



Terrorism curbed, not eliminated completely: HM Amit Shah

BSF always played crucial role in every war with Pakistan: Amit Shah



■ HT News Network

JAMMU, APR 07: Asserting that terrorism has been curbed, but it has not been completely eliminated, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said that under the leadership of PM Modi, significant progress has been achieved in tackling terrorism and ending separatist ideology in Jammu and Kashmir.

Shah, according to the news agency— met the families of J&K policemen, who laid down their lives in line of duty in an encounter with terrorists in Kathua district recently. He also

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HM Shah arrives in Srinagar, visits residence of late DySP Humayun Muzamil

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 07: : Union Home Minister Amit Shah arrived in Srinagar on Monday evening.

He was received by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and other dignitaries at Srinagar Airport.

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Repeated adjournments in Assembly over Waqf Bill

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, APR 07 : The Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly witnessed repeated disruptions on Monday after the Speaker disallowed an adjournment motion brought by legislators from the ruling NC-led alliance on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill- 2025. The

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Speaker disallows Adjournment
Motions on Waqf Amendment Bill
citing sub-judice rule

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 07: Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly,

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Your 'zero terror plan' has given us motivation to destroy terror network: DGP to HM

■ HT News Network

KATHUA, APR 07: Stating that "zero terror plan" given by Union Home Minister Amit Shah has given security forces motivation to fight and destroy the terror network, Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Monday thanked Union Home Minister for Centre's support.

Addressing BSF jawans at 'Vinay' border outpost here the DGP, according to the news agency— said, "Today we have gathered to pay tribute to martyrs. Sir, your Zero terror plan has given us



motivation to fight and destroy the terror network."

He said, "1620 policemen have been

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Three Bills passed by Assembly assented by LG: Secy Legislative Assembly

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 07: Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Manoj Kumar Pandit today informed the House that three Bills, passed by Legislative Assembly have been assented to by the Lieutenant Governor on 25th of March, 2025. The Secretary further read out "Three Bills, passed by Legislative Assembly have been assented to by the Lieutenant Governor on 25th of March, 2025. The Bills include The Jammu and Kashmir Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (L.A. Bill No. 1 of 2025), The Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation Bill, 2025 (L.A. Bill No. 2 of 2025) and The Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation Bill, 2025 (L.A. Bill No. 3 of 2025)".

Preparations underway for Budgam, Nagrota bye-polls

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 07: In line with the guidelines issued by the Election Commission of India (ECI), rationalisation of polling stations for the upcoming bye-elections in the 27-Budgam and 77-Nagrota Assembly Constituencies was completed here

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Waqf Amendment Bill 'unconstitutional': Dr Farooq, hopes SC will deliver justice



■ HT News Network

GANDERBAL, APR 07: National Conference (NC) President Dr Farooq Abdullah on Monday said that the Waqf Amendment Bill passed in Parliament was "unconstitutional", and expressed hope that the Supreme Court will deliver justice in this regard. He also said that he will not intervene or hold discussions with Home Minister Amit Shah regarding the restoration of statehood.

Talking to reporters at Yangoora, Ganderbal, Dr Abdullah, as reported by the news agency—, said the issue about the Waqf Amendment Bill has been taken to court, and thus the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, denied discussion on the matter.

"As the issue is presently subjudice, we hope that the Supreme Court (SC) will deliver justice in this regard," he said.

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928 cases of SRO-43 1994 pending in J&K: Govt '1279 applications pending under rehabilitation assistance scheme'

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APR 07 The Jammu and Kashmir government on Monday said there are 928 cases of SRO-43 of 1994 pending in Jammu and Kashmir. Responding to a



query by MLA Pulwama, Waheed Ur Rehman Para,

the government in a written reply, as reported by the news agency—, said there are 928 pending cases under SRO-43 of 1994, while 1,279 applications received under the Rehabilitation Assistance

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Opposition slams NC over its stance on Waqf Bill

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR APRIL 07:: Peoples Democratic and Peoples Conference on Monday slammed National Conference over its role in scuttling adjournment motion to discuss Waqf (Amendment) Bill-2025 and lapsing of statehood resolutions. As per the news agency—, Peoples Conference chairman and Handwara lawmaker Sajad Lone asked NC why they are not moving a no-confidence motion against its own Speaker for rejecting their adjournment motion.

