the Year at the World Archery Awards. Despite the recognition, the young archer remains grounded in her approach. "I don't think too far ahead, like jumping straight to the Paralympics; I prefer taking it step by step," Sheetal said in an online press conference organised by the Sports Authority of India (SAI). "Even in the World Series, my focus was simply on doing my best. The Paralympics will come later, since the Asian Games are happening first, that is where my main focus lies," she added.



Sheetal began her 2026 campaign with a silver medal at the World Archery Para Series, the first outdoor international event of the year. In an all-India final, she was edged out by compatriot Payal Nag, a quadruple amputee, who secured gold with a narrow 139-136 win. Reflecting on her preparations for the upcoming Para Asian Games, Sheetal expressed satisfaction with her progress. "So

far, the training is going well," she said. Her coach, Gaurav Sharma, echoed that sentiment, highlighting both her consistency and the increasing competitiveness within the Indian camp. "The preparations are going good. She hasn't played continuously this year so far, but the performance has remained strong. Coming in first or second is just a part of the game. It is great that the gold medal went

to India. Payal considers Sheetal her idol, so losing to her is also a matter of pride since it was to a fellow Indian compatriot." He further underlined the benefits of strong internal competition. "It is a good thing that, ahead of the Asian Games, we've realised that our competition within India is also very high. Often, athletes feel that their only competition is from foreigners, but it is positive that we are finding such tough competition right here in India. This will only increase our focus for the Asian Games." Elaborating on the training roadmap, Sharma revealed that the team is currently based in Patiala and is planning an overseas stint to fine-tune preparations. "We are training in Patiala until May. After May, we plan to train in the USA with the support of TOPS (Target Olympic Podium Scheme) and SAI (Sports Authority of India). There is currently a surge of a visa issue, which will hopefully be sorted out. If the USA plan doesn't work out, we will continue training in Patiala," he said.

Boat capsizes in Vrindavan claims 10 lives of a group from Punjab, rescue operations on

Mathura, April 10 (UNI) A devastating accident occurred on Friday afternoon in Vrindavan when a steamer carrying around 30 tourists capsized in the Yamuna River, resulting in the death of 10 people. The victims include six women and four men, all tourists from Punjab who had come

to visit the holy town. The incident took place at approximately 2:45 PM near Kesi Ghat, located about 2.5 kilometers from the famous Banke Bihari Temple. According to officials, the steamer lost balance amid strong winds while navigating the river and eventually collided

with a temporary pontoon (Pipa) bridge before overturning. Mathura District Magistrate Chandra Prakash Singh confirmed the fatalities and stated that all victims were part of a tourist group from Jagraon in Ludhiana, Punjab. He claimed that an army rescue team would reach soon

to join rescue operation. Eyewitness accounts from survivors indicate that weather conditions deteriorated suddenly, with strong gusts causing the vessel to sway violently. The steamer reportedly picked up speed uncontrollably before crashing into the bridge structure. Rescue operations were immediately launched by teams from the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), along with around 50 local divers. So far, approximately 15 people have been rescued from the river. One critically injured individual has been admitted to a nearby hospital, while search operations

continue for those still missing. Authorities have urged the public to remain calm and cooperate with rescue personnel, as a large crowd gathered at the site hampering rescue efforts. Police and local administration are closely monitoring the situation and coordinating the search in the deep waters of the Yamuna. Expressing grief over the tragedy, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath conveyed his condolences to the bereaved families and directed officials to ensure immediate rescue and relief measures, along with proper medical treatment for the injured. Investigations are expected to follow once rescue operations conclude.

Congress slams Modi over 'flip-flop' on women's quota, seeks apology

New Delhi, Apr 10:

The Congress on Friday intensified its attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, accusing him of backtracking on the implementation of women's reservation and attempting to claim exclusive credit ahead of crucial elections. In a statement, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh alleged that the Prime Minister has begun writing articles to portray himself as the "sole champion" of women's reservation in the Lok Sabha and state Assemblies from 2029, while overlooking the government's earlier stance that delayed its rollout.



"Actually, he owes an apology to the women of India," Ramesh said, referring to the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam. He noted that while the legislation—providing 33 per cent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state Assemblies—was passed unanimously in Parliament, the Congress had pushed for its implementation from the 2024 elections. Ramesh argued that the government had linked the rollout of the law to the completion of the Census and a subsequent delimitation exercise, both of which he claimed

were delayed for years. "This was not acceptable to the Prime Minister, who made the reservation dependent on the delimitation and Census exercises that he had failed to conduct and then dithered on for many years," he said. He further contended that nearly 30 months after the law's passage, the government is now attempting to "change its narrative" by downplaying the need for Census-linked delimitation, despite indications that Census results could be ready by 2027.

