

We will move forward with whole of government approach to rid J&K of drug menace: LG Sinha

Lieutenant Governor launched historic mass movement for "Drug-Free J&K" from MA Stadium in Jammu

JAMMU, APRIL 11: Spearheading a decisive battle against the drug menace, the Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha on Saturday launched the historic mass movement for a "Drug-Free Jammu Kashmir" from MA Stadium in Jammu. The Lieutenant Governor, accompanied by Padayatra and joined the public representatives,

senior officials and thousands of citizens in the walkathon from MA Stadium to Parade Ground, marking the beginning of 100-days intensive campaign under Nasha Mukti Jammu Kashmir Abhiyaan. Addressing a massive gathering, the Lieutenant Governor gave a clarion call to make Jammu and Kashmir free from the scourge of drugs. "We have



given voice to a resolve that will reach every village, town, city, home, and heartbeat in Union Territory, fulfilling the pledge of a drug-free region. Next three months are pivotal, with campaign

advancing in six clear phases- Awareness intensive drives, youth focused events, community engagement, strict enforcement, rehabilitation and evaluation. We will move forward with the whole of government approach to rid J&K of drug menace," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor emphasized that the eradication of drug addiction is a collective responsibility that rests upon us all. "We pledge resolutely that the

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Mahatma Phule Remembered For Institutions He Built, Movements He Led: PM Modi

NEW DELHI, APR 11: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday described Mahatma Jyotirao Phule as a great reformer and said his life was one of moral courage, restless enquiry and unshakable commitment to social good. In a signed article posted on his website, on Phule's birth anniversary, Modi said Phule is remembered for the institutions he built and the movements he led. "Mahatma Phule was a great reformer. In addition to that, his was a life of moral courage, restless enquiry and unshakable commitment to social good," he said. As we mark the beginning of his bicentenary year, the Prime Minister said, the most fitting tribute to Mahatma Jyotirao Phule is about renewal. "Renewal of our commitment to subjects close to his heart, such as education. Renewal of our sensitivity to injustice. Renewal of our faith that society can improve itself from within," he said.



Modi said Phule's life tells everyone that the power of community can achieve miracles in India when joined with moral clarity and public purpose.

"That is why he still gives strength to millions. That is why his words and work still carry hope. And that is why, nearly two

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Rajnath Cites Millet Promotion In Armed Forces, Says Govt Acting On 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan' Slogan

RAISEN, APR 11: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said the government is acting on the 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan' slogan by promoting millet in the armed forces to strengthen farmers economically. Former prime minister Lal Bahadur Shastri had coined the iconic slogan in 1965 during the Indo-Pak war amid a food crisis with the aim of boosting the morale of soldiers (jawan) and motivate farmers (kisan) to increase production. The slogan soon became a symbol of self-



reliance. Addressing the three-day 'Unnat Krishi Mahotsav' here as chief guest, Singh said, "Flours made from jowar, bajra and ragi have been introduced in the armed forces. By our efforts we are again acting upon the slogan 'Jai

Jawan-Jai Kisan'." He said the government has decided to procure fruits and vegetables grown through organic farming from farmers living around cantonment areas, which has resulted in a significant rise in their income in recent months. "The initiative also encourages organic farming. This means produce grown by you through organic methods, without chemical fertilisers, will directly reach our soldiers' plates. You will benefit as your produce will fetch better prices,"

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Clarity In Laws, Court Orders Will Ensure Their Smoother Implementation: Meghwal

NEW DELHI, APR 11: Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal on Saturday said "ease of understanding law" is essential for ease of justice, ease of living and ease of doing justice. Addressing a conference on 'Judicial Process Re-engineering and Digital Transformation' here, the minister also highlighted the need for timely usage of funds allocated for various projects, including the digitisation of the judicial ecosystem. Chief Justice of India

Surya Kant was also present at the event. People should be able to understand law, legal documents and court orders to achieve the three principles of ease of living, ease of doing business and ease of justice, Meghwal told the gathering. Clarity in laws, legal documents and court judgments will lead to their smoother implementation, he said. The minister underlined the need for timely usage of funds allocated for various

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Wular Lake Conservation Restores 5 Sq Km Area, 1.31 Lakh Trees Removed In J&K

JAMMU, APR 11: Conservation efforts at north Kashmir's Wular Lake, one of Asia's largest freshwater lakes and a crucial Ramsar site, have restored around five sq km of critically silted area and involved the phased removal of 1.31 lakh willow trees as part of a scientific plan to revive the wetland's ecological balance, officials said. Nearly 78.43 lakh cubic metres of silt have been dredged to reclaim the lake area and enhance water-holding capacity. Protection bunds have



been strengthened along about 15 km of vulnerable stretches to prevent encroachments and provide flood buffering, the Wular Conservation and Management Authority officials said.

The eco-restoration drive is supported by infrastructure development, including a 2.5-km non-motorable walkway at Banyari-SK Payeen featuring cycling tracks

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Tornado In Jammu Triggers Panic Among Locals; No Damage Reported

JAMMU, APR 11: In an unprecedented weather occurrence, a tornado was reported in Jammu's Akhnora area on Saturday evening, leaving residents startled and anxious. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad, Director of the J&K Meteorological Department, confirmed that the rare phenomenon lasted for about 10 minutes in an open field. Local police officials reported no damage from the event. Panic gripped the area after residents witnessed a whirling column of wind, lifting dust and light debris into the air. Many rushed indoors or

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Govt Hikes Windfall Tax On Diesel To Rs 55.5/Litre, ATF To Rs 42/Litre

NEW DELHI, APR 11: The government on Saturday hiked export duty, or windfall tax, on diesel to Rs 55.5 per litre and on aviation fuel ATF to Rs 42 a litre. The duty hikes would be applicable with immediate effect, the finance ministry said in a notification. The government had, on March 26, imposed an export duty of Rs 21.50 a litre on diesel, and Rs 29.5 per litre on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF). The duties were levied to increase domestic availability of the fuel amid the war in West Asia. They were also aimed at not allowing exporters to take undue advantage due to price differences, as globally crude oil prices had risen since the beginning of the war. On

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HC sets aside summoning order against J&K Bank officers

JKUT (JAMMU), APRIL-11-2026- (JNF):- The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has set aside an order of the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Rajouri, issuing process against two J&K Bank officials in a criminal complaint, observing that the trial court had acted in a perfunctory manner and without proper judicial scrutiny. Justice Rajnesh Oswal passed the order in a petition filed by Jasmeet Singh, then Branch Manager of J&K Bank's Kotranka Branch, and Mohd. Shafi

Salroo, then Zonal Head, Jammu West Zone, Rajouri, who had challenged the complaint proceedings and the order dated October 27, 2018. The complaint alleged that one of the bank officials had taken Rs 2.50 lakh from the complainant on the promise of arranging a job and that later both officials threatened and abused him. Acting on the complaint and preliminary statements, the trial court had issued process for offences under Sections 402, 504 and 506 RPC. However, the

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Iran sets four conditions for US deal, warns "Israel First" approach will fail

ISLAMABAD/TEHRAN, APR 11: Iran has set four conditions for agreement to be reached with the United States in the ongoing 'Islamabad talks'. The four conditions, as per Iran state media, include sovereignty over the Strait of Hormuz, full compensation for war damages, unconditional release of frozen assets, and a sustained regional ceasefire. Meanwhile, Iran's Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref said a deal with the United States is possible if American negotiators adopt an "America First" approach, warning that talks would fail if they instead pursue an "Israel First" agenda. In a post published on X on Saturday, Aref wrote: "If we negotiate in Islamabad with representatives of 'America First', an agreement beneficial to both sides and the

world is probable. However, if we face representatives of 'Israel First', there will be no deal." "We will inevitably continue our defense even more vigorously than before, and the world will face greater costs," he added. The negotiations, dubbed the "Islamabad Talks," between the US and Iran began on Saturday, marking the next critical step in efforts to solidify a fragile two-week ceasefire that halted 40 days of devastating war between Iran and the US-Israeli alliance just days ago, which had ravaged global energy supplies. Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met US Vice President JD Vance ahead of the anticipated talks between Washington and Tehran. The US delegation included special envoys

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HC denies bail in 5.4-kg charas case, slams trial delay

JKUT (JAMMU), APRIL-11-2026- (JNF):- The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has rejected the bail plea of an NDDPS accused in a commercial quantity charas case, while at the same time sharply criticizing the trial court for mechanically deferring proceedings after the case had already reached the stage of final arguments. Justice Rajnesh Oswal passed the order in Bail App, filed by Afroz Ahmed Sheikh, a resident of Village Wikhoklan, Tehsil Shangwas, District Anantnag, presently lodged in District Jail Am-

phalla, Jammu. The case arises out of a complaint titled Union of India vs. Afroz Ahmad Sheikh pending before the Special Judge, NDDPS Cases, Jammu. According to the prosecution case, NCB Jammu intercepted the accused at Parnadial Morh, Jammu on September 28, 2020, after receiving specific information that he was travelling from Anantnag to Surat carrying narcotics in a black shoulder bag. During the search, officials allegedly recovered 5.400 kilograms of charas

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ED files chargesheet in Rs 60 Cr BSF contract bribery case

New Delhi, Apr 11: The Enforcement Directorate (ED), Guwahati Zonal Office, today said it has filed a chargesheet against several individuals, including Rakesh Mohan Kotwal, retired Zonal Manager (North East Region), NPCCL Ltd., Latif Pasha, Officer-in-charge of the Jalpaiguri Project, and directors of Shree Gautam Construction Company Limited, in connection with an alleged bribery case linked to government contracts. According to the ED, the case pertains to contracts awarded by NPCCL Ltd., on behalf of the Border Security Force (BSF), to Shree Gautam Construction Company Limited for the construction of nine Border Out Posts along the Indo-Bangladesh border, worth



approximately Rs 60.30 crore. The investigation was initiated on the basis of an FIR (first information report) registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Anti-Corruption Branch, New Delhi, under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Prevention of Corruption Act. The CBI had earlier filed a

chargesheet against multiple persons involved in the case. The ED investigation revealed that Rakesh Mohan Kotwal and Latif Pasha allegedly demanded illegal gratification of around Rs 35 lakh, which was later settled at Rs 30 lakh, from a contractor for the release of pending bills amounting to approximately Rs 2.24 crore. To facilitate the pay-

ment, part of the bribe amount—Rs 25 lakh—was allegedly routed through hawala channels from Silchar to Guwahati and then to Delhi. A portion of the funds was also transferred through banking channels via associated entities. The agency stated that the cash was eventually delivered to an associate in Delhi in 2019, where the transaction was intercepted by the CBI, leading to the recovery of Rs 25 lakh. Additionally, another Rs 15 lakh, identified as proceeds of illegal gratification received from contractors, was recovered from a premises in Silchar, where it had been kept on the instructions of associates linked to the company. The probe further revealed that the accused

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Four Astronauts Return After Historic Lunar Flyby, NASA Now Eyes Landing On Moon

WASHINGTON, APR 11: Amid claps and cheers, four astronauts of NASA's Artemis-II mission splashed down in the Pacific ocean after a historic flight to the moon—the first by humans in more than 50 years. "The path to the moon is open but the work ahead is greater than the work behind," Amit Kshatriya, Indian-origin NASA Associate Administrator told a press conference shortly after the Artemis-II crew returned to earth off the coast of San Diego at 8:07 eastern time on Friday. The lunar flyby mission involving Commander Reid Wiseman, pilot Victor Glover, Christina Koch and Canada's Jeremy

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We will...

administration will not let any youth, family, or dream fall into the dark abyss of addiction. I firmly believe that drug addiction statistics show mere percentages and case files but behind each lies a vivid story, a family's struggle and agony. Drug-free J&K campaign demands not just sympathy but collective action because it is not an individual plight but a collective crisis, not one family's tragedy but a challenge to us all. Together, with unwavering resolve, we will fight and defeat the scourge of drug abuse," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that drug abuse is among J&K's gravest challenges and we stand firm in our commitment to confront drug abuse and emerge victorious.

"Bound by shared purpose, we will rise against drug abuse and claim the victory that awaits us. The three-month long people's movement across J&K will make every person grasp the issue, turning information into responsibility through public participation," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor vowed decisive and uncompromising action against drug smugglers to free the J&K UT from the grip of the drug menace.

"Those who destroy society will face the full and uncompromising weight of the law. Our neighbor is using cross-border smuggling to poison our communities and undermine our nation's future. Every officer carries one obligation: this must stop. The full force of the law is now directed at smugglers. Their networks will be dismantled without delay," the Lieutenant Governor said.

In a stern warning, the Lieutenant Governor stated that Drug Smugglers' assets will be seized, ringleaders prosecuted, and punishment will be delivered swiftly. "The administration will confiscate all property, revoke licenses, passports, Aadhaar, and freeze bank accounts of all those involved. This crackdown against drug smugglers will echo through generations," he said.

"We have issued a new SOP against drug traffickers. Under this SOP, we have taken a crucial decision to revoke passports, driving licenses, Aadhaar numbers, and arms licenses of smugglers involved in drug trafficking. If they are absconding, a Look Out Circular will be issued immediately. Additionally, their movable and immovable properties will be attached under the NDPS Act, bank accounts frozen, and financial investigation will be launched.

On 2nd April, we had notified the Jammu and Kashmir Substance Use Disorder Treatment, Counselling and Rehabilitation Centres Rules, 2026, ensuring every center is genuine, dedicated to patients affected by addiction, equipped with all required human resources, and under continuous monitoring. Action will be taken against centers operating without support staff or in violation of the rules," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor directed the senior officers for swift action on complaints and strengthening of grassroots intelligence with the help of panchayats, mohalla committees, chowkidars, landline and ward surveillance committees to identify and punish every culprit.

"Our strength in Drug-Free J&K Campaign lies in collective action. When departments unite with shared purpose, we prevail. Since early 2021 we have moved beyond planning to decisive action for Drug-Free J&K. We are successfully implementing initiatives that have resulted in thousands of uninvolved citizens, engaged youth in schools, and expanded rehabilitation services. No individual faces this battle alone; the administration stands firmly committed," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor called upon youth, social workers, community leaders, teachers, women and athletes to participate in large numbers since they are the face, force and future of this campaign.

"The next three months will sow seeds of lasting change. Let anti-drug sports tournaments brim with fervor, debates steel youth resolve, quizzes embed awareness. Map drug-affected areas accurately; united marches, Padyatra inspire neighborhoods; marathons from panchayats to cities declare that J&K will never bow to drugs," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasized that from village chaupals to district headquarters, every event must pulse with mass movement spirit, followed by reviews because feedback will be our compass to refine, strategize and act stronger.

"April 11 is not a ceremonial start but the first step of a transformative march. Let us build a movement so broad, so resolute, and so deeply people-driven that it lays the foundation of a drug-free J&K," he further said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor administered the "Anti-Drug Pledge" to the citizens and unveiled the official campaign mascot. Awareness Video, singing and cultural performances by renowned artists echoed the message of a drug-free Jammu Kashmir.

The Padyatra was warmly received by business organizations, civil society members, and various stakeholders along the route.

Mahatma...

hundred years after his birth, Mahatma Jyotirao Phule remains not a figure of the past, but a guide for India's future," he said.

Phule was born on April 11, 1827, in Maharashtra and died on November 28, 1890.

The Prime Minister said Phule worked to create a new social imagination in which the classroom became an instrument of justice and equality.

"This vision for education inspires us greatly. Over the last decade, we have worked to make research and innovation a cornerstone for the youth of India. Efforts are being made to create an ecosystem where young minds are encouraged to question, explore and innovate," he said.

By investing in knowledge, skills and opportunity, Modi said, India is empowering its youth to become problem-solvers and drivers of national progress.

He said due to his knowledge and wisdom, Phule developed a strong understanding of areas such as agriculture, health-care and rural development.

"He often said that injustice towards our farmers and workers weakens our society. He saw how social inequalities manifested themselves in daily life, be it in the farms or in villages.

"Hence, he immersed himself in ensuring dignity for the poor, the downtrodden and the marginalised. At the same time, he made every possible effort to ensure social harmony was maintained," Modi said.