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Ceasefire Violation Reported Along LoC in Poonch's Digwar Sector

■ HT News Network

POONCH, APR 7: Tension gripped the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu division's Poonch district on Monday following a ceasefire violation by Pakistani forces in the Digwar sector, official sources said. According to defense officials, Pakistani troops resorted to unprovoked firing along the LoC, prompting swift retaliation from Indian forces stationed in the area. The exchange of fire reportedly lasted for a brief period and was largely confined to forward positions.

No casualties or injuries were reported from either side at the time of filing this report.

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Srinagar's Bicycle Sharing Project Earns Just Rs 4.48 Lakh Against Rs 13.20 Crore Investment

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APR 7 : The much-hyped public bicycle sharing project launched in Srinagar under the Smart City Mission has raised eyebrows in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly after it was revealed that the scheme has generated a meagre revenue of just Rs 4.48 lakh since its launch in May 2023—against a total investment of over Rs 13 crore.

As per official data submitted in response to queries by legislators Shamim Firdous and Mushtaq Guroo, the government has so far spent Rs 9.06 crore on developing dedicated cycling infrastructure in areas such



as Batamalo, Hazratbal, and Lal Chowk. These cycle tracks are part of broader urban redevelopment plans, including the Lakefront Development project near Dal Lake and the Complete Street initiatives in Batamalo and Lal Chowk.

In addition to this, Rs 4.14 crore

was approved as viability gap funding to support the public bicycle sharing scheme, which was rolled out under a public-private partnership model. Of this, Rs 1.2 crore has already been disbursed to the private firm managing the service.

The scheme, which was launched on May 20, 2023, comprises 900 bicycles and 100 docking stations across the city. Despite this extensive infrastructure, the project has earned just Rs 4.48 lakh in user fees to date, raising serious questions about its utility, sustainability, and public outreach.

Officials say the bicycle-sharing

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Saudi job scam leaves Kashmiri youth depressed, starving, suicidal Families plead for govt action as dreams of employment turn into trap, exploitation in Gulf

■ HT News Network/KNO

Srinagar, Apr 07: A growing number of youth from Kashmir valley are falling prey to a job scam that promises employment in Saudi Arabia but leaves them stranded with low wages, long working hours, and broken promises, an investigation by the news agency—has found.

Not only are they forced into menial jobs with little pay and long shifts, but they're also bound by harsh two-year contracts that strip them of the right to leave or return home.

Local agents, operating mainly from Srinagar and north Kashmir, are

charging hefty sums while assuring well-paying jobs, only to send the youth into exploitative conditions abroad.

A tentative survey conducted by KNO has revealed that around 233 youth from Kashmir are currently stuck in similar exploitative conditions across various Gulf countries.

Of them, over 75 percent are earning just 1,100 Saudi Riyals (around Rs 25,000) per month—far less than what they were promised.

Moreover, about 55 percent said they didn't receive any salary during the first three months of work, pushing them into financial distress. Many



remain bound by restrictive contracts, with no way to leave or return home.

Tariq Ahmad, a resident of Arin in Bandipora, is among the victims. "I gave 70,000 rupees to a Srinagar agent who said I'd be working in a zaitoon company," he said. "But when I reached Mumbai, I was made to sign a contract that mentioned a much lower salary. I called the agent, and he told me to go ahead, promising everything would be fine."

However, since arriving in Saudi Arabia three months ago, Tariq has been made to work 15 hours a day and hasn't received any salary.

"I've spent everything to come here. I've been working day and night, and there's no money, no help," he

said. In a video that has gone viral online, he says he's losing hope and may take his own life along with his wife if nothing changes.

Mustafa, another youth from Baramulla, was also promised a respectable job in Saudi Arabia. "They told me it was a good position with a decent salary. But after reaching here, they gave me a delivery job. I've already signed a two-year contract. I feel stuck," he said.

Imran from Kupwara shared a similar account. "I was told I'd work in a hotel. I now clean toilets for 14 hours a day. I didn't come here for this.