BJP unveils Bengal manifesto; promises Rs 3,000 aid, jobs push and tough anti-infiltration policy

Kolkata, April 10 The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Friday unveiled its 'Sankalp Patra' for the forthcoming West Bengal Assembly elections, promising a mix of welfare measures, administrative reforms and a tough stance on infiltration as union Home Minister Amit Shah launched a sharp attack on the incumbent government led by Mamata Banerjee. Describing the manifesto as a roadmap for building a "Sonar Bangla", Shah alleged that the past 15 years under the All India Trinamool Congress (TMC) had been a "nightmare" for the people of the state, marked by corruption, deteriorating law and order, and lack of development. The BJP's poll document places significant emphasis on national security and border management, with Shah asserting that a BJP government in the state would adopt a policy of "detect, delete and deport" to tackle infiltration. "There will be zero tolerance towards infiltration in Bengal," he said, adding that a uniform legal framework would be ensured for all citizens, alongside safeguards for freedom of religion. In a bid to consolidate support among women voters, the party has promised a monthly financial assistance of Rs 3,000 for women across the state. It has also pledged 33 per cent reservation for women in all government jobs, including the police force, and announced the formation of a dedicated women's security unit named 'Durga Suraksha Squad'. The manifesto also seeks to address unemployment with a promise of Rs 3,000 monthly allowance for jobless youth until employment is secured. Additionally, the BJP has committed to generating employment opportunities for up to one crore people over the next five years through a mix of industrial growth and self-employment initiatives. For state government employees, the party has assured implementation

of the Seventh Pay Commission within 45 days of assuming office, along with central rates of dearness allowance for employees and pensioners. Targeting what it termed as entrenched corruption, the BJP promised to dismantle the "cut money" culture and syndicate system. It also proposed the publication of a "white paper" to highlight alleged irregularities and governance failures during the TMC's tenure. On the agricultural front, the manifesto promises enhanced support for farmers, including fair pricing for crops and special assistance for paddy, potato and mango cultivation. It also outlines plans to boost the fisheries sector by enrolling all fishermen under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana and positioning West Bengal as a leading fish export hub. The BJP has further pledged to take stringent action against cattle smuggling and pursue legislation for the implementation of a Uniform Civil Code. In the tea and jute sectors, the party has proposed modernisation initiatives, global branding for Darjeeling tea, and revival of ageing tea gardens. Among other promises, the party has committed to implementing all central government schemes in the state, including Ayushman Bharat, along with free HPV vaccination and breast cancer screening for women.

It also announced plans to establish a new AIIMS in North Bengal and set up IIT and IIM campuses in the region. Cultural and linguistic issues have also found a place in the manifesto, with assurances to include Kurali and Rajshahi languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution and to set up a 'Vande Mataram Sangrahalaya'. As the electoral battle intensifies, the BJP's Sankalp Patra signals a strategy that blends welfare outreach with strong political messaging on governance, identity, and security, setting the stage for a high-stakes contest in the state.

Justice Yashwant Varma resigns from Allahabad HC 'with deep anguish' as impeachment probe continues

New Delhi, April 10:

Justice Yashwant Varma of the Allahabad High Court has resigned with immediate effect, writing to President Droupadi Murmu and bringing his tenure to an abrupt close while impeachment proceedings were underway against him.

The development comes against the backdrop of a prolonged controversy and parallel legal scrutiny, including a parliamentary inquiry and an earlier in-house probe by the judiciary into allegations linked to a cash recovery case. In his resignation letter dated April 9, Justice Varma said he did not wish to state the reasons behind

his decision, but added that he was stepping down "with deep anguish" as he also described it as an honour to have served as a judge of the Allahabad High Court. A copy of the letter was marked to Chief Justice of India Surya Prakash Singh. "I do not propose to burden your august office with the reasons which have constrained me to submit this missive."

It has been an honour to serve in this office," the letter read. Justice Varma had been under the spotlight since March 14, 2025, when burnt cash was allegedly found in an outhouse at his official residence during



his tenure at the Delhi High Court. He was later transferred back to the Allahabad High Court, where he took oath on April 5, 2025. Impeachment notices, court setbacks and inquiry panels. The controversy had escalated in July 2025, when

impeachment notices backed by 145 Lok Sabha MPs and 63 Rajya Sabha MPs were introduced in Parliament. After this, the Lok Sabha Speaker formed a three-member inquiry panel under the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968. Justice Varma challenged the formation of this committee in the Supreme Court, arguing that simultaneous notices in both Houses required joint consultation between the Speaker and the Rajya Sabha Chairman. However, a bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Satish Chandra Sharma dismissed his plea, stating that he was not entitled to relief.

He had also questioned the findings of an earlier in-house panel constituted by the Supreme Court, which had said he exercised "secret or active control" over the cash allegedly recovered. The apex court upheld the internal process, calling it fair and consistent with judicial independence. Separately, a parliamentary panel examining the allegations held hearings between March 13 and March 21 this year as part of the impeachment process. Justice Varma, in his written submissions, denied ownership of any cash and said he was not present when a fire incident reportedly led to its discovery.