The prime minister said April 11 is a deeply special day for everyone as it is the birth anniversary of Mahatma Jyotirao Phule, one of India's greatest social reformers and a guiding light for generations.

He said this year, the occasion carries even greater significance, as it marks the beginning of his 200th birth anniversary celebrations.

At the same time, Modi said, Phule's contribution to the country's civilisational journey lies in the hope he aroused, the confidence he instilled and the strength his thoughts continue to give to millions of people across the nation.

Born in the great state of Maharashtra in 1827, Mahatma Phule emerged from modest beginnings, but his initial hardships never stood in the way of his learning, his courage or his commitment to society, Modi said.

"This is a trait that remained with him forever: whatever the challenges may be, one must work hard, acquire knowledge and mitigate those challenges instead of doing nothing about it," he said.

The prime minister said that from his school days, young Jyotirao was deeply curious and became a voracious reader, often reading books far beyond what children his age were expected to engage with.

"Years later, he said, 'The more questions we generate, the more knowledge emerges from them'. Clearly, the spirit of enquiry he was blessed with since his childhood remained constant in his journey," he said.

Throughout his life, Modi said, learning and education became central to Phule's mission, and he recognised with rare clarity that knowledge is not a privilege to be guarded, but a force to be shared.

"At a time when the joys of learning were denied to many, he opened pioneering schools for girls and for those kept out of formal education.

He used to say, 'Any improvement that comes in children through mothers is deeply valuable. Therefore, if schools are to be opened, they should first be opened for girls', Modi said.

"Mahatma Phule opined, True freedom cannot be achieved until everyone in society is granted equal rights. And for that, he built institutions that translated this vision into action, contributing to a just society," he said.

The prime minister said the Satyashodhak Samaj, founded by him, was one of the most important social reform movements in modern India.

"It was at the forefront of social reform, community service and furthering human dignity. It became an effective voice for women, youngsters and those living in villages," he said. Modi said this movement reflected Mahatma Phule's intrinsic belief that society could be strengthened by placing it at its core justice, respect for every person and a spirit of collective progress.

He said Phule's personal life, too, carried lessons in courage. "Always working and being among the people took a toll on his health. But even the most serious health challenges did not dim his resolve. After suffering a debilitating stroke, he continued to work and fulfil his vision.

"Yes, his body had been tested, but his commitment to society had not yielded. For millions today, especially those who draw courage from struggle, this remains one of the most powerful dimensions of his life," he said.

The prime minister said no remembrance of Mahatma Phule can be complete without a respectful mention of Savitribai Phule, who was herself one of the tallest reformers of our nation.

As one of India's pioneering women teachers, Modi said Savitribai Phule played a defining role in advancing education for girls, thus giving them the opportunity to pursue their dreams.

After Mahatma Phule's passing, Savitribai carried forward that torch and, in 1897, during a plague outbreak, she served victims with such devotion that she herself contracted the disease and lost her own life, he said.

"Our land has been blessed, time and again, by great men and women who have strengthened society through thought, sacrifice and action. They did not wait for change to arrive from somewhere else. They became its source," he said.

Modi said that for hundreds of years in the country's land, the clamor call for social betterment has often risen from within society itself, from those who could see suffering clearly and refused to accept it as fate, and Mahatma Jyotirao Phule was one such voice.

"I fondly recall my visit to Pune in 2022, when I had offered tributes to Mahatma Phule at his grand statue in the city," he said.

Rajnath Cites...

Singh said. He said agriculture holds vast potential and youth participation will increase innovation, raise farmers' income and strengthen the country's economy. "Youth have knowledge, energy and the capacity for innovation, which need to be directed towards agriculture," said Singh, who was Union minister for agriculture in 2003-2004 in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government.

Farming can be made smart through drones, sensors and mobile technology, Singh said while asserting that the government remains committed to providing all possible support so that farming becomes a matter of pride and farmers live with dignity and honour. "Youth in the country are performing excellently across sectors and their contribution in technology and innovation is commendable. It is a matter of pride that Indian youth are establishing their identity at the global level," the senior BJP leader asserted.

Referring to the journey from farm to market, Singh said a farmer does not just produce food but sustains the entire economy. "He generates employment. He drives industry. He supports services," Singh said.

Clarity In...

projects, including digitalisation of the judicial ecosystem. Meghalay said the Indian e-Courts system could be "slow" in making progress, but it should not demotivate stakeholders. It is being fast-tracked, he asserted.

Phase III of the ambitious e-Courts project, which seeks to digitise court documents and upgrade the digitisation of lower judiciary, is under implementation.

Taking the gains of Phase-I and Phase-II to the next level, e-Courts Phase-III aims to usher in a regime of maximum e-use of justice by moving towards digital, online and paperless courts through digitisation of the entire court records.

Wular Lake...

viewing points, along with the development of parks at multiple locations to promote eco-tourism.

Highlighting major achievements, the officials said the boundary demarcation of the lake has been completed by installing 1,159 geo-referenced RCC pillars using GPS and remote sensing technology.

They said the revenue area of Wular Lake is 130 sq km, which aids protection and prevents further encroachments. Desiltation has restored about five sq km of critically silted lake area by dredging 78.43 lakh cubic metres of silt, enhancing the lake's water-holding capacity.

Bund consolidation has been undertaken by strengthening earthen embankments along 15 km of vulnerable stretches to prevent encroachments and provide flood buffering to the local communities residing around Wular Lake, the officials said.

Construction of the non-motorable walkway Phase-II is in the process and expected to start shortly. Meanwhile, they said the upgradation of Delta Park, Banyan, at a cost of Rs 2.50 cr, Gurura Park at Rs 4.70 crore, and the construction of Eco-Park at Ningli, Sopore at a cost of Rs 4.90 cr, are under execution.

Two watch towers equipped with CCTV cameras have been constructed, while four additional CCTVs will be installed this year, they said.

Accordingly, the removal of willow plantations within the jurisdiction of Wular Lake is being undertaken as a habitat management and lake restoration measure, in line with the approved Comprehensive Management Action Plan (CMAP) objectives, they said, adding this activity involves ecological restoration intervention and cannot be construed as deforestation.

It does not involve diversion or degradation of forest land but rather the removal of invasive or ecologically adverse vegetation to restore the natural wetland character of Wular Lake. They said the number of willow trees in and around Wular Lake is 19.21 lakh. However, the CMAP does not envisage blanket removal of all willow plantations. Instead, it prescribes selective, phased, and need-based removal, aligned with specific lake restoration and habitat management objectives.

In the first phase, 1.91 lakh willow trees were identified for removal, of which around 1.35 lakh have already been cleared. Revenue generated from these interventions stands at approximately 731.95 crore, officials said.

However, afforestation is conducted in the catchment of the lake in close coordination with the Forest Territorial Wing through approved funding mechanisms, including CAPEX and CBPA schemes, under which 19 lakh plants have been planted since the Authority was established in 2012, the officials said.

In the Bandipora catchment of Wular Lake, an area exceeding 2,900 hectares has been treated through afforestation, plantation, and soil conservation measures, they said, adding more than 19 lakh plants have been planted under these initiatives, contributing significantly to slope stabilisation, erosion control, and reduction of sediment load entering the lake.

HC sets...

High Court found major gaps in the complaint, noting that the complainant had failed to mention the exact date, time and place of the alleged payment and had not disclosed any basis for alleging that one officer acted on the instructions of the other. The Court held that such bald and unsupported assertions do not disclose sufficient prima facie material.

The Court also rejected the contention that prior sanction under Section 197 CrPC was necessary, holding that while bank officials may fall within the definition of public servants, they cannot claim protection of Section 197 in prosecution for offences under IPC/RPC in the present context. Relying upon the Supreme Court judgment in Pepsi Foods Ltd. vs. Special Judicial Magistrate, the High Court reiterated that summoning an accused in a criminal case is a serious matter and that Magistrates are required to carefully scrutinise the complaint and evidence before issuing process.

Holding that the summoning order suffered from a "fundamental lack of application of mind," the High Court set aside the order dated October 27, 2018. At the same time, the Court clarified that the complaint itself was not being quashed and remitted the matter back to the trial court for fresh consideration in accordance with law. The judgment was pronounced on April 10, 2026.

Iran sets...

Steve Wilkoff and Jared Kuslner, while Pakistan was represented by Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi Sharif welcomed both sides' willingness to engage and expressed hope that the dialogue would pave the way for durable peace. The US-Israeli aggression on Iran began on February 28 with airstrikes that assassinated senior Iranian officials and commanders, including the Leader of the Islamic Republic, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

HC denies...

from his possession, bringing the case within the category of commercial quantity under the NDPS Act. The petitioner sought bail mainly on the ground of prolonged incarceration, arguing that he had remained in custody for nearly five years and that prosecution evidence had already concluded. His statement under Section 313(3) CrPC had also been recorded, but final arguments were stalled because of a supplementary complaint against co-accused Ghulam Mohiuddin Shah, leading to indefinite delay in conclusion of the trial.

The High Court noted that although the bar contained in Section 37 of the NDPS Act applied because the recovered contraband was of commercial quantity, the trial court had deferred proceedings in a mechanical manner without formally deciding whether such deferment was legally justified. The Court also recorded surprise that despite the supplementary complaint having been filed on March 11, 2025, arguments on charge or discharge had still not been heard.

Observing that NDPS trials must be conducted with utmost expedition because of the stringent punishment provisions and restrictions on bail, the High Court held that the manner in which the case had been put on hold could not be appreciated. However, instead of granting bail, the Court directed the trial court to re-examine within 15 days the issue of deference proceedings against the petitioner and then proceed in accordance with law. It also directed the trial court to conclude arguments on charge/discharge in the supplementary complaint within 30

days. The Court made it clear that if the trial court again decides to defer proceedings in the complaint against the petitioner, he will be at liberty to file a fresh bail application. The judgment was pronounced on April 10, 2026. (NFI)

India-flagged...

and two from the eastern side had managed to sail to safety. Several foreign-flagged ships carrying India-bound cargo also remain stranded in the Persian Gulf.

According to MarineTraffic data, hundreds of vessels remain in the region, including 426 tankers, 34 LPG carriers and 19 LNG vessels, many of which had been effectively stranded amid the disruption.

India, the world's third-largest energy consumer and fourth-largest gas user, imports about 88 per cent of its crude oil, around half of its natural gas needs and nearly 60 per cent of its liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) requirement, underscoring its dependence on overseas supplies. More than half of crude imports, about 40 per cent of gas and up to 85-90 per cent of LPG shipments come from Gulf countries and pass through the Strait of Hormuz, a key global energy corridor that was shut during the West Asia conflict.

The United States and Iran, earlier this week, agreed to a conditional two-week ceasefire that includes reopening the Strait for shipping.

India curtailed LPG supplies to commercial users such as hotels and restaurants after disruptions to Gulf energy flows, before restoring about 70 per cent of pre-crisis volumes as alternative supplies were secured.

Natural gas supplies were initially cut to industries, including fertiliser plants, to prioritise CNG for transport and piped cooking gas for households. Supplies to fertiliser units have since been partially restored, with operating urea plants receiving about 80 per cent of recent average consumption, while overall allocation to the sector has been raised to around 95 per cent this week.

Gas availability to other industrial and commercial users has also been increased gradually, though it remains below normal levels. City gas distributors have been directed to prioritise piped natural gas connections for commercial establishments, including hotels, restaurants and canteens, as part of efforts to shift demand away from LPG.

Four...

Hansen was the first journey to the moon since the Apollo 17 mission in December 1972 when Eugene Cernan and Harrison Schmitt spent three days exploring the lunar surface.

Rick Henfling, the flight director, said the Artemis II astronauts are "happy and healthy and ready to come home to Houston." "Yesterday, flight director Jeff Radigan said we had less than a degree of an angle to hit after a quarter of a million miles to the moon," Kshatriya told a press conference.

"And their team hit it. This is not luck; that is 1,000 people doing their job," he said. The mission flew 700,237 miles, its peak velocity was 24,664 m.p.h.; and the flight had an entry range of 1,957 miles but landed within one mile of its target, Henfling said.

It was a triumphant homecoming for the crew of four whose record-breaking lunar flyby revealed not only swaths of the moon's far side never seen before by human eyes but a total solar eclipse. They emerged from their bobbing capsule into the sunlight one by one.

Henfling said his team 'breathed a sigh of relief' once the side hatch opened on the Orion Integrity after it splashed down in the Pacific Ocean.

"We all breathed a sigh of relief once the hatch opened up. That's when we brought the team in," he said. "We said a few words to the flight controllers, and then we turned around to the families and waved and gave them a thumbs up, and we all watched as each of their four astronauts got out of the spaceship and were hoisted up onto the helicopters. It was a great day," he added.

Henfling said his team felt "anxiety" as the four astronauts re-entered the Earth's atmosphere, but felt confident in all their training leading up to the history-making lunar mission. NASA said the Artemis III mission is "right around the corner" following its history-making journey around the moon.

"The next mission is right around the corner, and you know, we'll take the lessons learned from Artemis II," Henfling said. "We learned a bunch on how to fly people in space, both from vehicle operations, but also from how to run a control room with a deep space mission. And when the time is right, we'll get back into specific training, and we've got a core group of about 30 flight directors, and they're all extremely capable.

"I think anybody who's assigned to that next mission is going to be as successful as us," Henfling said.

ED files...

allegedly demanded bribes from multiple contractors engaged with NPCC projects. Further investigation in the matter is ongoing.

Tornado In...

sought safer locations, describing the event as something they had never seen before. Videos shared by alarmed residents on social media captured the tornado, with users expressing concern, seeking answers, and offering prayers.

Dr. Ahmad emphasised that the tornado was an extremely rare event for the region, though similar phenomena were observed in several parts of Punjab last year. "It began as a squall line triggered by thunderstorm cells that quickly converted into a tornado," he said.

Officials noted that weather conditions changed abruptly, with black clouds developing over the city around 4.45 p.m. after clear skies earlier in the day, resulting in moderate rainfall and thundershowers at different places.

Later, a rainbow appeared over the city skyline as the rain subsided.

Govt Hikes...

February 28, the United States and Israel launched military strikes against Iran, triggering sweeping retaliation from Tehran. On April 8, Iran, the United States and Israel agreed on a two-week ceasefire in the war that tore across the Middle East and disrupted the global energy market.

Export duty on petrol continues to remain in.



BJP OBC Morcha Pays Tribute to Social Reformer Mahatma Jyotiba Phule on His Birth Anniversary, recalls his social works and ideology

Jammu, Apr 11: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) OBC Morcha today paid rich tributes to the great social reformer Mahatma Jyotiba Phule on his birth anniversary at BJP head office Trikuta Nagar, Jammu and recalled his immense contribution towards eradicating social evils and promoting equality in society. BJP State General Secretary Sanjita Dogra was present as the main guest on the occasion. State President OBC Morcha Brahm Jyot Satti, along with his team and other prominent leaders also participated in the programme. The programme was organised by BJP obc morcha team. In the program they paid floral tribute to Mahatma Jyotiba Phule and recalls his social works. Speaking on the occasion, Sanjita Dogra said that Jyotiba Phule dedicated his entire life to the upliftment of the oppressed and weaker sections. She said Phule ji raised his voice fearlessly against social evils such as Sati Pratha and child marriage, and championed the



cause of women's education and rights," she added. She further stated that Mahatma Phule laid the foundation for social equality by starting schools for girls and the deprived classes at a time when it was considered a taboo. His revolutionary vision changed the mindset of society and opened doors for generations to come. She said that the BJP Government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is working on the same ideals of social justice and empowerment of backward classes. "We are committed to ensuring

that every citizen gets equal opportunities to progress in life, just as Phule ji dreamed," she concluded. Brahm Jyot highlighted Phule's role as a pioneer of the movement for social justice. "His work laid the foundation of a progressive society where every individual, especially women and deprived classes, could access education and dignity," he stated. He added that Mahatma Phule's activism was not just limited to speeches — he started several institutions, promoted widow remarriage and worked for farmer

rights. "Phule ji taught us that social change comes through action, courage and compassion," Sethi said. He emphasized that the younger generation must study the life of Mahatma Phule to understand the true meaning of equality and national development. "His message of removing discrimination and promoting education is more relevant today than ever," he asserted. He also expressed gratitude to all the participants and reaffirmed the Morcha's resolve to follow the path shown by Mahatma Phule. "We must draw inspiration from his mission and continue to work tirelessly for the welfare of OBCs and all marginalized communities," he said. Prominent among those present were Reeta Verma and Suresh Salgotra (State Vice President OBC Morcha), Sunny Sangotra (State General Secretary OBC Morcha), Ashok Salgotra (State Secretary OBC Morcha), Shivali Khangar (State Office Secretary OBC Morcha).