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Advisor to CM meets delegations, individuals; assures prompt action on genuine concerns

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APRIL 07: Continuing government's commitment to resolve issues of general public, Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, met various delegations and individuals at Chief Minister's Public Service and Outreach Office, Gupkar here today. The JK Government Employees Joint Consultative Committee led by its Chairman, Aijaz Khan, called on the Advisor and highlighted various issues confronted by the Employees. They also discussed several welfare measures concerning the employees. The Advisor heard the delegations patiently and assured them that all their issues and concerns would be addressed in a phased manner. He stated that the present government is quite aware of the issues of employees and every effort would be made to resolve the same on the



basis of their genuineness. Similarly, JK Higher Education Contractual Teachers Association also met the Advisor and presented a memorandum of their demands. They demanded parity in terms of engagement with Health and Medical Education Department under SRO

364. Responding to their demands, the Advisor said that Omar led government is determined to understand and address the hardships of our employees. He emphasised that these issues and concerns would be thoroughly looked into and resolved

promptly. Meanwhile, scores of individuals called on the Advisor and highlighted their issues. These issues, inter alia, included adjustment under SRO 43, payments pending with SICOP and other concerns regarding better basic amenities in their respective areas. Pertinently, the Chief Minister's Public Service and Outreach Office is being daily thronged by dozens of delegations and individuals for resolution of their issues and concerns. A robust mechanism is in place to address the issues and concerns of the public both in offline and online mode. Pertinently, the Chief Minister's Public Service and Outreach Office is being daily thronged by dozens of delegations and individuals for resolution of their issues and concerns. A robust mechanism is in place to address the issues and concerns of the public both in offline and online mode.

Arrangements for Baisakhi festival finalized in Srinagar

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APRIL 07: In order to review the arrangements for ensuing Baisakhi festival being celebrated on April 13, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Srinagar, Rifat Aftab Qureshi Monday chaired a meeting of Officers and members of Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee herewe. On the occasion, the ADDC took a detailed assessment of the preparations and arrangements being put in place by the line departments and Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee for smooth and seamless celebrations of the festival in Srinagar District. The ADDC stressed on ensuring better arrangements well in advance with regard to safe drinking water, uninterrupted power supply, first-aid, sanitation measures, transport and parking facilities and other related arrangements. She also asked the concerned Departments to ensure proper sanitation and immediate repairing of defunct lights in and around the Gurdwara Chatti Padshahi, Baghat Barzulla and other prominent Gurudwaras in the City. The ADDC laid emphasis on adequate arrangements of fire fight-



ing measures particularly near the Gurudwara Langar on the occasion. She instructed the concerned to make adequate transport and parking facilities on the occasion, so that devotees may not face any inconvenience while traveling to or from Gurdwara Chatti Padshahi. Earlier, members of Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee put forth the demands for smooth and hassle free celebrations of the festival. The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz; Superintendent of Police, Showkat Ahmad; Joint Commissioner SMC, Syed Abul Qasim; Chief Planning officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, SDM West, Tehsildar South, Tehsildar Khanyar, Executive Engineers of PHE & PDD, AC Food Safety, ARTO, AD FCS&CA, Officers of Health, Traffic, Legal Metrology.

No Photo Op Can Hide This Betrayal": Imran Reza Ansari Slams NC Over Waqf Bill Resolution Snub

HT News Network

Srinagar, April 07: *Former Minister and J&K Peoples Conference General Secretary Moli Imran Reza Ansari today accused NC leadership of colluding with BJP at the expense of J&K's Muslim population, particularly regarding the contentious Waqf Amendment Bill, 2025. "From day one, my party and I have been clear — this is a fixed match between NC and BJP, a scripted drama played at the cost of the people of J&K," Ansari declared in his statement. Ansari highlighted what he described as a telling incident, stating, "While a bill of immense importance to Jammu & Kashmir's Muslim majority — the Waqf Amendment Bill — was being pushed for discussion, where were the top NC leaders? The Chief Minister and his father were busy smiling in tulip gardens with Kiren Rijju — the same BJP minister tasked with 'minority affairs' and who tabled the Waqf Amendment Bill, 2025." He emphasized the irony of the situation, saying, "While the rights of their own people were being compromised, these so-called champions of J&K were posing for pictures." He then referenced scripture, adding, "But as the Quran says: 'They plan, and Allah plans — and Allah is the best of planners.'" (Quran 8:30) "JKPC General Secretary expressed strong criticism of the legislative proceedings surrounding the bill, emphasizing that, "To add insult to injury, the Speaker of the Assembly — himself a Muslim in a Muslim-majority Union Territory — had even refused to allow a discussion on the Waqf Amendment Bill."