ISRO conducts 2nd Integrated Air drop Test for Gaganyaan mission SPACE ISRO GAGANYAAN AIR drop TEST

Chennai, April 10 (UNI) Taking yet another major step forward as part of its maiden Human space flight mission, Gaganyaan, the Indian Research Organisation (ISRO) on Friday conducted the second Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-02), validating the parachute-based deceleration systems in the Crew Module. The Air drop test was conducted at the spaceport of Sriharikota, about 110 km from here, today. In an update, ISRO said "The second Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-02) for Gaganyaan mission was successfully conducted at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota on April 10, 2026." In this test, a simulated Crew Module, weighing about 5.7 tonnes, that is equivalent to the mass of the Crew Module in the first uncrewed Gaganyaan mission (G1), was lifted by an Indian Air Force Chinook helicopter to an altitude of about 3 km and

released over a designated drop zone in sea, near to the Sriharikota coast, it said. Ten parachutes of four types were deployed in a precise sequence during the descent of the Crew Module, gradually reducing the velocity for safe touchdown. Subsequently, the simulated Crew Module was successfully recovered in coordination with Indian Navy. The IADT-02 test validated the parachute-based deceleration systems in the Crew Module, ISRO said. This test marks another significant step towards the readiness for the Gaganyaan G1 Mission, with active support and participation from the Indian Air Force, Indian Navy, and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The Gaganyaan mission envisages launching a crew of three members to an orbit of 400 km for a 3-day mission and bringing them back safely to

the earth by facilitating their landing in Indian sea. The spacecraft mainly consists of the Crew Module (CM) and Service Module (SM). The CM structure, simulates the shape and size of the actual Gaganyaan crew module. ISRO said the Gaganyaan mission project will be accomplished through an optimal strategy by considering in-house expertise, experience of Indian industry, intellectual capabilities of Indian academia and research institutions along with cutting edge technologies available with international agencies. The prerequisites for Gaganyaan mission include development of many critical technologies including human rated launch vehicle for carrying crew safely to space, Life Support System to provide an earth like environment in space, crew emergency escape provision and evolving crew management aspects for training,

recovery and rehabilitation of crew. ISRO and various precursor missions are continuing for demonstrating the Technology Readiness Levels before carrying out the actual Human Space Flight mission. The demonstrator missions include Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT), Pad Abort Test (PAT) and Test Vehicle (TV) flights, besides unmanned flights. Safety and reliability of all systems will be proven in unmanned missions preceding manned mission. LVM3 rocket—the well proven and reliable heavy lift launcher of ISRO, will be the launch vehicle for Gaganyaan mission. It consists of solid stage, liquid stage and cryogenic stage, which will have increased thrust of 22 tonnes. All systems in LVM3 launch vehicle are configured to meet human rating requirements and christened Human Rated LVM3. LVM3

will be capable of launching the Orbital Module to an intended Low Earth Orbit of 400 km. HLVM3 consists of Crew Escape System (CES) powered by a set of quick acting, high burn rate solid motors which ensures that Crew Module along with crew is taken to a safe distance in case of any emergency either at launch pad or during ascent phase. Orbital Module (OM) that will be Orbiting Earth comprises of Crew Module (CM) and Service Module (SM). OM is equipped with state-of-the-art avionics systems with adequate redundancy considering human safety. CM is the habitable space with Earth like environment in space for the crew. It is of double walled construction consisting of pressurized metallic Inner Structure and unpressurised External Structure with Thermal Protection System (TPS). It houses the crew interfaces, human

centric products, life support system, avionics systems and re-entry to ensure safety of the crew during descent till touchdown. SM will be used for providing necessary support to CM while in orbit. It is an unpressurized structure containing thermal system, propulsion system, power systems, avionics systems and deployment mechanisms. As Human safety is of paramount importance in Gaganyaan mission and in order to ensure the same, various new technologies comprising Engineering systems and Human centric systems are being developed and realised. ISRO said the primary mandate of Human Space Flight (HSFC), inaugurated on January 30, 2019 at ISRO Headquarters campus in Bengaluru, during which a full scale model of Gaganyaan's crew module was also unveiled) is to spearhead the

manned mission programme through co-ordinated efforts and focus all the activities that are carried out in other ISRO centres, research labs in India, Indian academia and industries towards accomplishing the mission. HSFC, as the lead Centre for Human space flight activities conforms to high standards of reliability and human safety in undertaking R&D activities in new technology areas, such as life support systems, Human Factors Engineering, Bioastronautics, Crew training and Human rating and certification. These areas would constitute important components for future sustained human space flight activities like rendezvous and docking, space station building and interplanetary collaborative manned missions to Moon/Mars and near-earth asteroids.