Shiv Sena Strengthens Base Across J&K, Leaders from Kashmir Join UBT Camp

"Drug-free J&K must be a commitment, not just a slogan" — Sahni

Jammu: Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) continues to strengthen its base in Jammu & Kashmir. In a significant political development, around three dozen prominent leaders and workers from the Kashmir division, formerly (associated with the Eknath Shinde faction), joined the party during held at the Jammu state office today.



State President Mr. Manish Sahni welcomed the new members with the Shiv Bandhan and party symbol, stating that the organization is rapidly expanding its footprint not only in Jammu but also in Kashmir. "The joining of our colleagues from Kashmir proves that our ideology is

being equally accepted across Jammu & Kashmir," he said. He reiterated the demand for the restoration of full statehood to Jammu & Kashmir and the grant of special provisions under Article 371, emphasizing that it is essential for preserving the region's cultural identity and protecting the rights of its native inhabitants. Senior leaders including Meenakshi Bakshi, Sanjeev Kohli, Vikas Bakshi, Raj Singh, Sanjay Bhatt, Aditya Mahajan, and Chetan Kapoor were present at the event, while Mushtaq Ahmad Akhoun and Shaheer Malik were among the new entrants.

CUJ Students Selected for Interaction with PM under MY Bharat Budget Quest 2026

Jammu, 11 April 2026: Two students of Central University of Jammu, Abhinandan Randhawa and Gaurvi Sharma, pursuing the 6th semester of the Integrated B.Sc.-M.Sc. Economics programme, have been selected for an exclusive interaction with the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. The students were shortlisted from a highly competitive pool of nearly 12 lakh participants from across the country. Their selection follows their outstanding performance in the national-level contest themed "Budget Quest - 2026." The competition comprised two rigorous rounds, including a quiz competition followed by an essay writing contest. The inter-



action with the Hon'ble Prime Minister is scheduled to take place on 12th and 13th April, 2026. Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu has expressed immense pride in the achievement of the

students, terming it a significant milestone that reflects the academic excellence and competitive spirit nurtured at the institution. Prof. Jain extended his best wishes to the students for their upcoming interaction.

Director Agriculture Jammu Reviews Preparedness of Wheat Procurement Operations for RMS 2026-27

Jammu, April 11, 2026:

In view of the approaching harvesting season, Director Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare, Jammu, Shri Anil Gupta, today chaired a meeting at the Directorate of Agriculture, Krishi Bhawan, Talab Tillo, Jammu, to review and finalize arrangements for the procurement of wheat by FCI during the Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2026-27.

During the meeting, Director Agriculture emphasized the importance of streamlining procurement operations to ensure a smooth and timely process. He stressed the need for direct procurement from farmers by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mechanism, ensuring transparency and timely payments. He highlighted that the establishment of adequate procurement centres is essential to prevent distress sale and to ensure that farmers receive the notified Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Rs 2,585 per quintal.



Key agenda points deliberated during the meeting included uploading of procurement centre locations, keeping in view accessibility and convenience for farmers. Emphasis was laid on ensuring necessary infrastructure at procurement mandis, including space, availability of gunny bags, logistical arrangements, and other essential facilities.

Specifications, appointment of MLCs and DNOs, engagement of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) in the procurement process, identification and readiness of procurement centres, assessment of current crop conditions and expected wheat arrivals, and streamlining of payment systems along with arrangements for gunny bags.



Shri Anil Gupta urged that cleaning charges be fixed by the Deputy Commissioners and also stressed the need for extensive awareness among farmers regarding the Minimum Support Price offered by FCI and the prescribed commodity specifications to ensure maximum participation in the procurement process.

It was informed that a total of 21 wheat procurement centres (mandis) will be established across Jammu Division, including 11 in Jammu district, 9 in Kathua, and 1 in Samba. It was jointly discussed in the meeting that procurement operations may start in the last week of April and continue till May 31, 2026, with the provision for extension, if required.

SMVDU Civil Engineering Team Secures National Recognition with Second Prize at TECH- EXPO 2026

Jammu, Apr 11: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) marked a proud moment as its Civil Engineering team secured the Second Prize at the prestigious TECH-EXPO 2026, organised by Pravara Rural Engineering College, Loni, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education's Innovation Council and the International Society of Automation. The national-level competition witnessed participation from leading institutions across the country, highlighting innovation and technical excellence. The award-winning project, titled "Design of Eco-Friendly Bricks Using Paper and Plastic Waste," was devel-



oped by students Rishabh Kumar, Samaira Sinha, Shubham Kumar Singh, and Hitesh Bhakiri. Competing in Track-III (Smart Manufacturing, Robotics, and Infrastructure Systems), the team demonstrated an innovative approach to converting non-recyclable waste into durable construction materials. Their project not only earned them a cash prize of 74000 but also gained recognition for its potential contribution to sustainable infrastructure and waste management. A key figure behind this success is Dr. Vaibhav Sapkal, Assistant Professor at SMVDU, whose visionary mentorship played a pivotal role. He guided the students

from conceptualisation to execution, ensuring technical and innovation at every stage. The students credited Dr. Sapkal for his constant support and expert direction, while he, in turn, acknowledged the team's dedication and hard work. His focus on green technology and sustainable engineering was instrumental in shaping the project into a nationally recognised innovation.

The project reflects a forward-looking approach to green infrastructure by offering a cost-effective and environmentally sustainable alternative for construction. By transforming paper and plastic waste into usable bricks, the team has presented a scalable solution addressing both waste management challenges and affordable housing needs. The achievement was lauded by the Head of the Department, Dr. V. K. Dogra, who appreciated the efforts of the students and the leadership of Dr. Sapkal in bringing national acclaim to the university.

A significant meeting of the Bahujan Samaj Party, Jammu & Kashmir UT, was convened under the ship of State President Mr. Darshan Rana to review the preparations for the upcoming Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Jayanti celebration. During the meeting, a detailed assessment of arrangements was carried out to ensure the event is organized in a grand and impactful manner. It was informed that Samba district is fully prepared for the upcoming program, with most of the arrangements already completed under the leadership of Zone Incharge Charanjeet Chargoita. Similarly, preparations in the Udhampur Zone have

"Grand Preparations in Final Stage for Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Jayanti Celebration"

Jammu, Apr 11: A significant meeting of the Bahujan Samaj Party, Jammu & Kashmir UT, was convened under the ship of State President Mr. Darshan Rana to review the preparations for the upcoming Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Jayanti celebration. During the meeting, a detailed assessment of arrangements was carried out to ensure the event is organized in a grand and impactful manner. It was informed that Samba district is fully prepared for the upcoming program, with most of the arrangements already completed under the leadership of Zone Incharge Charanjeet Chargoita. Similarly, preparations in the Udhampur Zone have



also been successfully completed under the supervision of State Incharge Sunil Majotra. A key decision taken during the meeting was the announcement of Mr. Daya Chand, Incharge of Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh, as the Chief Guest for the event. The meeting also witnessed active participation from party office bearers, including District

President Samba Devinder Kumar, Secretary Baldev Raj, Satpal Bawaria, Jagdish Verma, Sardari Lal, along with other dedicated workers who have played an important role in organizing the event. The meeting reiterated the commitment to spread the ideals of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, particularly his vision of social justice, equality.

White Knight Corps Launches 100 Days-Long Anti-Drug Campaign Under 'Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan'

Nagrota: 11 Apr 2026. In alignment with the efforts of State functionaries under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, Chief of Staff, (COS) White Knight Corps launched a three-month-long series of high-impact activities as part of Anti-Drug Campaign, reaf-



firming Indian Army's commitment towards nation-building and societal resilience. The campaign commenced with a Joint Pledge Ceremony followed by Pad Yatra by school children and NCC cadets at Nagrota, symbolising a

unified resolve to combat the menace of drug abuse. The initiative is being conducted in close synergy with civil administration, police authorities, medical agencies, educational institutions and community leaders, ensuring a whole-of-society approach. Over the next fourteen weeks, the campaign will focus on intensive awareness drives across schools and colleges, community engagement through influencers and religious leaders, and targeted outreach programmes aimed at sensitising youth and families. Structured lectures, interactive sessions, testimonial engagements.

"Doctors at doorsteps" Healing Hands health camp reaches Ramnagar's remote population

JAMMU, Apr 11: In a significant step towards strengthening grassroots healthcare and ensuring early detection of diseases, a massive free disease screening camp was organised at Ramnagar, Udhampur by Healing Hands in association with Seva Dal and Acharya Shri Chander College of Medical Sciences & Hospital. The initiative stood out as doctors and medical experts reached the doorsteps of people in remote areas, providing much-needed diagnostic and consultation services to those who otherwise have limited access to quality healthcare.



The camp was inaugurated by MLA Ramnagar Sunil Bhajrdwaj in presence of Rajinder Sharma, district vice president Seva Dal. The camp witnessed an overwhelming response, with nearly 1400 patients, including men, women, senior citizens and youth from Ramnagar and adjoining areas, turning up

for comprehensive health check-ups. The camp offered a wide range of free screening facilities including Fibro-Scan, Spirometry, Neuropathy testing, Bone Mineral Density (BMD), Blood Pressure monitoring, ECG, eye examination and blood tests. In addition to diagnostics, patients were also

provided expert consultations and guidance by specialists, particularly focusing on lifestyle-related diseases which often go undiagnosed in rural populations. The medical camp was led by noted Physician Specialist Dr Rajesh Gupta along with a team of eminent doctors including Dr Punesta Gupta MD medicine Professor and head of department ASCOMS, Dr Neeraj Mahajan cardiologist, Dr Ankit Mahajan gastroenterologist, Dr Shally Kandhari ophthalmologist and their presence ensured that patients received specialised medical attention and accurate

health assessments under one roof. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Rajesh Gupta appreciated the efforts of Seva Dal and ASCOM for organising such a large-scale camp in a far-off area like Ramnagar, where healthcare facilities are relatively limited. He said that such initiatives play a crucial role in enabling early detection of diseases, allowing people to take timely preventive measures. He further stated that many patients are unable to afford expensive medical tests and consultations, and therefore such free screening camps are of immense importance in bridging the healthcare gap.

Rekha Mahajan rebuts Congress, backs PM Modi's women empowerment initiatives

UDHAMPUR: Apr 11: Rekha Mahajan, Vice President of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, strongly rebutted remarks made by Congress leadership regarding women's reservation and delimitation, while praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his commitment to women empowerment. Addressing a meeting of Mahila Karyakartas at Mandal Khoon in Udhampur district, organized by Mahila Morcha Mandal President Namrata Bali, Rekha Mahajan criticized Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge for terming the timing of discussions on women's reservation as a violation of the Model Code of Conduct and expressing concerns over delimitation. Responding sharply, Rekha Mahajan said, "The



Congress party has always tried to delay and dilute issues related to women empowerment. Today, when decisive steps are being taken, they are raising unnecessary objections." She further added, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has demonstrated true commitment towards empowering women, not just through words but through impactful policies and initiatives. The women of India today are more confident, secure, and empowered than ever before." On the issue of delimitation, Mahajan stated,

"Delimitation is a serious and constitutional process aimed at ensuring fair representation. Instead of politicizing it, all stakeholders should engage in constructive dialogue." Highlighting the importance of the Women's Reservation Bill, she remarked, "Women have waited for decades for adequate representation in legislative bodies. This historic step must be welcomed, not questioned." Mahajan also interacted with women party workers and appreciated their grassroots efforts in strengthening the party. She encouraged them to actively participate in spreading awareness about government schemes aimed at women's welfare. Reaffirming the party's stance, she said, "Our vision is clear — to build a society where women are equal partners in development and decision-making." The meeting witnessed enthusiastic participation from Mahila Karyakartas, reflecting strong support for the party's policies and leadership at the grassroots level.

Lt Gen Pratik Sharma Reviews Counter-Terrorism Grid in South Kashmir



Rajouri, April 11: Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma, Army Commander Northern Command, conducted a comprehensive review of the Counter-Terrorism Grid in South Kashmir, assessing the prevailing security scenario and the operational preparedness of the forces deployed in the region. During the review, the Army Commander was briefed in detail on the current security

dynamics, ongoing operations, and measures in place to counter emerging threats effectively. Lt Gen Sharma emphasized the critical importance of synergy, adaptability, precision, and sustained vigilance as key elements for the success of intelligence-driven operations and ensuring a swift response to any developing challenges. Interacting with the troops, he lauded their indomitable spirit, high morale, and unwavering commitment towards safeguarding the nation. He commended their professionalism and dedication while operating in challenging conditions and reiterated the importance of maintaining operational excellence at all times. The visit reflects the Indian Army's continued focus on strengthening security mechanisms and ensuring peace and stability in the region.

GDC Thannamandi Organizes Awareness Programme under PoshanPakhwada 2026

Thannamandi, April 11, 2026: The NSS Unit of Government Degree College (GDC) Thannamandi organized an awareness programme as part of the ongoing 8th PoshanPakhwada (9th-23rd April 2026), under the able guidance of the worthy Principal, Dr. Shamim Ahmed Azad. The programme aimed at sensitizing students and the community about the importance of nutrition, healthy lifestyle practices, and the critical role of early childhood care in ensur-



ing holistic development. The initiative aligns with the national theme of PoshanPakhwada 2026, focusing on "Maximizing Brain Development in the First Six Years of Life." The keynote speaker, Dr. Meenakshi Sharma, Head Department of Physics, delivered an insightful talk highlighting the significance of balanced nutrition, maternal and child health, and the need for healthy dietary practices. She emphasized the role of youth in spreading awareness and contributing towards a healthier society. Speaking on the occasion, NSS Programme Officer

GDC Ramgarh Organizes Farewell Programme for Outgoing Batch

Ramgarh, Apr 11: Government Degree College, Ramgarh organized a vibrant and memorable farewell programme for the outgoing students of B.A. 6th Semester (Batch 2026) on the college campus. The event was thoughtfully arranged by the students of Semester IV as a mark of respect and affection towards their seniors. The programme featured a rich blend of cultural activities including music, dance, games, and other entertaining performances, creating a lively and joyful atmosphere. The outgoing students shared their experiences and cherished

memories of their college life, while also motivating their juniors with words of encouragement and inspiration. A major highlight of the event was the Mr. and Ms. Farewell contest, where participants showcased their confidence, talent, and personality through various rounds. The winners were felicitated and applauded for their outstanding performances.



DAJ reviews progress of Digital Crop Survey, other initiatives



JAMMU, APRIL 11: Director Agriculture Jammu (DAJ) Anil Gupta today chaired a review meeting at the Conference Hall of the Directorate of Agriculture, Jammu. The meeting reviewed the progress and status of the Digital Crop Survey (DCS), fertilizer reports and the Monthly Progress Reports (MPR) of the schemes being implement-

ed by the department. The meeting was attended by Regional Level SMS Krishan Kant Gupta; Deputy Director (Planning) Mudassar Yaqoob Zargar; Assistant Director Law Enforcement (ADLE) Jammu Kuldeep Singh; Chief Agriculture Officers of all districts of Jammu Division along with their respective Nodal Officers for DCS (through virtual mode) and officers from the Planning, DCS

Agriculture directed all Chief Agriculture Officers to update the actual ground-level fertilizer balance district-wise by the evening. He further instructed them to deputise AEOs, JAEOS and AEOs to verify the availability of stocked fertilizers at the field level. He also directed that the prescribed Google Sheet format be duly filled and submitted to the Directorate within a day. He further instructed officers to clear all pending verifications of units at the Kisan Sathi Output Tracking (KSOT). Stressing the importance of timely reporting, he directed all districts to submit the latest MPRs without delay and ensure that the targets under the Digital Crop Survey are achieved within the stipulated time frame.