Foreign Secretary Misri discusses India-US cooperation with FBI Director Kash Patel, Under Secy Allison Hooker

New Delhi, Apr 10:

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri held several high-level interactions aimed at deepening the India-US ties during his visit to Washington. He met FBI Director Kash Patel and discussed cooperation in countering terrorism. During his meeting with Allison Hooker, the Foreign Secretary discussed working closely on security, defence and economy. Sharing the details of the meeting in a post on X, Misri said "I met with the Indian Ambassador in the US said, 'Vikram Misri met Director FBI Mr. Kash Patel today. Both had a useful exchange of views on the robust bilateral cooperation in countering terrorism, organized crime, and narcotics.'" Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Allison Hooker, wrote on X, "Met with @VikramMisri today. Foreign Secretary Misri to discuss how we can work



closer together on security, defense, and the economy. We are finding practical ways to make both Americans and Indians safer and more prosperous, including through the Quad. Earlier, he also met with the US Secretary of State, Marco Rubio. US Ambassador to India Sergio Gorrer was also present at the meeting, during which they discussed the bilateral relationship between the two countries. "Welcome to the White House, Vikram Misri!"

'You can't fool people like in a film': DK Shivakumar targets TVK chief Vijay, calls him immature, forecasts sweeping DMK alliance victory

New Delhi, April 10:

The political temperature in Tamil Nadu just got hotter. According to Karnataka's Deputy CM, politics is not cinema. In a sharp remark, DK Shivakumar took a swipe at actor-turned-politician Vijay, saying people cannot be "fooled like in a film." His comments come as campaigning intensifies ahead of the high-stakes Tamil Nadu Assembly Elections 2026.

The statement quickly added spice to an already heated political contest, especially because Vijay is making his electoral debut with his party, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam. Shivakumar backs DMK alliance, predicts clear win. Speaking to reporters during his campaign visit, Shivakumar said he had met "lakhs of people" and



spread the message of the Indian National Congress leadership, including Rahul Gandhi and party president Mallikarjun Kharge. He stressed that the Congress stands firmly with the ruling alliance led by the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam. Shivakumar sounded confident about the outcome. He said the DMK alliance has done "great work" and



will continue delivering results. According to him, the alliance is heading toward a comfortable victory. He also claimed the coalition could even secure a two-thirds majority, indicating strong confidence in voter support. He repeated that the Congress remains committed to the DMK alliance and dismissed any suggestion of internal cracks. His

remarks aimed to reinforce unity within the Secular Progressive Alliance, which is seeking another term in power. "You can't fool people like in a film," swiped at Vijay Shivakumar didn't hold back while responding to Vijay's claims. He said only the Indian National Congress is the "original Congress" and rejected the actor-politician's suggestion that Congress cadres are backing TVK. In a sharp tone, he called Vijay an "immature politician" and insisted that film dialogues don't work in real politics. He added that Vijay may have some support from smaller groups but not from Congress. The remark clearly targeted Vijay's attempt to position himself as a fresh alternative in the state. Shivakumar also under-

lined that Congress workers remain aligned with the DMK and are not shifting loyalties. His statement was meant to counter Vijay's narrative that grassroots secular supporters were moving toward TVK. Vijay's counterattack and three-way contest brewing. Vijay had fired back at the DMK-led bloc, calling it a "cash box alliance." He also said the alliance between the Bharatiya Janata Party and the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam was essentially similar. Vijay is contesting from two constituencies: Tiruchirappalli East and Perambur. His entry is expected to turn the contest into a three-cornered battle between the ruling DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance, the NDA, and TVK.

DC Samba finalises modalities for 100-Day "Nasha Mukht Abhiyaan"

SAMBA, APRIL 10: Deputy Commissioner Samba Ayushi Sudan today chaired a comprehensive meeting in the Conference Hall of District Administrative Complex, Nandani Hills to finalise the modalities for the 100-day "Nasha Mukht Abhiyaan" in the district. The meeting was attended by the officers from Education, Youth Services & Sports, Health, Social Welfare, Police, Information and others. The Deputy Commissioner undertook a detailed review of the preparedness of all participating departments and issued comprehensive directions for the effective and time-bound implementation of the campaign. The DC underscored the pivotal role of the Education Department in organising awareness programmes in schools and colleges, while the Youth Services & Sports Department was tasked with engaging the youth through sports activities and community outreach.



The Health Department was directed to strengthen de-addiction services and conduct regular medical and counselling camps at the grassroots level. The Police Department was asked to intensify enforcement measures against drug trafficking and abuse, while the Information Department was instructed to ensure wide publicity and sustained community outreach

throughout the campaign period. All other departments were also assigned specific roles to ensure saturation coverage of awareness and preventive measures at the ground level. The Deputy Commissioner reiterated the importance of community participation and called for collective resolve from all stakeholders to make the campaign a success.

She further directed all officers to prepare detailed departmental action plans and ensure timely execution of all scheduled activities within the 100-day period. The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Jagdish Singh; ASP Garu Ram; SDMs and other district and sectoral officers from various line departments.