Indian Army Inaugurates Borewell at Salani Village Under Operation Sadbhavana

Poonch: 11 April 2026. In a continued effort to support local communities and enhance basic infrastructure in remote areas, the Indian Army inaugurated a borewell at Salani Village in Poonch district on 10 April 2026. The initiative aims to provide clean and reliable drinking water to the residents of Salani, addressing a long-standing need and significantly improving the quality

of life in the area. The project was undertaken as part of Operation Sadbhavana, reflecting the Army's commitment towards the welfare and development of border communities. The inauguration ceremony was attended by senior Army officials, local civil representatives and villagers. Speaking on the occasion, Army officials emphasised the importance of civil-

military cooperation and reiterated their dedication to uplifting communities in remote and border regions. Residents of the village expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Indian Army for the initiative, highlighting that access to potable water will greatly ease daily hardships, especially for women and children. The Poonch region, owing to its proximity to the Line of Control, has faced various challenges, including past security incidents and shelling, making such developmental efforts crucial for strengthening community resilience and well-being. The Indian Army remains steadfast in its role not only as a security force but also as a partner in progress, contributing to sustainable development and fostering goodwill among the local population.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

By CE/SSW&FR and the order of the President of India in exercise of the powers conferred by the Act, the undersigned is invited to submit their original tender bids, as follows: (Date: 04.05.2026 till 15.05.2026). The bids for a work shall be opened on the date and time specified above. Each tender offer must be accompanied by a bank guarantee.

Tender No.	Name of Work	App. Cost (Rs.)	Est. of Tender form (Rs.)	Date & Time for Submission of tender	Estimated Money (Rs.)	Completion Period	Opening of tender	Website Particulars
27 TRD/2026-27	TRD works in civil creation of tracks at Salani village for 1100m x 1200m x 1200m.	1,17,85,500.00	NIL	Up to 04.05.2026 15.00 Hrs.	2,71,80,00.00	12 Months	04.05.2026 09.00 AM	www.nwr.gov.in

Note: Tenderers may please note that offers received by the Chief Security Officer at Poonch through e-cyber gateway or e-Procurement portal will be treated as void. The bids from a school, college, university or any other educational institution shall not be accepted. The bids from a person who is not a resident of India shall not be accepted. The bids from a person who is not a resident of India shall not be accepted. The bids from a person who is not a resident of India shall not be accepted.

No: 27-TRD-08U-T-110A-2026-27 Date: 15.04.2026

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE. 12252028

Bharat Priye stopped at Bhambla while heading to support Shiv Khori traders' stir

Administration did not allow to move ahead despite assurance of peaceful, democratic protest

Reasi: Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) Kisan Congress Chairman Bharat Priye was on Saturday stopped at Bhambla by the district administration while he was on his way to Ransoo to express solidarity with protesting shopkeepers and traders. Ransoo, the base camp of the revered Shiv Khori shrine in Reasi district, has been witnessing a complete shutdown amid ongoing protests by traders demanding an extension of daily pilgrimage hours. The agitating traders have been pressing for an increase in the duration of the Shiv Khori yatra, citing severe economic distress caused by existing restrictions. At present, pilgrims are not permitted to proceed towards the cave shrine beyond 5 PM—a regulation enforced nearly two years ago following a terror-related incident. Traders allege that the curtailed timings have significantly reduced pilgrim footfall, directly affecting the livelihoods of shopkeepers, pony operators, restaurant owners, and other small vendors dependent on the yatra economy. The protest, spearheaded by the local Vyapar Mandal, has seen Ransoo market shut down com-



pletely, with traders staging a sit-in demonstration near the shrine's main gate. While reaffirming their respect for security

measures, the protesters have urged authorities to revisit the restrictions in view of the mounting economic losses and hardships faced by the local community. Bharat Priye, who was accompanied by former MLA Mumtaz Khan and Congress Party Reasi District President Ajay Salania, said they were prevented from proceeding further despite intending to join the protest in a peaceful manner. "We were on our way to participate in a peaceful and democratic protest to raise the genuine concerns of

Shiv Khori market traders, particularly the reduction in yatra timings. However, we were stopped at Bhambla by the district administration," Priye said. He added that despite assurances of maintaining complete peace and adherence to democratic norms, the administration did not allow them to move ahead. "We respectfully requested the police and local authorities to permit us to reach Ransoo and support the affected traders, but our request was denied," he stated. Priye said the action has further heightened concerns among

local residents and traders, who are already grappling with declining incomes due to reduced pilgrimage hours. Reiterating his commitment to peaceful and democratic means of raising public issues, Priye urged the administration to address the genuine grievances of the traders and take necessary steps to safeguard their livelihoods. Meanwhile, the situation in Ransoo remains tense but under control, with traders continuing their agitation and seeking an early resolution to their demands.

North in News

**National Safe Motherhood Day
Promoting awareness and
action towards maternal
mortality rates**

National Safe Motherhood Day is observed on April 11 every year in India to promote awareness and action towards reducing maternal mortality rates and improving maternal healthcare. The day was initiated by the White Ribbon Alliance (WRA) India in 2003 to highlight the importance of safe motherhood and advocate for the rights of pregnant women. The key objectives are public awareness on maternal health, rights, and reproductive care, to promote access to quality healthcare for prenatal, delivery, and postnatal services, to prevent maternal mortality through safe childbirth practices and interventions and to combat malnutrition affecting pregnant women and fetal development. Empower Women by improving health literacy and reproductive decision-making. Also the govt. has taken various initiatives like Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), Financial incentive for institutional delivery, Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA), Free antenatal checkups, focus on maternal and child nutrition, improving quality in labor rooms and maternity OTs and Strengthening rural healthcare delivery through National Health Mission scheme. Despite all this there are certain challenges too. Like limited access to healthcare facilities in rural areas, Lack of skilled staff and emergency obstetric care, Poverty, malnutrition, social barriers, low awareness and literacy levels. But yes, National Safe Motherhood Day has brought significant attention to the maternal healthcare challenges faced by Indian women, particularly those in rural areas. JSY has led to a significant rise in institutional deliveries, reducing maternal mortality rates. PMSMA provides free antenatal checkups, ensuring early detection of complications. Initiatives like ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) educate women about maternal healthcare and rights. Programs like Swabhimana focus on women's empowerment, nutrition, and economic independence. Many rural areas lack trained healthcare professionals. Traditional practices and misconceptions hinder healthcare-seeking behavior. Inadequate healthcare facilities and equipment exacerbate maternal health risks.

Omkar Dattatray

On 12 April annually world celebrates International Day for Human Space Flight. In other words we can say that International Day for Human Space Flight takes place across the globe on April 12. The celebration marks the first human space flight and the first human being in space - the great Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin. This historic event and milestone opened up experiences for humanity like never before. Following Gagarin's flight to space, there was a renewed enthusiasm for the study of space and the cosmos. The day also celebrates humankind's remarkable progress in building a sustainable relationship with space and using the knowledge for the betterment of every inhabitant of our planet. International Day of Space for Human Flight is a celebration of scientific temperament. The International Day for Human Space Flight, observed annually on April 12, commemorates Yuri Gagarin's historic 1961 flight as the first human in space, celebrating the dawn of the space era and humanity's leap beyond Earth. It promotes international cooperation, scientific innovation, and peaceful uses of space for sustainable development. It is important and crucial for promoting international cooperation in the peaceful use of outer space, fostering scientific innovation, and highlighting the vital role of space technology in sustainable development.

Key Aspects of the Day's Importance - - - 1- Commemorating Milestones- The day honours the 1961 achievement of Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin and highlights the progress since, including the 1969 moon landing, which showcased humanities. It implies that it honours the beginning of the space era and humanity's achievement in exploring beyond Earth. **2- Peaceful Exploration - - -** It reaffirms the commitment to using outer space for peaceful purposes and for the benefits of all humanity. **3- -**

Technological Advancement & Daily Life - - - The day highlights how space science contributes to technology used on Earth, including satellite communications, weather forecasting, navigation (GPS), and disaster management. **4- - - Inspiration for Future Generations - - -** The celebration encourages interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields, motivating new generations to pursue space exploration.

Proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 2011, the day emphasizes that space exploration is a shared endeavour that can advance humanity's knowledge and improve life on Earth.

The General Assembly in its resolution A/RES/65/271 of 7 April 2011, declared 12 April as the International Day of Human Space Flight, "to celebrate each year at the international level the beginning of the space era for mankind, reaffirming the important contribution of space science and technology in achieving sustainable development goals and increasing the well-being of states and peoples, as well as ensuring the realization of their aspiration to maintain outer space for peaceful purposes." 12 April 1961 was the date of the first human space flight, carried out by Yuri Gagarin, a Soviet citizen. This historic event opened the way for space exploration for the benefit of all humanity. The General Assembly expressed its deep conviction of the common interest of mankind in promoting and expanding the exploration and use of outer space, as the province of all mankind, for peaceful purposes and in continuing efforts to extend to all states the benefits derived therefrom. On 12 April 1961, Yuri Gagarin became the first human to orbit the Earth, opening a new chapter of human endeavour in outer space. The declaration further recalls "the amazing history of human presence in outer space and the remarkable achievements since the first human spaceflight, in particular Valentina Tereshkova

becoming the first woman to orbit the Earth on 16 June 1963, Neil Armstrong becoming the first human to set foot upon the surface of the Moon. In 2011, the General Assembly, recognising the 50th anniversary of the first ever human spacecraft, declared 12 April as the International Day of Human Space Flight. As stated at the outset on 12 April 1961 Yuri Gagarin, a Soviet citizen, carried out the first human space flight, a historic event paving the way for space exploration for the benefit of all humanity. To celebrate 60 years of human spaceflight, UNOOSA engaged with space agencies globally to collect experiences and perspectives from past, current and future astronauts about the meaning of human spaceflight and where humanity might see itself in decades to come. Way back in 2021, the international space community celebrated the 60th anniversary of Gagarin's historic flight and the 10th edition of the International Day of Human Spaceflight. To commemorate these historic occasions, the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs collected reflections of past, current, and future astronauts about the meaning of human spaceflight and where humanity might see itself in decades to come. Twenty-nine outstanding individuals representing dozens of countries had come together to share messages with the world. "It is my immense pleasure to take part in the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the International Day of Human Space Flight. Since time immemorial, we have always looked up to the sky for inspiration. The first space flight transformed space exploration by pushing the envelope to investigate ever further into the vast reaches of the universe. The day aims to celebrate the contribution of space science to human well-being and to foster international cooperation in space exploration. April 12 marks dual major milestones - Gagarin's flight [1961] and the first flight of the Space Shuttle COLUMBIA

[1981]. Yuri's Night also known as the "World Space Party" this day is celebrated globally to mark the 1961 achievement and the 1981 launch of the first Space Shuttle. The UN General Assembly declared this day to ensure outer space is maintained for peaceful purposes and to highlight the role of space technology in sustainable development. In Russia and several former Soviet states, this day has been celebrated as Cosmonautics Day since 1963. It is time for educational events, sharing advancements in space technology, and inspiring interest in STEM fields. The International Day of Human Space Flight serves as a reminder of humanity's technological leap and our ongoing exploration of the universe. From the very beginning of the Space Age, the UN recognised that outer space added a new dimension to mankind's existence. The United Nations family strives continuously to utilize the unique benefits of outer space for the betterment of all humanity. Recognising the common interest of mankind in outer space and seeking to answer questions on how outer space can help benefit the peoples of Earth, the General Assembly adopted its first resolution related to outer space, resolution 1348[XI] entitled "Question of the Peaceful Use of Outer Space." Celebrates the 108-minute flight of Vostok 1 in 1961, which propelled humanity beyond Earth's atmosphere for the first time.

The celebration of this day reaffirms the UN's commitment to using outer space for peaceful purposes, fostering international collaboration over conflict. The celebration of this day highlights technological advances in satellites, GPS, weather forecasting, and disaster management that result from space exploration. In short International Day of Human Space Flight promotes scientific curiosity and encourages youth to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)

Fee upon fee upon fee: The middle-class monsoon

BY RACHNA LAKHPATI

There is a screenshot doing the rounds on social media. A food delivery order. A break-up of charges. And buried somewhere between the restaurant GST and the platform fee sits a quietly audacious little line item - Rain Fee INR 25.00. And then, because apparently the universe has a sense of humour, right below it - GST on Rain Fee: INR 4.50.

Let that sink in for a moment. We are now paying tax on weather. This is a watershed moment - not because of the INR 4.50, which is frankly the least of our worries - but because of what it represents. The complete and creative normalisation of extracting money from the paying class for absolutely everything, including the sky

deciding to do what the sky has done for four billion years. The logic, presumably, is that delivery partners need support during rains. Fair enough. Nobody is arguing against protecting workers in difficult conditions. But here is where things get philosophically uncomfortable - if a company chooses to implement a weather surcharge, who authorised the government's cut of that surcharge? Rain is not a service. It is not infrastructure. It did not file returns. Yet here we are, paying GST on the inconvenience of precipitation.

And this opens a door that, once cracked, is very hard to shut. If there is a Rain Fee today, tomorrow brings no surprises. A Summer Surge Fee for the heat. A Winter Comfort Fee for the cold. A

Spring Freshness Levy, perhaps, for the pleasant weather that clearly someone must be taxed on. Every season becomes a billing opportunity. Every act of nature becomes a line item. The Indian middle class - already a masterclass in absorbing financial shocks with a deep breath and a resigned scroll - will simply add these to the growing list of things they silently pay for.

And that silence is precisely the problem. The middle class in this country is, functionally, the most reliable ATM in the national economy. Taxes deducted before the salary even lands. GST on everything from biscuits to broadband. Fuel prices that somehow remain immune to global oil drops but sprint ahead of every global rise. And now, GST on a rain surcharge on a

food delivery app.

What is striking, and worth saying plainly, is that a demographic that contributes this consistently, this obediently, and this extensively to the national exchequer receives remarkably little in return. No meaningful healthcare subsidy. No housing cushion. Education costs that climb faster than salaries. And certainly no rebate for the rain.

There is an old social contract at the heart of taxation: you pay, and the state provides. When the providing becomes invisible and the paying becomes inventive, the contract starts to feel less like governance and more like a subscription nobody agreed to. The monsoon will pass. The fees, one suspects, will not.



Sat Sharma, Ashok Koul review BJP's organizational programmes, focus on Nari Shakti

Jammu, 11 April 2026: Sat Sharma, J&K BJP President & Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), along with Ashok Koul, General Secretary (Organization) addressed an organizational meeting of senior party leaders at the party headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. The meeting witnessed the participation of senior leaders including Vice-Presidents, General Secretaries, and other office bearers, and focused on reviewing ongoing organizational programmes while strategizing for upcoming party activities across Jammu & Kashmir. Sat Sharma emphasized the need to further strengthen grassroots-level engagement through sustained organizational efforts such as booth-level outreach.



Chalo/Basti Chalo Abhiyan," and public welfare-oriented initiatives. He highlighted that the BJP remains committed to connecting with every section of society through its service and ideological clarity. Focusing particularly on women empowerment, Sat Sharma spoke in detail about the historic Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinyam 2023, stating that it reflects the unwavering commitment of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP towards ensuring greater participation of women in governance and nation-building. He remarked that the legislation is a milestone in realizing the vision of "women-led development," which is central to India's growth story. Sat Sharma asked the Mahila Morcha leaders and women representatives of the party to take this message to every household

and ensure that women across all sections are made aware of the transformative steps taken by the government for their empowerment. Ashok Koul, in his address, stressed the importance of organizational discipline, coordination, and effective implementation of party programmes. He called upon party leaders to actively engage in forthcoming programmes, ensuring maximum outreach and public participation. Highlighting the role of women in strengthening the party structure, Ashok Koul said that women workers are the backbone of the BJP's grassroots network. He encouraged Mahila leaders to intensify their efforts, mobilize women at the local level, and play a proactive role in disseminating the achievements of the government.

100 Day Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan begins in Samba

DC flags off anti-Drug Rally, administrators pledge to participants

SAMBA, APRIL 11: In determined response to the clarion call of Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha for Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, District Samba today commenced an intensive anti-drug campaign with a series of high-energy awareness and outreach activities spanning across the district. The campaign signaled District Samba's firm resolve to march in step with the LG's vision of a drug-free Jammu & Kashmir and to translate that vision into ground-level action through community mobilisation and institutional commitment. Deputy Commissioner Ayushi Sudan interacted



with Civil Society Organisations at the DC Office Complex, emphasising the pivotal importance of collective efforts and coordinated community participation in eliminating the scourge of drug abuse. She urged all stakeholders to work in a unified and determined manner towards the shared goal of a Nasha Mukta Samba. On the occasion, an anti-drug pledge was administered to Civil Society members, followed by a collective pledge by officers and officials from all departments at the DC Office Complex, reaffirming their wholehearted commitment to building a drug-free society.

Further amplifying the campaign's momentum, the District Administration, organised a mega anti-drug awareness rally under the Nasha Mukta Bharat initiative, which was flagged off by Deputy Commissioner Ayushi Sudan in the presence of Additional Deputy Commissioner Jagdish Singh, DYSSO Dharamvir Singh and Chief Education Officer Yash Pal Sharma. The rally, commenced from Rani Suchet Singh Sports Stadium and culminated at Government Middle School Budhwani, witnessing enthusiastic participation from around 865 students and 115 employees.

BJP announces Bike Rally to Celebrate Nari Shakti and Democratic Participation

Jammu, 11 April 2026: A press conference was held today in Jammu, bringing together women leaders and public representatives to highlight the expanding role of women in India's democratic framework. The interaction took place at the BJP Headquarters, Jammu, where State Spokespersons Purnima Sharma and Rajni Sethi, along with Neha Mahajan, President, Mahila Morcha, and General Secretaries Urvasi Gupta and Poonam

Gupta, addressed the media. The speakers elaborated on the significance of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinyam, 2023, describing it as a transformative constitutional reform aimed at enhancing women's participation in governance. The Act provides for one-third reservation for women in the Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies. They noted that this historic step, brought forward under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, reflects a strong commitment towards strengthening inclusive democracy and ensuring greater representation of women in decision-making processes.

Emphasizing the evolving role of women, the speakers highlighted that women's empowerment today extends beyond representation and has become a key driver of social and economic transformation. They pointed to the growing participation of women in education, entrepreneurship,

GMC Doda organises plantation drive at Village Puneja under 'One Health' initiative



DODA, APRIL 11: The Department of Community Medicine, Government Medical College (GMC) Doda, organised a plantation drive at Village Puneja in Bhaderwah. More than 250 trees were planted in collaboration with the Forest Department, Bhaderwah Division. The activity was conducted under the aegis of the 'One Health' Programme and the Family Adoption

Programme, aiming to promote environmental sustainability and community well-being. The programme was carried out under the guidance of Principal GMC Doda, Dr. Devraj Dogra and under the direct supervision of the Head of the Department of Community Medicine, Dr. Suresh K. Kotwal. It was also supported by the Divisional Forest Officer, Bhaderwah

Division, Davinder Kumar. Students of MBBS Batch 2023-24 actively participated in the drive, showing great enthusiasm and commitment towards environmental conservation. Faculty members, interns and staff of GMC, along with officials from the Forest Department, contributed significantly to the success of the event. The students were guided by Dr. Walied K. Balwan

(Assistant Professor), Dr. Imran Zaffer (Senior Resident) and Dr. Waseem Ahmed (Demonstrator), who mentored them on the importance of the 'One Health' approach, emphasizing the connection between human health and the environment.

The programme was efficiently coordinated by the Department of Community Medicine with active support from healthcare workers and field staff, including Farhat Mehta (CHO), Shahid Saleem (MSW), Shahzad Manhas (MSW) and Sudesh Singh (Health Inspector). The Forest Department's cooperation ensured smooth execution of the drive, reflecting GMC Doda's continued commitment to community engagement, environmental conservation and holistic health promotion.

DLSA Reasi organise multiple awareness events

REASI, APRIL 11: Under the visionary leadership of Khalil Choudhary, Worthy Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, Reasi (also Pr. District and Sessions Judge Reasi) and the able guidance of Pooja Gupta, Secretary, a door-to-door awareness campaign to promote Social Welfare Schemes was conducted at Village Kotla by the Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) of DLSA

here today. The PLVs visited households and sensitized the local residents to the government-sponsored social welfare schemes, including schemes related to pensions, scholarships, health benefits, women and child welfare and other public welfare initiatives. The PLVs also informed the villagers about their legal rights and the availability of free legal aid services through the

Legal Services Institutions. Pamphlets and informative materials were distributed among the residents to enhance awareness and encourage them to avail the benefits of these schemes. Another Awareness Program on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act was organized at Government High School Dhanori, Katra.



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER SOCIAL FORESTRY DIVISION JAMMU

NOTICE FOR e-AUCTION OF IDENTIFIED STANDING/FELLED TREES OF VARIOUS SPECIES

Re-Auction of Notice No. 05 of 2026 Dated: 30.03.2026

Name of Work: - Sale of Timber from Standing Trees at different locations through e-Auction on "AS IT IS WHERE IT IS" basis.

SECTION - I

For and on behalf of Hon'ble LG J&K, It is hereby notified for information of Wood/ Firewood dealers cum suppliers, timber extraction contractors, Wood based unit holders and civil contractors duly registered with J&K Government/Central Government/ FDC, Department/ FDC and registered on e-Auction India that Social Forestry Division Jammu intends to carry out e-Auction (forward auction) of "felling/removal and sale of marked Eucalyptus standing trees on "as it is, where it is basis" as per SF Order No - 27 of 2024 dated: 22-07-2024, SF Order No - 35 of 2025 dated: 26-05-2025, SF Order No - 74 of 2025 dated: 24-09-2025, SF Order No - 91 of 2025 dated: 25-11-2025, SF Order No - 15 of 2024 dated: 04-05-2024, SF Order No - 16 of 2024 dated: 04-05-2024, SF Order No - 16 of 2025 dated: 11-03-2025, SF Order No - 15 of 2025 dated: 11-03-2025, SF Order No - 97 of 2025 dated: 22-12-2025, SF Order No - 98 of 2025 dated: 29-12-2025, SF Order No - 04 of 2026 dated: 20-01-2026 of below mentioned Plantation (Eucalyptus Species) as per detail given below:-

(For brief description please see Annexure-I)

S.No	Name of Division	Name of Plantation Strip	Period of Auction of Auction trees	Species	Nn of Trees	Volume in Cft	Auction Fee	EMD (Refundable Eucalyptus)	Security Deposit (Refundable Eucalyptus)	Standing Trees
1	Social Forestry Division Jammu	Different Locations (11 Strips)	2025-26	Eucalyptus (Safada)	133	10592	1,000	10,000	20,000	Green / Dry
Grand Total					133	10592	1,000	10,000	20,000	

Detailed auction document with terms and conditions are available on or can be seen / downloaded from the website e-auction.gov.in. Bid documents containing qualifying criteria for bidders, schedule of advertised quantities, conditions and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the Website: e-auction.gov.in in as per schedule hereunder.

Time Schedule and Key details of the e-Auction

S.No	Activity	Date & Time/ particulars
1	e-Auction Publishing Date	10.04.2026 at 03:00 P.M
2	CDR/FDR Instrument Deposit End Date	15.04.2026 by or before 12:30 P.M
3	Approval Start Date	15.04.2026 From 12:35 P.M
4	Approval End Date	15.04.2026 From 05:00 P.M
5	Auction Start Date	16.04.2026 at 11.00 A.M
6	Auction End Date	16.04.2026 at 04.00 P.M
7	Declaration of Result	16.04.2026
8	Deposit of 25% Down Payment/Security Deposit by H1 Bidder	By or before 20.04.2026
9	Type of e-Auction	Forward Auction
10	Lot Types	Standing Trees as per location
11	e-Auction Place	e-auction.gov.in
12	e-Auction Fee	RS 1000
13	Security Deposit	RS 20,000.00 (Refundable)
14	Payment Instrument (Security deposit)	CDR/FDR/Online Payment Mode (NET/RTGS)
15	Security Deposit Exemption Allowed to:	Policy matter

The Bank instrument with respect to depositing the Auction Fee/EMD/Security deposit in the form of (FDR/CDR/Bank-Challan), as the case may be must be Uploaded & Submitted in the office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Jammu situated on Talab Tillo Road, Opposite NITCO Lane, Jammu by or before the document submission end date.

In case, the Deposit is transferred online, particulars of online transaction (UTR number, Date, Bank and Branch, Amount) must be emailed at dfo@jmu444@gmail.com with copy to rls@jmu@gmail.com

All other terms and conditions as laid down in e-auction notice issued by this office under endorsement No: 186-92/DFO/SF/J Dated 30.03.2026

Divisional Forest Officer
Social Forestry Division
Jammu

No. 208-214/DFO/SF/J

Dated: 10/04/2026

DIP/J-450/26

Commonwealth Sport delegation impressed by Gujarat's CWG 2030 preparations

New Delhi, Apr 11: Avisiting delegation from Commonwealth Sport has lauded the scale of planning and infrastructure in Gujarat during its recent assessment tour for the 2030 Commonwealth Games, boosting confidence in Ahmedabad's readiness to host the centenary edition. The delegation, which included Director of Sport Ann Louise Morgan and Technical Consultant Neil Carney, began its programme with a courtesy meeting with Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel in Gandhinagar. The visit was part of a broader review process aimed at evaluating infrastructure readiness, timeliness and venue suitability ahead of the Games.



The wider delegation, led by Donald Rukare, President of Commonwealth Sport, also included CEO Katie Sadler and Director of Games & Assurance Darren Hall. The five-member team, that visited the state from April 8-11, conducted a detailed assessment of Ahmedabad's infrastructure, planning timeliness and venue readiness as part of initial coordination with the host nation and local authorities. During their stop at the Vijayi Bharat Foundation (VBF), Morgan and Carney were accompanied by Olympic medalist Gagan Narang and VBF Directors Durgesh Agarwal and Dilip Thaker. The delegation toured the High-Performance Centre (HPC) and various Field of Play (FOP) facilities, gaining insights into the foundation's operations and athlete development programmes. They also expressed appreciation for VBF's grassroots initiative,

Khele Sanand, particularly highlighting its focus on gender equity through active support for young women athletes within its high-performance pathways. As part of their itinerary, the delegation inspected several proposed venues across Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Vadodara and Ekta Nagar. These include the Narendra Modi Stadium, EKA Arena, the Veer Savarkar Sports Complex, the Vadodara Cricket Stadium, and facilities in Ekta Nagar such as the Statue of Unity. Additional inspection covered competition and convention venues like Mahatma Mandir and IIT Gandhinagar. The delegation also held detailed discussions with key stakeholders, including the Commonwealth Games Association (India), the

Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, and senior government officials, focusing on governance frameworks, delivery plans and overall readiness. Commonwealth Sport officials expressed satisfaction with the progress made so far. "We are very impressed by the scale of planning, quality of venues, and the strong support from national and state authorities in India. Amdavad's vision for the 2030 Commonwealth Games is both ambitious and forward-looking. The centenary presents a unique moment to celebrate the Games' rich history while reimagining how they are delivered for the next 100 years. "Our discussions this week have reinforced our confidence in India's capability to deliver.

Yuvraj Singh Picks His Favourite Batting Partner. Not Virat Kohli Or Sachin Tendulkar



New Delhi, Apr 11: Yuvraj Singh and MS Dhoni shared the dressing room for a long period of time. Together, they were part of a golden era in Indian cricket that saw the national team win the 2007 T20 World Cup and the 2011 ODI World Cup. MS Dhoni led the team in both marquee events, while Yuvraj was the Player of the Tournament on both occasions. In a recent podcast with former England captain Michael Vaughan, Yuvraj spoke about his

favourite batting partner. Yuvraj: "Definitely not you guys! My in-laws are from England, so I want England to win. But you guys - every time you get to the semi-finals... you win in '06. When was the next time? I want them to win because I watch the Premier League. Tell me why you guys don't win? There is a popular story on social media that former IPL chairman Lalit Modi gifted Yuvraj Singh a car for his six sixes. Yuvraj Singh has now revealed the

actual story. "He said to me that if someone hits six sixes, I'm going to give him a Ferrari. It just happened, and I was like, 'Where's my Ferrari?' He promised a Porsche 911, and I asked, 'Where's my Porsche?' He said, 'You will get your car.' I asked, 'What if I win the next game? Do I upgrade to a Ferrari?' He said, 'No, no, no, you will only get a Porsche.' But I actually got my car from him," Yuvraj Singh said on The Overlap Cricket.

Erin Mir clinches AITA U-18 title in Delhi

SRINAGAR, Apr 10: 12-year-old tennis prodigy Erin Mir from Srinagar has won the All India Tennis Association (AITA) Under-18 Championship Series in Delhi, competing against significantly older players. According to reports, Erin participated in the Under-18 category and emerged as the champion, a rare and noteworthy feat in Indian junior tennis. Earlier, she had already scripted history by becoming the first player from Jammu and Kashmir to break into the Top 10 of AITA rankings in the Under-12 category, achieving a career-best rank of 7 in January 2025. She has also secured multiple national titles across U-12, U-14, and U-16 categories while maintaining strong rankings in each. Training at the Ball Park Tennis Academy in Delhi since 2022 under Coach Vinod Kumar, Erin's consistent performances and upward trajectory have drawn atten-



Erin Mir from Srinagar has won the All India Tennis Association (AITA) Under-18 Championship Series in Delhi, competing against significantly older players.

New Zealand Star Walks Away, Objects To Pakistan Spinner Usman Tariq's Action

New Delhi, Apr 11: A fresh controversy struck the Pakistan Super League (PSL) after New Zealand batter Daryl Mitchell briefly refused to play against Quetta Gladiators' controversial spinner Usman Tariq over his unique pause before delivery. The incident occurred during the middle overs of the Rawalpindi Pindiz chase after Mitchell was not happy with Tariq's action. The Pakistan spinner took his trademark pause before delivering the ball, but Mitchell decided to step away from the stumps and signal to the umpire that he was not ready to face the delivery. This occurred on two occasions before the umpire stepped in to allow play to continue. Mitchell played a paddle sweep off the first ball of the over, but on



New Zealand batter Daryl Mitchell briefly refused to play against Quetta Gladiators' controversial spinner Usman Tariq over his unique pause before delivery.

the very next delivery, he decided to walk away. The move led to massive criticism from Pakistan great Ramiz Raja on commentary, and the umpire decided to speak to the batter. Tariq went on to concede three singles off the first three balls of the over. On the fourth ball, Mitchell once again walked away at the last

moment. The umpire once again approached the batter and had a brief conversation. Mitchell was later dismissed by Saud Shafeel and Pindiz lost the match by 61 runs. Tariq's action has been under the scanner for quite some time, with many experts urging the ICC to take a close look at the pause that he takes before delivering the ball. Earlier, former India spinner R Ashwin suggested that batters should walk away if they are not happy with Tariq's action, as that will force the umpire to call it a dead ball. By that gesture, Ashwin suggested that the batters can delay the whole situation and take away the advantage from the disrupted bowling action.

Virat Kohli's Gesture For Vaibhav Sooryavanshi After 15-Year-Old's Stunning Knock vs RCB

New Delhi, Apr 11: Royal Challengers Bengaluru star batter Virat Kohli's gesture for Rajasthan Royals young sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi after their IPL 2026 encounter has gone viral on social media. Sooryavanshi was in devastating form as the 15-year-old slammed 78 off just 26 deliveries to guide his team to a comfortable six-wicket win. Chasing a formidable total of 203, Sooryavanshi made sure that RR were never under considerable pressure and his brilliant knock even earned him the IPL Orange Cap. Kohli experienced the youngster's explosive batting firsthand and he had a few words of encouragement for him. Rajasthan Royals (RR) captain Rryan Parag praised 15-year-old Vaibhav Sooryavanshi as 'somebody everyone loves and likes hav-



Virat Kohli's gesture for Rajasthan Royals young sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi after their IPL 2026 encounter has gone viral on social media.