J&K Resident Commissioner's Samuhik Charcha fuels professional growth during Sadhana Saptah



NEW DELHI, APRIL 10: The Resident Commission of the Jammu and Kashmir government organized a "samuhik charcha" as part of the Sadhana Saptah observance, which was held from April 2 to April 8 with extension upto

April 10, 2026. The event was conducted in the Resident Commission office to review the activities related to the Kamayogi Portal. The participation and response of

the employees was encouraging which highlighted the success of the programme in promoting professional development and inter-departmental coordination. The discussion included a structured review of the office's hourly

progress with the employees being informed about the key courses under the programme. It emphasized their significance for professional development and capacity building. The samuhik charcha provided a platform for open interaction, wherein the officials shared their experiences and discussed various issues faced while accessing and undertaking the courses. These issues were suitably addressed and the individual concerns were resolved on a one-to-one basis to ensure smooth participation.

The initiative aimed at enhancing awareness, promoting active engagement and enabling the employees to derive maximum benefit from the learning modules available on the Kamayogi Portal.

Railways launch 'RailOne' awareness drive across Jammu Division

21-day campaign promotes digital ticketing and passenger-friendly services at stations and educational institutions

Jammu: The Jammu Division is continuously striving to provide its passengers with enhanced convenience, transparency, and incentives through digital mediums. In line with this effort—and under the guidance of the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Jammu, Shri Uchit Singhal—a significant and beneficial facility is being extended to passengers who purchase tickets through the railway-operated 'RailOne' app. As part of this initiative—aimed at translating the Railway's 'Digital India' vision into reality and integrating it with passenger amenities—a 21-day awareness campaign for the 'RailOne' app has been underway since April 6. This campaign is being conducted as a public awareness drive highlighting the utility of the 'RailOne' app across all



major and key railway stations falling under the Jammu Division, including Pathankot Cantt, Pathankot City, Jammu, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra, and Srinagar. The campaign is also being organized within colleges and universities across Jammu, where railway representatives are engaging with students and faculty members to apprise them of the benefits and utility of the 'RailOne' app. The

primary objective of this campaign is to familiarize rail passengers with the various railway services available on a single platform, thereby making their journeys smoother, safer, and technologically more robust. Regarding the active implementation of this campaign, employees from the Railway's Commercial Department have been stationed at various stations to engage directly with pas-

sengers, providing them with detailed explanations regarding the utility and features of the 'RailOne' app. In this context, dedicated 'RailOne' app awareness camps have also been set up at various railway stations. This campaign was not limited merely to providing information; rather, railway staff actively assisted passengers by helping them download and install the 'RailOne' app on their mobile phones. Elderly passengers and those less familiar with technology were guided through the app's interface and registration process in simple, easy-to-understand language, ensuring they could utilize it independently in the future. The features of the 'RailOne' app highlighted to passengers included the fact that they no longer need to maintain separate applications for various railway

services. Accurate information regarding current train status, PNR inquiries, and coach positions. The utility of the app for obtaining immediate resolutions to any issues related to cleanliness, water availability, or security encountered during the journey. The facility to book both unreserved and reserved tickets, as well as the option to order meals through e-catering services. In this regard, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Mr. Uchit Singhal, stated, "Our objective is to extend every digital railway service to the last-mile passenger. The 'RailOne' app serves as a digital companion for travellers. Given the substantial influx of tourists and pilgrims in the Jammu Division, this app is set to prove a milestone in streamlining their travel experiences."

SMVDU NCC Coordinator Successfully Completes Pre-Commissioning Course at OTA Nagpur



Katra, Apr 10: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) takes pride in announcing that its NCC Coordinator, Dr. Varun Dutta, Associate Professor, School of Mechanical Engineering, has successfully completed the prestigious Pre-Commissioning Course at the Officers Training

Academy (OTA) Nagpur. Dr. Dutta underwent rigorous military training at OTA Nagpur and has been formally commissioned as a Lieutenant. He demonstrated exceptional dedication and performance throughout the course and secured excellent grading in all examinations conducted

during the training period. Adding further laurels to his achievement, Dr. Dutta also emerged victorious in the Innovation Competition and the Video-Rec Making Competition during the course. He was awarded for these accomplishments by Maj Gen Upkar Chander, Commandant, OTA during the closing ceremony. Prof. Pragati Kumar, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of SMVDU, congratulated Dr. Dutta on his outstanding achievement and successful completion of the course. He appreciated Dr. Dutta's commitment and that his accomplishment brings great pride.

GDC Ramban Organized Awareness Session on Cyber Security & AI in Collaboration with NIIT Foundation

Ramban, Apr 10: GDC Ramban organized an awareness session on "Cyber Security & AI" in collaboration with NIIT Foundation, New-Delhi under the patronage of Prof. Romesh Kumar Atri, Principal GDC Ramban. The session aimed to enhance awareness among students about emerging digital threats and the growing role of AI in modern world. In his address, Prof. Romesh Kumar Atri, appreciated this collaboration between the College and NIIT foundation for organizing the programme for equipping students with industry-relevant knowledge and skills. He threw



light on the importance of Cyber Security in today's digital world and encouraged the students to learn from today's session. He also appreciated the Department of Computer Applications and Skills Committee of the College

for their role in successful organization of the programme. Mr. Soumya Biswas from NIIT was the resource person for today's session who delivered his talk through video conference. In this presentation, he discussed various

aspects of cyber security through engaging demonstrations and enumerated ways through which we can stay safe from being a victim of cyber crimes. He also discussed about the Artificial Intelligence, its applications and elaborated

upon the techniques for proper usage of AI tools. Real world case studies and interactive discussions helped participants gain practical insights into cyber risks and mitigation strategies. A large number of students and staff participated in the event and proceedings were conducted in a very interactive way. The whole programme was coordinated by Prof. Aditya Sharma from GDC Ramban and Ms. Sakshi, Executive from NIIT Foundation, New-Delhi. The session concluded with the vote of thanks by Prof. Arjun Gupta. Prof. Satish Kumar, Dr. Jawaid Sarver.

Awareness Campaign concludes in Kathua with enthusiastic student participation

DC flags off rally; Emphasis on Drug-Free, Responsible Youth

KATHUA, APRIL 10: The three-day Awareness Programme organised by the School Education Department concluded here today with an awareness rally and felicitation ceremony, marking the successful culmination of the initiative.

The rally was flagged off by Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma from Government Boys Higher Secondary School. Students, teachers and officials participated enthusiastically, spreading awareness on key themes including traffic awareness, environmental protection, mental health, drug de-addiction and career counselling. Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner



underscored the importance of staying away from substance abuse and maintaining focus on studies. He exhorted students to remain disciplined, motivated and committed towards their goals while adopting a healthy and responsible lifestyle. Chief Education Officer

Kewal Krishan also accompanied the Deputy Commissioner during the flagging off ceremony. Among others present on the occasion were Forest Range Officer Gulshan Kumar; District Health Officer Dr Uttam Chand and District Traffic Incharge Vikas Sharma.

DC Reasi flags off multi-thematic awareness rally



REASI, APRIL 10: Deputy Commissioner Reasi Kumar Abhishek today flagged off a multi-thematic awareness rally as part of a three-day comprehensive awareness programme aimed at sensitizing the public, particularly the youth, on key social and developmental issues, including mental health, drug de-addiction, career counselling, Road Safety awareness and environmental conservation. The rally commenced from the DC Office Complex, passed through the main Bus Stand and adjoining market areas and cul-

minated back at the starting point. Students from various educational institutions participated in large numbers. Carrying placards and raising slogans, they actively spread messages on the importance of a healthy lifestyle, responsible behaviour, road safety and environmental conservation among the general public.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of awareness programmes in shaping a responsible and informed society. "Students act as effective change-makers, capable of influencing their families and communities through informed actions and positive behavior," he noted. He further urged the youth to remain focused on their studies, adopt a disciplined lifestyle and actively contribute to nation-building. He also advised them to stay away from drugs, noting that it harms both individual health and society. The DC also called upon the participants to follow traffic rules diligently and contribute to maintaining a clean and green environment. He reiterated the administration's commitment to organizing such outreach programmes to build awareness and promote responsible citizenship among the masses.

Government Degree College Ramgarh Organized Awareness Program on Mental Health and Drug De-addiction

Ramgarh, Apr 10:

Government Degree College Ramgarh, led by Principal Prof. (Dr.) Meeru Abrol, organized a lecture on mental health and drug de-addiction on April 10, 2026, under the joint banner of the NCORD and NSS committees to raise awareness among students and the community. Dr. Snobar, Nodal Officer of NCORD and NSS, delivered the insightful lecture on the links between mental well-being and substance abuse. Students engaged actively through questions and discussions. Activity in-charges Dr. Snobar and Dr. Susheel Kumar ensured seamless coordination, supported by faculty members Dr. Neha Bharti, Mr. Darpan Malhotra, and Mr. Vikas Malmotra. The session stressed prevention strategies, stress coping, and addiction risks-promoting professional mental health support, drug avoidance, resilience habits, and peer care. Faculty commended the students' attentiveness and the programs' value in building resilient youth. Principal Prof. (Dr.) Meeru



Abrol praised the engagement, emphasizing mental health and de-addiction as collective responsibilities. She urged positive practices for a healthier, drug-free society. The impactful lecture showed how informed steps spark lasting change.