Speaking at the post-match presentation, RR captain Rryan Parag said Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is a fun-loving character who is well-liked in the team. Parag said that Sooryavanshi likes eating and going out, and the team makes sure that it is available to him as long as he keeps batting the way he is. "I think everyone loves him. Everyone loves having him around. He likes eating stuff. He likes going out and stuff like that. So we make sure we make that available for him. And he's a 16-year-old kid, 15-year-old, whatever it is. Yeah, doing kiddish things. And he's happy with that. He likes a lot of batting. So we make sure that is presented to him. And if he keeps on batting like that, I think whatever he wants," Parag said.

CSK Set To Receive Stunning Boost Ahead Of Delhi Capitals Clash. MS Dhoni Still Not Ready

New Delhi, Apr 11: South Africa cricket team batter Dewald Brevis is all set to play his first match of IPL 2026 for Chennai Super Kings after a short absence due to injury. According to a report by RevSportz, Brevis has been declared fit and will play in the match against Delhi Capitals at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai on Saturday. Brevis suffered an injury during the practice session ahead of CSK's opener against Rajasthan Royals and ended up missing their first three games. The South Africa star's return will be a big boost for the five-champions who have struggled massively in IPL 2026. The Ruturaj



South Africa cricket team batter Dewald Brevis is all set to play his first match of IPL 2026 for Chennai Super Kings after a short absence due to injury.

be back for the match against Kolkata Knight Riders on April 14. The seasoned opening duo of Sanju Samson and Ruturaj Gaikwad will be under immense pressure to perform as Chennai Super Kings extend their search for their first win of the season against Delhi Capitals in the IPL on Saturday.

R Ashwin Coins Brand New Term To Describe Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's Huge Knock Against RCB

New Delhi, Apr 11: Former Indian cricket team spinner R Ashwin was left stunned by Rajasthan Royals young sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's explosive batting against Royal Challengers Bengaluru in IPL 2026 on Friday. It was a stunning knock from the 15-year-old as he slammed 78 off just 26 deliveries to guide his team to a comfortable victory. He took on the likes of Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Josh Hazlewood but was able to play his natural game during a competitive run chase. Such was the prowess shown by the youngster that Ashwin went on to coin a new term - 'Vaiball' - in order to describe the young batter's performance. "This is insane! This is Vaiball Sooryavanshi. Let's vib with this fella,"



Former Indian cricket team spinner R Ashwin was left stunned by Rajasthan Royals young sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's explosive batting against Royal Challengers Bengaluru in IPL 2026 on Friday.

Virat signed Vaibhav's cap post match writing, "Dear Vaibhav, well done". The moment came after Sooryavanshi delivered an incredible performance, scoring 78 runs off just 26 balls to lead Rajasthan Royals to a comfortable six-wicket victory over Royal Challengers Bengaluru. In their chase of 203 runs, the 15-year-old kept the pressure off RR, attacking RCB's bowlers with impressive skill.

India crush Mongolia 3-0 in Billie Jean King Cup; Korea edge Indonesia in top-of-table clash

New Delhi, Apr 11: India returned to winning ways in emphatic fashion, dropping just one game in a dominant 3-0 victory over Mongolia in the Billie Jean King Cup Asia/Oceania Group I tie at the DLTA Complex on Friday.



India returned to winning ways in emphatic fashion, dropping just one game in a dominant 3-0 victory over Mongolia in the Billie Jean King Cup Asia/Oceania Group I tie at the DLTA Complex on Friday.

With the hosts now sitting at two wins and two losses, they will wrap up their round-robin campaign against the Korea Republic on Saturday. India's dominance was absolute from the outset, as Zeel Desai and Sahaja Yamalapati both registered flawless 6-0, 6-0 wins in their respective singles matches. Desai, stepping in for Vaishnavi Adkar, dismantled Anu-Vijn Gantor in just 37 minutes, dictating play from the baseline and never allowing her opponent to settle. Yamalapati followed suit with an equally clinical display, overpowering Jargal Altansarnai by the same scoreline to seal the

tie early for India. The hosts carried their momentum into the doubles, where Adkar teamed up with Rutuja Bhosale to complete the rout. The Indian pair proved too strong for Khongorzul Aldarkhishig and Altansarnai, cruising to a 6-1, 6-0 win to cap a near-perfect outing. Elsewhere, the Korea Republic and Indonesia squared off in a crucial clash between the top two

teams, with their head-to-head record evenly poised at 5-5. Korea drew first blood as Dayeon Back maintained her unbeaten run, edging past Priska Madelyn Nugroho 7-5, 3-6, 6-2 in a tightly contested encounter. In another tie, Thailand moved closer to victory against New Zealand. Anchisa Chanta gave Thailand the early advantage with a 6-2, 6-3 win over Aishi Das, while Patcharin Cheschandej was leading Valentina Ivanov in the deciding set at the time of writing. With all six teams competing in a round-robin format, the race for the top two spots and qualification to the next stage, will go down to the final day.

US-India Air Force chiefs discuss Indo-Pacific cooperation

New Delhi, Apr 11: The US and India reaffirmed their strategic defence partnership during high-level talks between their air force chiefs, focusing on interoperability, training and regional deterrence in the Indo-Pacific, a media release said. US Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Kenneth Wilsbach hosted Indian Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh for an official counterpart visit on April 8.



Singh received a full honours arrival at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling and later held meetings with Secretary of the Air Force Troy Mink and Wilsbach at the Pentagon, according to an official statement. During the discussions, senior US Air Force leaders emphasised the importance of Washington places on its defence partnership with India, describing it as central to ensuring a "free, open, peaceful and prosperous Indo-Pacific region," Wilsbach praised India's leadership and participation in multilateral exercises with like-minded partners and stressed that expanding such cooperation would be key to enhancing regional deterrence.

Pentagon, we had great discussions focused on modernization efforts, future training opportunities and our shared commitment to a free, open and prosperous Indo-Pacific." The talks also covered India's procurement of MQ-9B Sky Guardian aircraft, with the US Air Force highlighting its commitment to ensuring the Indian Armed Forces can "seamlessly and effectively employ the platform upon delivery."

Wilsbach further underscored the US Air Force's readiness to support Indian Air Force modernisation efforts, pointing to the mutual benefits of deeper defence industrial collaboration. The Pentagon meetings were followed by staff-level talks that addressed a range of operational areas, including the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program, the Air National Guard's Advanced Airlift Training Center and full-spectrum MQ-9 operations. Singh said such engagements were critical for advancing joint capabilities between the two air forces. "Opportunities like this are crucial for building our joint interoperability and strengthening the strategic partnership between our air forces," he said.

Govt extends deadline for feedback on draft amendments to IT Rules to April 29

New Delhi, Apr 11: The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has extended the deadline for inviting stakeholder suggestions on the draft amendments to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 by two weeks. According to an official notice issued by the ministry, the last date for submitting feedback has now been extended to April 29. Earlier, stakeholders were asked to send in their comments by April 14. MeitY had published the draft amendments on its website on March 30 seeking public consultation on the proposed changes to



the IT Rules, 2021. Following requests and representations from several stakeholders, the ministry decided to provide additional time to ensure broader participation in the consultation process. The ministry also clarified that submissions from stakeholders will be treated in a fiduciary capacity and will not be disclosed at any stage. This is intended to encourage individuals and organizations to share their views freely without hesitation. Notably, MeitY on March 30 had proposed fresh amendments to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, triggering a debate over online free speech and regulatory powers.

Rescue operations underway after 10 killed in boat capsized in Mathura; PM announces ex gratia of Rs.2 lakh each for deceased's kin

New Delhi, Apr 11: Rescue efforts continued on Saturday morning near Keshi Ghat in Vrindavan, in Mathura district, after at least ten people died in a boat capsizing, officials said. The incident occurred on Friday. The rescue operations are being carried out by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF). Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) would be given to the next of kin of each deceased. The injured would be given Rs 50,000. The NDRF teams on



Friday retrieved the boat that had capsized. Mathura DIG Shailesh Kumar Pandey told ANI, "The boat has been retrieved after a 4-hour continuous effort. The death toll now is 10, as informed earlier, and the post mortem is almost completed, after which they will be sent off to their homes." Agra Divisional Commissioner Nagendra Pratap said rescue operations are still underway and that the injured are being treated in Vrindavan hospitals. He added that five people are still missing.

"Rescue operations are underway. 10 people died in the incident, and a post-mortem of the dead bodies is being done before being sent to their respective homes. The injured are being treated in Vrindavan. 5 are reportedly missing," he said. Uttar Pradesh Minister Lakshmi Narayan Chaudhary termed the incident unfortunate and said pilgrims from Haryana and Punjab were affected after a sudden storm led to the capsizing of the boat in the Yamuna. "It is an unfortunate incident. Pilgrims from Haryana and Punjab drowned after a sudden storm capsized in the River Yamuna. 21 people have been rescued safely and are being given free treatment. 10 dead bodies, including 5 men and 5 women, whose post-mortem is going on. Entire district administration is working on the ground, including NDRF and SDRF," he said. Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA from Ludhiana's Atam Nagar, Kulwant Sidhu, met the families of the victims and expressed condolences. Speaking to reporters, Kulwant Sidhu said, "I express my deepest condolences to the bereaved families. Some people are missing." Family members of the victims recounted how their relatives had travelled to Mathura and Vrindavan for pilgrimage before the tragedy struck.

'Police tried to shield Mohta'

New Delhi, Apr 11: The Enforcement Directorate's actions targeting Sushil Mohta, Saket Mohta and others of the Merlin Group continued for a third day today with several papers and files reportedly seized. It is learnt reliably that the complainant, Mohan Chandra Mondal, has been asked by ED to present himself on 15 April to assist the investigation. Meanwhile, the Statesman has learnt that Mondal had alleged in his writ petition filed with Calcutta High Court that officials of Kolkata Police had made strenuous efforts over the past two months to protect the controversial builder, who is said to be very close to Mayor Firdah Hakim and several senior officers of the state government. In his petition seeking a direction of mandamus, Mondal, who alleges that Mohta and others had deprived him of his 3.65 acre plot in Anandapur through fraud and forgery, stated that officers of the Anti-Fraud Section of Kolkata



Police had tried their best to persuade him to withdraw the case. Mondal has alleged in his writ petition, which is pending adjudication before the Calcutta High Court, that the criminal case registered with Anandapur police station against the Mohtas and their associates on directions of the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate, Alipore on 9 January

2026, was abruptly taken over by the Anti-Fraud section four days later. Mondal said he was summoned by the Anti-Fraud Section on 24 and 28 January 2026. On the first day, he alleges that officers made inquiries from him about the legal strategy he proposed to adopt in case the Mohtas and their co-accused filed quashing proceedings, or sought bail, and the legal precedents he would cite. "Such conduct is highly suspicious and wholly inconsistent with the role of an impartial investigative agency," Mondal stated in his writ. On 28 January, Mondal has alleged that officers of the Anti-Fraud section "tried their level best to dissuade" him and his advocate from pursuing the case. Mondal submitted to the High Court that various state agencies were themselves involved in the commission of the offence and that Kolkata Police could not be "expected to conduct a fair, impartial and effective investigation". He further submitted: "The allegations in the present case involve influential persons, public servants, politically connected individuals, due to which the police authorities, being under the administrative control of the State, cannot be expected to conduct an independent and fearless investigation."

New Delhi, Apr 11: Actor-turned-politician C Joseph Vijay has called off his scheduled campaign rally in Cuddalore on Saturday, citing safety concerns, in a late development that comes amid an intense election push across Tamil Nadu. The cancelled event was part of a full-day campaign tour in the district and had already faced one postponement earlier this week, underlining the disruptions to Vijay's outreach at a crucial juncture. With political parties stepping up efforts ahead of the Assembly elections, leaders have been travelling extensively to mobilise support. Vijay, contesting his maiden election as head of the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), has

Cuddalore rally cancelled: Vijay cites safety, draws mixed political response



been on a rapid tour across districts, drawing sizeable crowds at multiple stops. Whirlwind campaign sees strong turnout across districts. Vijay's campaign trail began in Perambur in Chennai and has since covered Tiruchirappalli, Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi, followed by

Acquitted in 2008 Malegaon blast case, Colonel Shrikant Purohit promoted as Brigadier

New Delhi, Apr 11: The Indian Army has promoted Col Shrikant Purohit to the rank of Brigadier. This comes less than four weeks after the Principal Bench of the Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT) held in abeyance his retirement, which was due on March 31. Sources confirmed the promotion of Colonel Purohit and added that it meant his retirement date now stood automatically extended till March 31, 2028. A Brigadier retires at the age of 56, while a Colonel retires at 54. Colonel Purohit, who was acquitted in the 2008 Malegaon blast case, was to retire on March 31, 2026. The AFT Bench, comprising Justice Rajendra Menon and Chairperson Rasika Chaudh, had last month directed that his retirement be kept in abeyance till his



pending statutory complaint seeking due promotion was decided by the Army. The AFT order dated March 16 said: "We direct that till a decision on the statutory complaint, the applicant's retirement should be kept in abeyance." Colonel Purohit had filed a statutory complaint seeking promotion. He had claimed that he was entitled to promotion to the rank of Brigadier at par with his

NMC declares unrecognised dept teaching invalid for medical professionals

New Delhi, Apr 11: Now, any teaching experience certificate issued on the basis of service rendered in an unrecognised department/unit would be treated as "invalid" for determining eligibility, appointment, promotion, or academic recognition. In a significant move aimed at maintaining standards in medical education, the National Medical Commission (NMC) has issued an advisory directing all health universities, state governments, and medical colleges not to count postgraduate teaching or training experience obtained from unrecognised departments. The commission has also declared that teaching experience certificates issued on such a basis will be treated as invalid. A communiqué in this respect



has been circulated to Vice-Chancellors of health universities, Directors General of Health Services of states and Union Territories, and heads of all medical colleges offering postgraduate courses, seeking strict compliance. "The NMC has observed, in certain instances, that teaching experience certificates and postgraduate training experience are

being claimed by the faculty or certified by universities/institutions on the basis of departments or units that are not recognised or permitted by the commission for conducting postgraduate medical education," reads the communiqué. The NMC clarified that such practices violate existing regulations governing postgraduate medical education. It has also placed the responsibility on universities and institutions to verify the recognition status of departments before issuing teaching certificates. Medical colleges and affiliating universities have been directed to ensure that no certificates are issued for experience gained in unapproved departments. The NMC reiterated that teaching experience for faculty appointments or recognition as postgraduate teachers must be obtained only from recognised medical colleges and duly approved departments. These departments must have approved infrastructure, adequate faculty strength, and permitted postgraduate seats as per NMC records and regulations, including the Postgraduate Medical Education Regulations, 2023, and the Medical Institutions (Qualifications of Faculty) Regulations, 2025. The advisory further stated that postgraduate training or teaching experience obtained from unrecognised departments will not be counted for eligibility to appear in postgraduate examinations, recognition as a postgraduate teacher or guide, appointment or promotion to faculty posts, or determination of teaching experience for academic and administrative purposes. Additionally, the commission made it clear that any teaching experience certificates issued on the basis of service rendered in unrecognised departments or units will be considered invalid for appointments, promotions, or academic recognition.

Ghaziabad to undergo mega transformation with Rs 2,200 crore International Cricket Stadium and Aerocity Township

New Delhi, Apr 11: Ghaziabad is set for a massive infrastructural overhaul as the Ghaziabad Development Authority (GDA) moves forward with a multi-billion rupee project in the Raj Nagar Extension (Morti area). The ambitious plan includes the construction of an international cricket stadium at an estimated cost of ₹400 crore, alongside a sprawling 380-acre Aerocity township.



The combined investment for these two mega-projects is projected at approximately ₹2,200 crore. After years of delay—having been initially outlined in 2014-15—the project has gained rapid momentum under the current Yogi Adityanath government, which has prioritized its completion to transform the region into a global urban hub. The centerpiece of the development, the international cricket stadium, will be built on 37 acres and will boast a spectator capacity exceeding 30,000. It is designed to host international matches for the first time in Western Uttar Pradesh and will feature high-tech lighting systems and a modern media center. Adjacent to the stadium, the 380-acre Aerocity is envisioned as an "Integrated Urban Hub" inspired by global standards. This township will house luxury resorts, five-star hotels, high-end shopping malls, and a state-of-the-art business hub. Additionally, it will include an international convention center, a sports academy, and smart residential complexes, making it a comprehensive destination for living, working, and entertainment. Strategically located near the airport, the project is expected to become a major magnet for both domestic and international investors and tourists. GDA Vice-Chairman Nand Kishore Kalal emphasized that the Aerocity model would catalyze significant economic growth, particularly in the retail and service sectors. By merging sports, commerce, and tourism, the project is poised to generate large-scale employment opportunities, ranging from construction roles to specialized service industry jobs. Plans are currently underway to have the foundation stones for both landmark projects laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, marking a new chapter in the urban evolution of Western Uttar Pradesh.