Govt to leverage Aadhaar data vault to ensure timely delivery of welfare benefits to public

JAMMU, APRIL 10: In a significant move towards strengthening digital governance and ensuring fiscal prudence, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has launched a Centralized Aadhaar Data Vault (ADV) to streamline public service delivery and enhance oversight of social security schemes across departments and financial institutions. The decision was taken in a meeting chaired by Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, who underscored the transformative potential of the initiative and directed the concerned departments to identify and onboard additional government services that can be brought under the ambit of the Aadhaar Data Vault to maximize its impact and utility. The meeting was also attended by ACS, Finance, Shailendra Kumar, MD, J&K Bank, Amitava Chatterjee, Commissioner Secretary, Information and Planning Departments, R Alice Vaz, DG, E&S, Ather



Hussain Qadri, Scientists from NIC (J&K Chapter), Representatives from SBI and other Banks along with senior officers from the PD&MD. Importantly, the Chief Secretary urged the banks to leverage this platform to streamline insurance claim settlements under PMJJBY and PMSBY by enabling instant verification of death records, thereby facilitating timely disbursement of benefits to rightful nominees. Simultaneously, he underscored on the necessity that the system should be utilised in automatically identifying cases where

government benefits such as pensions, social security assistance, and rations under Public Distribution System (PDS) continue to be availed even after the death of beneficiaries, thereby plugging leakages and safeguarding public resources. He enjoined upon the NIC to allow this initiative to be also used to ease the onboarding process for departments and institutions by providing a single, secure gateway for verification and eligibility checks, reducing both administrative and technical complexities. On this occasion it was presented by the NIC that the

newly established Aadhaar Data Vault has been integrated with the Civil Registration System, including the Birth and Death Portal here, to function as a secure and specialized Aadhaar Data Vault-as-a-Service (ADVaaS). This unified digital infrastructure is designed to act as a "Single Source of Truth," enabling real-time, secure, and authenticated access to vital records while strictly adhering to UIDAI-prescribed security and privacy protocols. The initiative focuses on creating a robust and scalable platform for managing

civil registration data and Aadhaar-based authentication services. It incorporates seamless API integration with the Office of the Registrar General of India (ORGI) to access real-time master and transactional data. Automated schedulers have been deployed to ensure periodic updates of records, keeping the system dynamic and accurate. Additionally, the platform enables inter-departmental integration through standardized APIs, thereby eliminating the need for multiple Memorandums of Understanding and significantly simplifying data-sharing processes. The Centralized ADV is expected to play a transformative role in strengthening the delivery and monitoring of welfare schemes. By introducing a "Single Token per Aadhaar" framework, the system facilitates effective de-duplication, preventing multiple or fraudulent claims across schemes and departments.

Govt committed to equitable development of Jammu, Srinagar cities: Deputy Chief Minister

Meets delegations; assesses key civic, development issues



JAMMU, APRIL 10: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today reiterated the Government's firm commitment towards ensuring balanced and equitable development of both Jammu and Srinagar cities. The Deputy Chief Minister made these remarks while interacting with various public and individual delegations at the Civil Secretariat, Jammu. A delegation led by former MLC, Rattan Lal Gupta, along with Tejinder Pal Singh (Aman) called on the Deputy Chief Minister and highlighted several

issues and demands pertaining to the development of Jammu city. Giving a patient hearing to the delegation, the Deputy Chief Minister assured that the Government is focused on holistic and robust development across all regions, with special emphasis on key urban centres like Jammu and Srinagar. He stated that a series of progressive initiatives are being undertaken, ranging from city beautification to creation and upgradation of essential infrastructure, including roads and civic amenities, aimed at

enhancing the overall quality of life for residents. The Deputy Chief Minister issued necessary directions to the concerned departments for prompt and effective redressal of issues impacting day-to-day life development in the Jammu region. During the interaction, several other delegations and individuals also met the Deputy Chief Minister and raised concerns related to road and bridge construction, employment opportunities, industrial growth, water supply, electricity, and other public welfare issues.

Director FCS&CA inspects stock position at Central Food Store



JAMMU, APRIL 10: Director Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) Jammu Rajesh Kumar Shrivastava today inspected the Central Food Store at Bikram Chowk to review the overall stock position, storage arrangements, infrastructure and upkeep of the premises.

The Director checked the stock position of food grains, office record, functioning of CCTV cameras and cleanliness of food godowns. He emphasized the need for maintaining proper storage standards to safeguard departmental stocks and ensure efficient functioning of the Central Store.

The Director issued strict instructions to the concerned Supervisor and Storekeepers to ensure thorough cleanliness of the entire Central Store premises, including godowns, office spaces and surrounding areas. Special stress was laid on maintaining hygiene, proper stacking of materials, removal of obsolete and unserviceable items and systematic record maintenance and inventory of the stores. Directions were issued for immediately starting repair and renovation of damaged portions of the godowns to protect the ration. The Director laid stress on regular inspections, cleanliness and timely maintenance of infrastructure for the smooth and efficient management of ration dispatches and storage.

SEBI organizes Regional Investor Awareness Seminar to promote financial literacy



SRINAGAR, APRIL 10: Regional Investor Awareness Seminar was successfully organized by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and the National Stock Exchange of India Ltd, in collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare, Srinagar. The initiative aimed to promote financial literacy and

enhance investor awareness among stakeholders connected with child care institutions. The seminar witnessed enthusiastic participation from officials of the Department of Social Welfare, along with representatives and beneficiaries from several child care institutions, including P a l a a s h / P a r e s h a,

Intellectual Home, Observation Home, and the Specialized Adoption Agency (SAA). The program was designed to equip participants with essential knowledge on financial planning, prudent investment practices, and the importance of making well-informed financial decisions. Key sessions covered a

broad range of topics such as an introduction to the securities market, strategies to identify and avoid fraudulent investment schemes, and the critical role of SEBI in protecting investor interests. SEBI officials underscored the importance of extending financial awareness initiatives to grassroots levels, particularly targeting vul-

nerable and underserved communities. The seminar also featured interactive sessions that encouraged active engagement, allowing participants to seek clarifications and deepen their understanding of core financial concepts. The Department of Social Welfare expressed sincere appreciation for SEBI's efforts and emphasized the value of such collaborative initiatives in empowering individuals associated with child care institutions through financial education. The program concluded with a strong and impactful message advocating responsible investing and reaffirming the collective commitment to fostering a financially aware and informed society.

Director A&T reviews functioning of Saddar Treasury Srinagar



SRINAGAR, APRIL 10: Director, Accounts and Treasuries (A&T) Kashmir, Imtiaz Ahmad Wani, today paid a maiden visit to Saddar Treasury Srinagar to review its functioning and assess service delivery mechanisms. During the visit, the Director laid special emphasis on ensuring smooth, efficient, and citizen-friendly services for pensioners. He took a detailed review of the pen-

sion section, focusing on ease of access, availability of ramps, and adequate seating arrangements for visiting pensioners. He also interacted with several pensioners on the spot to gauge their satisfaction levels and receive direct feedback. The Director further reviewed the overall functioning of the treasury with respect to financial governance. He assessed the

status of IT interventions, the level of computerisation, and inspected the attendance of employees to ensure discipline and efficiency in service delivery. Reiterating the importance of responsive and transparent governance, the Director stressed the need for continuous improvement in public service delivery and effective utilisation of technology in treasury operations.

'Unfortunate': Farooq slams talks of Noble for Pak PM, Asim Munir amid US-Iran peace talks

SRINAGAR, APR 10 : National Conference supreme Farooq Abdullah on Friday said it is "unfortunate" that someone is demanding a Nobel Peace Prize for brokering peace between the US and Iran, asserting that the cause of humanity is much bigger. He was asked about the calls within Pakistan for the Nobel Peace Prize for Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Gen Asif Munir, and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar. "One doesn't work for the Nobel Prize, one works for humanity. Those who demand the Nobel Prize, (it is) unfortunate. There is a better cause than the Nobel Prize. (It is) the cause of humanity," Abdullah told reporters after offering Friday congregational prayers



at Hazratbal shrine here. Abdullah, a former chief minister of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, said humanity suffers due to wars, "and it is humanity that must be saved". He expressed hope for the war ending and the peace prevailing in the region. "We should be grateful to God that the war stopped. May the war stop totally and there be peace in the world so that we all can benefit from that," he added.

JKAACL, CUJ organise Vibrant Punjabi Dogri Cultural & Music Programme

JAMMU, APRIL 10: The Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL), in collaboration with Central University of Jammu (CUJ), organised a Punjabi Dogri Cultural-Music Programme today in the Brigadier Rajinder Singh, MVC Auditorium of the Varsity. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from eminent local artists and cultural troupes from district Samba, presenting a rich tapestry of Punjabi and Dogri folk traditions. The audience was enthralled by vibrant performances, including soulful folk songs and the energetic Punjabi Gidda. Renowned local groups- Rattan Lal and Party, Sudesh Kumari and Party and Bodh Raj and Party created a captivating folk ambience through their diverse and traditional musical presentations, reflecting the region's



deep-rooted cultural heritage. Speaking on the occasion, Editor Punjabi Sheeraza Popinder Singh Paras highlighted the initiatives undertaken by JKAACL to promote and preserve Punjabi and Dogri folk culture, especially in far-flung areas of the Jammu region. He also outlined the Academy's upcoming programmes aimed at further strengthening cultural outreach.

Dean Students Welfare Prof. Ritu Bakshi appreciated the Academy's dedicated efforts in preserving and promoting local folk traditions and literature. She described such initiatives as vital steps towards safeguarding the rich cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir. Senior Faculty members Dr. Neeta Rani and Dr. Aman also appreciated the Academy for organizing such cultural programmes.

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All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent courts and forums in Jammu City