Chitkara University Partners with JAN AI to Drive Inclusive Innovation and AI-Led Entrepreneurship

Chandigarh [India], April 11: Chitkara University has signed a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with JAN AI, a flagship initiative of the Head Held High Foundation, to advance innovation, entrepreneurship, and inclusive access to Artificial Intelligence. The MoU was formalised in the presence of Dr. Madan Padaki, Founder of JAN AI, along with senior leadership and academic representatives from the University. This collaboration marks a forward-looking step towards democratising AI by enabling students and communities to engage with emerging technologies while addressing real-world challenges. It will focus on building capacity through AI-focused training programs, workshops, and hands-on learning opportunities, alongside the launch of the JAN AI Rural Internship Program that offers exposure to real-life problem-solving in diverse communities. As part of the partnership, a Rural AI Incubator will be developed to support student-led startups and innovations, complemented by joint research initiatives centered on AI for social impact, rural development, and inclusive growth. The collaboration will also encourage the creation of AI-driven solutions across sectors such as agriculture, livelihoods, financial inclusion, and governance, while providing students with opportunities to engage with industry leaders, policymakers, and grassroots innovators. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Madan Padaki emphasised the importance of making AI accessible.



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HarperCollins India to publish Albinder Singh Dhindsa's BUILDIT, a candid account of building Blinkit on 15th April 2026

Gurgaon (Haryana) [India], April 11: HarperCollins Publishers India is delighted to announce the upcoming publication of Albinder Singh Dhindsa's Buildit: Building Blinkit in an Evolving India, a deeply insightful and candid account of the journey of one of India's category-defining quick-commerce companies by its founder. From growing up in a farming family in Punjab to the experiences that fuelled his passion for serving Indian customers better and more efficiently, Albinder gives readers a glimpse of his early years of inspiration and goes on to trace the making of the company from the ground up. From initial experiments with business formats to navigating scale, competition and rapid shifts in consumer behaviour, the book captures the ground realities of building a business in India, candidly and without filters. At its core, Buildit

is not just the story of a company, but a rare look into a founder's mind - of decision-making in uncertainty, resilience through setbacks and the constant reinvention that a business requires to survive and thrive in one of the world's most dynamic markets. The book will appeal to entrepreneurs, operators, students and anyone curious about how modern consumer companies are built and scaled in India. The book will be available from 15 April onwards in bookstores across the country and online, on Blinkit and Amazon. Talking about the book, Albinder Singh Dhindsa says, "This book is my attempt to talk about some of the hard realities of building a company like Blinkit in India. I hope that learning about the trials and understanding them better will inspire more of us to take up the challenge of building in India."

OPPO F33: Everything to Know About the Most Feature-Rich F-Series Phone Yet

New Delhi, Apr 11: Pune (Maharashtra) [India], April 11: OPPO, a leading global smartphone maker, recently announced that the latest models from its popular F-series - OPPO F33 5G and OPPO F33 Pro - will be launched on April 15th, 2026. The brand took to social media to share important updates, including the design and colour options of the two handsets. The F33 5G will be the base variant, and OPPO's latest smartphones will continue the company's tradition of offering exceptional front cameras, with a wide field of view. Users planning an



upgrade can own OPPO's latest smartphones without shouldering the entire expense upfront. With Bajaj Finserv Easy EMIs, users can split the cost into instalments and make payments over a 1 to 60 month tenure. Buyers can go to the nearest partner store, choose the Easy EMI option, and enjoy benefits like zero down payment offers on select models, flexible repayment tenures, and instant approvals. **OPPO F33 5G - A solid**

mid-range option OPPO hasn't revealed the full specifications list of the OPPO F33 5G. However, users can expect best-in-class features, including a premium rugged and trendy design. The smartphone is also likely to get the same IP69K dust and water resistance rating as the F33 Pro, making it an excellent everyday use option. Moreover, the F33 5G is tipped to house a massive 7,000 mAh cell that promises long hours of scrolling, binge-watching, and multitasking. The OPPO F33 5G is expected to feature a slim body with a 6.57-inch flat display and an IP69K rating. Recent reports also point to a lighter build of around 194 grams, which should make the phone easier to carry and use for long periods. The F33 5G is tipped to use a 6.57-inch Full HD+ AMOLED screen with a 120 Hz refresh rate, which makes scrolling feel smoother and improves motion clarity while streaming or gaming. The AMOLED panel offers better contrast and deeper blacks, which can make videos and app visuals look more refined.

Evolving consumer choice and rising input cost may strain growth of consumer discretionary sector in coming quarters: Systematix

New Delhi April 11: The consumer discretionary sector is expected to witness a mix of growth and challenges in the coming quarters, driven by evolving consumer preferences, rising input costs, and regulatory pressures, brokerage firm Systematix said in a research report. While value apparel retailers and premium brands are driving strong growth, the brokerage said margin pressures are emerging due to higher discounting and rising input costs. The jewellery sector is expected to see exceptional growth led by gold price inflation, wedding



demand, and festive purchases, though margins may soften due to product mix shifts. "Retail expansion remained aggressive across sectors, supporting strong top-line growth but weighing on near-term profitability due to higher operating costs," said Systematix in its report. The sector is witnessing a shift in consumer behaviour, with one-stop shops offering wide assortments at competitive prices gaining popularity in Tier 2 and Tier 3

towns. However, the ongoing Middle East conflict poses risks to consumption and remains a key monitorable for the sustainability of the current demand recovery, according to the brokerage. The consumer discretionary sector likely witnessed a growth uptick in the March quarter of the financial year 2025-26, driven by strong performance in value apparel retail, premium fashion, and jewellery. Value apparel retailers drove strong growth through store expansion and improved same-store sales, while premium brands continued their steady momentum. The jewellery sector saw exceptional growth led by gold price inflation, wedding demand, and festive purchases. "The jewellery industry in 4QFY26 has demonstrated remarkable resilience and strong growth momentum, characterised by robust consumer demand despite significant gold price volatility," said Systematix. The also-beverages segment saw a divergent performance, with IMFL players leading growth while the beer segment remained relatively weak.

SEBI chief reaffirms open-door policy for global capital

San Francisco [US], April 11: In a move to attract foreign investment, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey has assured global investors that India remains an open and compelling destination for global capital, according to a press release. Speaking at an interactive session with Silicon Valley stakeholders here, Pandey highlighted India's strong macroeconomic fundamentals, rapidly expanding investor base, and reform-oriented policy environment. The session, jointly organised by the



Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Consulate General of India (CGI), San Francisco, brought together industry leaders and venture capitalists to discuss investment opportunities and the evolving India-US economic partnership. Pandey highlighted recent measures to simplify Foreign Portfolio Investor (FPI) registration and Re-KYC, the use of digital platforms, growth of IPOs, and alternative investment funds, and the increasing role of domestic investors in providing market depth and resilience, the release said. "India remains open and welcoming to global capital. SEBI's approach is risk-based and facilitative, with a strong focus on simplifying access for foreign investors.

CEPT University's B.Des (Hons) Applications Close April 12; India's Only Five-Year Undergraduate Design Program

New Delhi [India], April 11: CEPT University has announced that applications for its Bachelor's in Design (Honours) program—India's only five-year undergraduate design program—will close on April 12, 2026. The program offers a distinctive approach to design education through a choice-based, studio-led pedagogy, enabling students to shape their own academic pathways. Studios account for nearly 70 per cent of the curriculum and are conducted in



small, interactive groups, ensuring immersive, practice-led learning and close mentorship. Designed to nurture designers who are contextually aware, critically reflective, and professionally agile, the B.Des (Hons) integrates theoretical grounding with hands-on engagement. Students can pursue majors in Product Design or Communication Design, or explore a multidisciplinary pathway by not choosing any majors. Startups are moving

Best Cotton Fabric and Viscose Fabric Suppliers for Fashion Startups

New Delhi [India], April 11: One of the most significant considerations for a fashion startup is to find the right source for cotton fabric and viscose fabric sourcing. The fabric you choose has a direct effect on the quality, price, scalability, and how people feel about your brand. It's important for new brands with limited funds and collections that are always changing to work with a supplier that is flexible, open, and willing to make changes. Startups are moving



more and more toward global fabric sourcing platforms and digital textile suppliers that offer low minimum order quantities (MOQs), custom development capabilities, streamlined logistics, and give them access to a wide range of materials. This article explores leading global suppliers and explains how startups can build efficient sourcing strategies in a

competitive market. **Global Cotton & Viscose Fabric Suppliers for Fashion Startups:** Big cotton and advanced fiber makers that offer quality, new ideas, and long-term viability drive the global market for cotton fabric and viscose fabric suppliers for fashion startups. Cotton mills make most of the bulk goods, but viscose leaders focus on making eco-friendly fibers and high-performance fabrics. But startups are choosing global fabric sourcing platforms with low MOQ, customization, and flexible supply chains more and more to find the best mix between quality, cost, and the need for production that can grow as needed. **Leading Cotton Fabric Suppliers:** Fabriclore is a global fabric sourcing platform based in India that offers cotton, viscose, and blended fabrics with a strong focus on flexibility and accessibility. It supports low MOQ sourcing.



DIET promotes Cyber Safety Awareness among Students, Teachers; organises One-Day Workshop

KISHTWAR, APRIL 11: District Institute of Education and Training (DIET), Kishtwar today organised a one-day workshop for dissemination of a research tool aimed at assessing awareness on cyber safety and security among secondary students (Classes IX-XII). The initiative aligns with the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE) 2023, which emphasise safe and responsible use of digital technology in education. With increasing digital integration in classrooms, concerns such as online safety, privacy risks, distractions and misuse of digital platforms have gained prominence, necessitating awareness among



students and teachers. During the session, guidelines issued by the Ministry of Education regarding integration of cyber safety and security into the school curriculum were shared. Participants were also sensitised to the ongoing study undertaken by CIET-NCERT titled "A Study on the Awareness of Cyber

Safety and Security among Secondary Students (Classes IX-XII)". The study aims to assess the awareness levels of students and support evidence-based integration of cyber safety in school education. The DIET faculty sought cooperation from all Higher Secondary and High Schools of the district

for data collection through the online tool. Heads of Institutions (HOIs) and Nodal Officers have been requested to ensure maximum participation by sharing the survey link and QR code with students of Classes IX-XII. Notably, over 100 Senior Secondary students of GHSB Boys and GHSS Girls Kishwar

filled the online form on the spot as shared with them and the Nodal Officers, reflecting active participation and engagement. The workshop was conducted under the overall supervision of the DIET Principal Irath Lal. Higher Secondary Level Students (XI and XII class) and Nodal Officers from different Higher Secondary Schools of the District participated in the programme. Dy. SP Headquarters Dr. Ishan Gupta attended the event as Chief Guest and delivered a comprehensive and insightful address on cyber safety and emerging cyber threats. He elaborated on different forms of cyber crimes including online frauds, identity theft, cyber bullying, phishing attacks and misuse.

Padyatra marks launch of 100 Day Nasha Mukt J&K Abhiyan in Doda



DODA, APRIL 11: The 100 Day anti-drug Campaign under the Nasha Mukt Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan took off today in Doda District with a Padyatra, drawing enthusiastic participation from students, officers and members of the general public. The rally commenced from Sports Stadium Doda and culminated at Dak Banglow Doda, reflecting a strong collective commitment towards building a drug-free society. The programme was held as part of the UT-level mega launch of the campaign by Lieutenant Governor J&K UT Sh. Manoj Sinha at Jammu. The rally was flagged off by SSP Kartik Shrotriya in presence of ADC Anil Kumar Thakur, who is also the Nodal Officer for the

campaign. Participants actively raised awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and emphasized the importance of collective responsibility in eliminating the drug menace from society. The event witnessed the presence of District Programme Officer ICDS Akhter Hussain Qazi; Joint Director Education Mohammad Ashfaq; ACP Musharraf Haf; ACD Dn Mohammad Afaq; ASP Headquarters Mohammad Aslam; DySP Headquarters Krishan Rattan; Chief Education Officer Bhushan Kumar Pathak, District Social Welfare Officer Zahar Ahmed, District Information Officer Abhimanyu Singh along with officials from other government departments, representatives of NGOs and social activists.

DC seeks cooperation of civil society, heads of religious organizations

UDHAMPUR, APRIL 11: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa today chaired a meeting with civil society members, prominent citizens and heads of religious organizations, seeking their support in mobilizing community participation and strengthening the anti-drug campaign launched by the Lieutenant Governor Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. The meeting was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police Amrit Pal Singh; Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh; Assistant Commissioner Revenue,

Dr Umesh Shan and other senior officers. While interacting with the participants, the Deputy Commissioner briefed them about the three-month schedule of activities planned under the Nasha Mukt Udhampur Abhiyan. He emphasized the importance of engaging youth in constructive initiatives, stating that their active involvement would play a vital role in ensuring the effective implementation of the campaign at the grassroots level. He informed that a series of awareness programmes and camps are being organized across the district

during the campaign to educate the public about the harmful effects of substance abuse. Highlighting the significance of collective responsibility, he underscored the crucial role of religious leaders and respected members of society in spreading awareness and guiding the youth away from the menace of drug abuse. The civil society members and prominent citizens present in the meeting assured full cooperation and extended their support to the District Administration for making the Nasha Mukt Udhampur Abhiyan a success.

District Admin launches 3-month long Nasha Mukt Udhampur Abhiyan

DIG, DC flag off Padyatra to promote drug-free society



UDHAMPUR, APRIL 11: District Administration Udhampur today launched a three-month-long Nasha Mukt Udhampur Abhiyan by organizing a padyatra from the DC Office Complex, spreading the message 'Say No to Drugs, Yes to Life'. The padyatra was flagged off by DIG Udhampur-Reasi Range Shiv Kumar Sharma, Deputy Commissioner Minga Sherpa, Senior Superintendent of Police, Amrit Pal Singh, in the presence of Additional District Development Commissioner Jugal Kishore, Additional

Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh and other senior officers and officials from the civil and police administration. A large number of students and teachers from educational

institutions and other stakeholders participated enthusiastically in the rally. The padyatra passed through Dhar Road, Barrian, Domail Chowk and culminated at the

Sports Stadium. While briefing the media, the DIG and DC informed that a series of activities shall be conducted across the district during the three-month-long campaign.

Emphasizing the importance of awareness, they reiterated that education and community participation are the most effective tools in combating drug abuse. Earlier, the DIG, DC, SSP and other officers also participated in a signature campaign, reaffirming their commitment to building a drug-free Udhampur. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from all sections of society. Later, participants also took a pledge to support the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan and remain committed to fostering a drug-free and healthy society.

100-Day Nasha Mukt Campaign commences in Ramban with mega Padyatra

RAMBAN, APRIL 11: District Administration Ramban today formally launched the 100-day intensive campaign under the Nasha Mukt Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan, marking a significant step towards eradicating drug abuse and building a drug-free society. The campaign commenced with a series of high-impact awareness programmes held simultaneously at the District Headquarters, Sub-Divisions, Tehsil and Panchayat levels in sync with the UT-level launch. Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan flagged off the grand padyatra from DPL Chanderg,



which witnessed enthusiastic participation from a large number of people

representing all sections of society, including students, youth, officers, officials,

civil society members and volunteers. The padyatra culminated at the District Administrative Complex, spreading a strong message against drug abuse along its route. SSP Traffic NHW Raja Adil Hameedi, DDC Varunjeet Singh Charak; Addl. SP Mujeeb-ur-Rehman; ACR Shoket Hayat Mattoo; CPO Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather; ACD Sheraz Ahmed, along with Tehsildars, BDOs, district and sectoral officers and other concerned officials, participated in the padyatra. Meanwhile, SDMs, Tehsildars, BDOs and prominent citizens led similar events in their respective areas.

Addressing the participants, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need for a collective and sustained effort to eliminate the menace of drug addiction. He highlighted that the 100-day campaign shall focus on awareness generation, community engagement, counseling, rehabilitation and strict enforcement measures to curb the spread of substance abuse. Later, Deputy Commissioner administered Nasha Mukt pledge to the participants, urging them to act as ambassadors of change and contribute actively towards making Ramban a drug-free district.

Fight against drugs gains momentum in Rajouri with launch of 100-Day Nasha Mukt Abhiyan

RAJOURI, APRIL 11: As part of the Mega Launch of the 100-Day Campaign under Nasha Mukt Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan spearheaded by Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha, the District Administration Rajouri organised a Padyatra from the DC Office Complex to Dak Banglow. The Padyatra was flagged off by Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma along with DIG Rajouri-Poonch Range Sandeep Wazir and SSP Gaurav Sikarwar. The rally witnessed enthusiastic participation from district and sectoral officers, teachers, students, prominent citizens and the general public, reflecting a strong col-

lective resolve to combat the menace of drug abuse. On reaching Dak Banglow, a signature campaign was held to reaffirm the commitment of participants towards building a drug-free society. Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need for focused efforts to eliminate drug abuse. He said the 100-day campaign would focus on awareness generation, community engagement and strict enforcement. He informed that a comprehensive action plan has been prepared to cover all Panchayats of the district during the campaign period. DIG Rajouri-Poonch

Range also addressed the gathering and underscored the role of law enforcement agencies in curbing drug trafficking, urging the public to extend full cooperation in identifying and reporting such activities. Prominent citizens appreciated the efforts of LG Shri Manoj Sinha and lauded the initiative aimed at safeguarding the youth and society from the ill effects of drugs. Later, the District Administration organised an interactive session, which witnessed huge participation from the general public. Participants actively shared their suggestions and ideas for effectively curbing the menace of drug abuse.

National Safe Motherhood Day observed at Aspirational Block Mankote



POONCH, APRIL 11: National Safe Motherhood Day was observed at Aspirational Block Mankote under the aegis of Sampoonnata Abhiyan 2.0. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from ASHA and Anganwadi workers, besides members of the local community. Comprehensive health check-ups and ANC services were provided by Dr. Rajiv Sharma, Dr. Rab Nawaz Khan, Dr. Sultana Ajaz, Mohd Yasin (Health Educator) and

Intiaz Ahmed (Pharmacist). Focused awareness sessions were imparted on key maternal health initiatives, including Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) and Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA), emphasizing the importance of antenatal care, institutional deliveries and safe motherhood practices. The programme was organised under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Ashok Kumar Sharma and the

supervision of Chief Medical Officer Dr. Parvaiz Ahmed Khan. The programme was coordinated by ABP Fellow Ajaz Ahmed with active convergence and support from the Health Department, ICDS and NRLM. The convergence of line departments played a pivotal role in the successful organization of the event, contributing significantly towards strengthening maternal and child health outcomes in the region.

Samba: DLC clears 208 HADP, 152 JKICIP farm projects

SAMBA, APRIL 11: District Development Commissioner, Samba Ayushi Sudan today reviewed the implementation & progress of Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) & Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project in Jammu & Kashmir (JKICIP), here at a meeting of District Level Committee (DLC) meeting held in the meeting Hall of the DC office complex. The Deputy Commissioner assessed the status of major projects under HADP & JKICIP and reviewed the online proposals were approved under assistance by farmers, seeking support under agriculture and allied sector components of the twin schemes. As many as 208 project proposals were approved under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and 152 under JKICIP. Emphasis was laid on scaling up the coverage

of allied sector schemes, particularly Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry & Horticulture and output tracking through digital monitoring mechanisms to ensure transparency and real-time assessment of outcomes. The stakeholder departments were instructed to expedite completion of Daksh Kissan training and certification, besides laying focus on timely establishment and tracking of units under (KSOT). The meeting was attended by General Manager DIC, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, District Sheep Husbandry Officer, Assistant Director Fisheries Samba, DDM NABARD, District Officer HPM Samba, District Agriculture Officer Samba, Lead District Manager Samba and other officers of the departments.

GDC Kakryal organises Padyatra to promote Drug-Free Society



REASI, APRIL 11: Government Degree College Kakryal, Katra on Saturday organized a Padyatra under the Nasha Mukt Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan, spreading awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse. The Padyatra commenced from the college campus and culminated at Pantial Chowk, generating awareness among the local masses. Students participated enthusiastically, raising slogans against drug abuse throughout the route

and reinforcing a strong anti-drug message in society. The programme was conducted under the aegis of the College Principal, Dr. Rajni Bhagat. A large number of students from B.A. semesters took part in the rally with great zeal and commitment. The event was coordinated by Prof. Mohammad Younus Saleem (Convener, NCORD) and Dr. Usha Shama NSS Programme Officer. Dr. Sajad Iqbal Khan addressed the students and

highlighted the severe physical, psychological and socio-economic consequences of drug abuse. He urged students to act as ambassadors of change and spread awareness in their respective communities. The programme concluded with the students taking a pledge to contribute towards building a drug-free society. Among others present on the occasion included Dr. Abdul Hafiz, Dr. Bindu Rajput and Dr. Ishfaq Hussain Parry.

Ujh Multipurpose Project Given Final Nod, Additional Land For Hiranagar's Jaitley Stadium: Dr Jitendra

Kathua Apr 11: The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, and Minister of State for the Prime Minister's Office, Jitendra Singh, today made a series of key announcements aimed at accelerating development in Jammu and Kashmir.

Chairing the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) meeting at DC Office here, Dr. Jitendra Singh announced that the long-pending Ujh Multipurpose Project has finally received approval, describing it as a historic milestone. He noted that the project was originally

conceived nearly a century ago but remained stalled for decades due to administrative and financial constraints. Dr. Jitendra Singh said that sustained efforts over the past 13 years helped resolve issues arising from cost escalation. He further informed that the Ministry of Home Affairs extended crucial support in view of national security considerations, as the Ujh river has been identified as a vulnerable point for infiltration. Dr. Jitendra Singh said the project is expected to significantly enhance irrigation capacity and contribute to overall regional development.



Highlighting progress on the ShahpurKandi Barrage, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that the national project is nearing completion, and it is expected to be commissioned within a month. He recalled that the foundation stone was laid by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in the early 1980s, but the project

remained pending for decades. Dr. Singh said the project was revived following the intervention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Jammu in 2019. The Minister stated that the ShahpurKandi Barrage, along with the Ujh Multipurpose Project, will provide surplus

irrigation to border districts of Kathua and Samba in Jammu & Kashmir, as well as Pathankot and Gurdaspur in Punjab. Dr. Jitendra Singh informed that the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway is progressing at a rapid pace, and it will soon be opened up to Vijaypur in Samba district. He added

that construction work on the remaining stretch up to Katra is underway, and it is expected to be completed in the coming months. The expressway will significantly reduce travel time, improve connectivity, and promote economic activity and tourism in the region, he added. In a major boost to sports infrastructure, the Union Minister announced that the Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister's Office has approved the transfer of additional land for the construction of the AnuJaitley International Stadium at Hiranagar. He said the project will facilitate the development of modern sports facilities

and create new opportunities for youth in the region. Referring to the West Asia Situation causing energy crisis across the world, Dr. Jitendra Singh announced that the work for laying a pipeline to supply Piped Natural Gas (PNG) up to Kathua will be completed within the next six months. The project will be undertaken by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, and is expected to provide a reliable and environment-friendly energy source to households. During the DISHA meeting, the Minister directed officials to strengthen coordination with elected representatives

by keeping the concerned MLAs actively involved in matters related to water supply, power distribution, and road connectivity. He stressed that regular consultation with MLAs would help ensure better monitoring of public services, quicker resolution of local issues, and improved delivery of essential infrastructure at the grassroots level. The Minister also took note of the poor condition of the strategic Dhar Road. He instructed the concerned authorities to take immediate corrective action and ensure that potholes on the road are filled without delay.

Rs.3.6 crore Heritage School project begins at GBHSS Bhadarwah

BHADARWAH, APRIL 11: Renovation work at Higher Secondary School Boys Bhadarwah, a prestigious heritage institution that has completed 100 years, officially commenced today.

The project, with an estimated cost of ₹ 3.6 crore, was inaugurated by the Additional Deputy Commissioner Sunil Kumar Badyal, in the presence of Principal Dr. Kailesh Chander, AEE Mushtaq Ahmad, JE Burhan Mangnoo, staff members, NCC cadets and a large number of students.

Under the ambitious project, the centrally located Principal's office measuring approximately 40x20 feet shall be reconstructed. The renovation plan also includes roofing, ceiling upgrades, whitewashing, tile work and comprehensive repair and replacement of windows and



doors across all school buildings spread over an area of 35 kanal. Marking the formal beginning of the work, the ADC performed a traditional ceremony by breaking a coconut and laying two bricks as a symbolic start

to the construction. The event concluded on a celebratory note with the distribution of sweets among attendees, reflecting the joy and optimism surrounding the upgradation of this historic institution.

District Poonch Galvanizes Against Drug Abuse with Mega Launch of 'Nasha Mukh J&K' Campaign and Massive Unity March.

POONCH, APRIL 11: District Administration Poonch today officially launched the Nasha Mukh Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan with a series of high profile events centered on community mobilization and youth engagement.

The program commenced at the New Auditorium of Government Degree College Poonch, beginning with a traditional lamp lighting ceremony, followed by the National Song and National Anthem. District Social Welfare Officer Poonch, Khalil A. Bandy delivered the welcome address and administered a solemn pledge, wherein participants vowed to stay away from drugs and contribute towards building a healthy, addiction free society.

The inaugural session featured



expert lectures from the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Health Department, and Police Department, highlighting the legal consequences of drug trafficking, medical impacts of substance abuse, and the importance of preventive measures.

Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma, reiterated the administration's unwavering commitment to a zero tolerance policy against drug abuse and trafficking, emphasizing that strict action will be taken against offenders while simultaneously strengthening awareness and rehabilitation efforts. SSP Poonch, Shafiq Bhat, emphasized the critical role of police public partnership in curbing narcotics.

Adding a creative dimension, vibrant cultural performances were organized, where local artists effectively portrayed the social evils of drug addiction and the value of a healthy lifestyle. These performances deeply resonated with the audience and served as a powerful medium to sensitize the youth.

Subsequently, a massive Unity March was flagged off from the College Ground, witnessing participation of thousands of students from various schools along with enthusiastic participation from civil society members. Led by the Deputy Commissioner and SSP, the march passed through the main market

and culminated at the historic Poonch Fort, symbolizing the district's collective resolve against drug abuse. A signature campaign was also conducted to reinforce public commitment to the cause. The event was attended by district and sectoral officers, members of the Bar Association, civil society representatives, and senior citizens. The entire programme was conducted under the overall able guidance and directions of the Deputy Commissioner Poonch, with active coordination of the Social Welfare, Information, Education, and YSS departments, and with full cooperation from the Police Department and civil society, reflecting a unified and determined approach towards a drug free Poonch.

District Kishtwar unites against Drug abuse: DC leads mega Padh Yatra marking launch of 100-Day "Nasha Mukh J&K Abhiyan"

KISHTWAR, APRIL 11: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma today led a massive Padh Yatra marking the launch of the "Nasha Mukh J&K Abhiyan" in the district as part of the Union Territory-wide 100-day Anti-Drug Campaign.

The campaign has been launched across the UT of Jammu & Kashmir by Lieutenant Governor Sh. Manoj Sinha, aiming to eradicate drug abuse through awareness, enforcement and community participation.

The Padh Yatra commenced from Char Chinar Chowgan Ground, Kuleed Chowk and culminated at the Mini Secretariat, witnessing an overwhelming participation of 5000-6000 individuals including officers, teachers, students, police personnel, traffic staff, CRPF and employees from various departments.

A key highlight of the rally was the active participation of religious leaders, representing diverse communities of District Kishtwar. Representatives from the Santan Dhama Sabha, Majlis-e-Shoura Committee and Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee joined the initiative and addressed the gathering, urging citizens-especially the youth-to refrain from drug abuse and contribute toward building a healthy, drug-free society. At the historic Chowgan Ground, the Deputy Commissioner administered



"Nasha Mukh Pledge" to all participants, reinforcing their collective commitment to the cause. Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized a three-pronged strategy for the district to combat drug abuse. He stated that the first priority is awareness generation, which involves reaching out to schools, colleges and all sections of society to educate people about the harmful effects of drugs. He underscored that awareness must penetrate every corner of the district to create a strong social resistance against substance abuse.

The Deputy Commissioner further highlighted strict enforcement as the second pillar of the campaign. He stressed the need to strengthen law enforcement mechanisms to curb drug trafficking and ensure stringent action against offenders. He reiterated that enforcement agencies would intensify their efforts during the 100-day campaign to dismantle drug networks and maintain strict vigilance. Elaborating on the third component, he emphasized public outreach, stating that the administration will actively engage with communities to ensure that the campaign reaches every Panchayat of the district. He called for collec-

tive participation from government departments, NGOs, religious institutions and the general public to make the initiative a mass movement. Similar rallies of significant scale were also carried out across all Tehsils and Panchayats, as well as in educational institutions throughout the district, reflecting widespread participation and strong grassroots engagement in the anti-drug campaign.

The DC also urged the general public to actively participate in the campaign and support the administration in its mission to make Kishtwar a drug-free district. It is pertinent to mention that the 100-day "Nasha Mukh J&K Abhiyan" will continue across the district in accordance with a comprehensive activity calendar prepared by various departments under the guidance of the Deputy Commissioner.

SSP Naresh Singh; Commandant 52 B CRPF; Bhupesh Yadav; ADC Pawan Kotwal; POICDS Dr. Rishi Kumar Sharma; CEO KDA Kaiser Bhawani; ACR : ACD Manoj Kumar; ACR Inderes Lone; ACP Neeraj Sharma; DSWO Tariq Parveez Qazi; CEO MC Mirza Muntaz Iqbal; Dy. SP Hqrs. Dr. Ishan Gupta; DYSSO and other officers, officials and representatives of various religious communities were also present.

DYSS rolls out comprehensive Action Plan for 100-Day Nasha Mukh Campaign across All Districts



SRINAGAR, APRIL 11: Marking a definitive stand against substance abuse, the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) J&K successfully organized the first day of the historic 100 Day Special Campaign under the Nasha Mukh Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan.

As J&K has launched 100-day campaign under Nasha Mukh J&K Abhiyan, the Directorate of YSS has also devised a comprehensive action plan which was launched today in all districts in collaboration with respective District Administrations.

Orchestrated with professional precision across the UT, the initiative utilized sports and community mobilization to promote a

healthier, drug-free lifestyle, successfully engaging thousands of students and commoners in a unified mission to reclaim the potential of the youth. The first day was defined by high energy awareness rallies and Padayats that saw a massive groundswell of support in every corner of the region.

In Samba, a powerful awareness rally saw over 850 students and 115 employees march from Rani Suchet Singh Sports Stadium to spread the message of a drug-free India, while in Kishtwar, a grand Padayatra commenced from the historic Char Chinar Chowgan, culminating at the DC Office as a symbol of collective resolve. Similarly, in Doda, a high-

energy Padayatra transformed the streets into a vibrant wave of awareness, and in Kulgam, the campaign was bolstered by a spirited awareness march from the Mini Secretariat to DPL Kulgam.

In Ramban, large-scale rallies were flagged off across multiple locations, including DPL Ramban and Banihal, ensuring the campaign's reach extended through every subdivision. Beyond the rallies, the Directorate focused on institutional commitment through formal pledge ceremonies and localized outreach.

The Directorate shall be organizing sports activities pertaining to the campaign across the UT to reinforce physical discipline as a barrier to addiction. In Baramulla, the campaign witnessed an overwhelming district wide sweep across all schools in zones like Sopore, Kunzer, and Pattan, where morning assemblies were dedicated to the "Nasha Mukh" oath. In Kathua, students and staff at GHSS Marheeb led a solemn pledge ceremony, while in Kupwara, a series of sensitization drives reinforced the "Choose Life, Not Drugs" message.

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