Srinagar admin organizes Drug De-Addiction/ Awareness programme at Girls High School Balhama

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APRIL 07: Following the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, an IEC (Information, Education and Communication) programme on Drug De-Addiction and Awareness was organized today at Girls High School, Balhama. The programme, aimed to sensitize students and the local community about the harmful effects of drug abuse and the importance of a drug-

free society, witnessed enthusiastic participation from a large number of school children, staff members and local residents. The event was part of an ongoing initiative to educate the youth and the general public about the growing menace of drug addiction and the collective responsibility to fight it. During the event, Block Development Officer Khonmoh addressed the gathering and emphasized the need for awareness and early intervention to curb the spread of drug abuse, especially among youth. He called upon students to act as ambas-

sadors of change and spread the message of healthy and responsible living. Tehsil Social Welfare Officer North also delivered a detailed lecture, highlighting the psychological, social and economic consequences of drug addiction. He spoke about various government schemes and rehabilitation facilities available for those in need. Other Officers and Experts present also shared their insights and encouraged the audience to stand united against this social evil. The programme concluded with an interactive session where students raised.

World Health Day: DLSA, DH Budgam organize awareness programme on physical & mental health

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APRIL 07: An awareness program on importance of physical and mental health and well-being was today organized by District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam in collaboration with District Hospital Budgam to observe 'World Health Day'. The programme focused on the linkage between legal rights and access to health services, and highlighted

the role of health services in legal and social justice, particularly for marginalized groups. The event was organized under the supervision of O.P Bhagat, Chairman DLSA (Principal District and sessions Judge) Budgam and under the guidance of Nusrat Ali Hakak, Secretary DLSA Budgam. 'Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures' was the theme for World Health Day-2025. This year's theme kicks-off a year-long campaign on maternal and newborn health. This initiative will

encourage governments and the healthcare sector to intensify their actions to eliminate preventable maternal and newborn deaths. It will also focus on the long-term health and well-being of women. The program was graced by the presence of resource persons from DLSA Budgam including Amir and Iqbal Wani, Panel Lawyers DLSA Budgam who highlighted critical issues for global health which underpins lifelong health, stronger communities, and collective future.

Kashmir's Daughter Irfana Zargar Honoured with JK Gaurav Ekta Sammaan Award

HT News Network



Srinagar: Irfana Zargar, fondly known as the Padwoman of Kashmir, has been conferred with the prestigious JK Gaurav Ekta Sammaan Award today in recognition of her relentless service towards women's health, menstrual hygiene awareness, and community empowerment in Jammu and Kashmir. A fearless changemaker and a devoted daughter, Irfana began her journey in 2014, dedicating her mission to the memory of her late father. Through her initiative Eva Safety Door, she has been distributing sanitary pads free of cost, especially to underprivileged and orphaned girls, breaking taboos and igniting conversations around menstrual dignity in the most remote areas of the valley. Her work is not just a service it is a movement rooted in empathy, resilience, and purpose. Traveling by local buses, often facing challenges, she continues to reach out to the unheard voices, proving that one woman can indeed be a revolution. Upon receiving the award, Irfana said: This award is not just mine. It belongs to my father, whose values live through my actions, and to every girl who dares to dream beyond boundaries. I want to be the voice for the voiceless, and the hope for the hopeless. Her story is a shining example of how courage and compassion can transform grief into a legacy and silence into a voice that echoes change.

Awareness programme on 'World Health Day' held at Pulwama

HT News Network

PULWAMA, APRIL 07: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Pulwama in collaboration with Chief Medical Officer Pulwama today organized an awareness programme on 'World Health Day' in the conference hall of Chief Medical Officer's office Pulwama. The programme, organized under the chairmanship of Malik Shabir Ahmad, Chairman DLSA (Pr. District & Sessions Judge), Pulwama and under the supervision of Mudassar Farooq, Secretary DLSA Pulwama, was attended by Secretary DLSA Pulwama; Dr. Verinder Singh, Dy. CMO Pulwama; Dr. Javid, District Health Officer Pulwama and staff members of CMO office Pulwama and DLSA Pulwama. In the address, Secretary DLSA gave insights regarding World Health Day, and asked the participants to raise awareness about gaps in maternal and newborn survival and the need to prioritize women's long-term well-being and advocate for effective investments that improve the health of women and babies. He also encouraged collective action to support parents as well as health professionals who provide critical health care.

SKIMS Equips Itself with Cutting-Edge Technology Worth Rs 50 Crore, More Upgrades in Pipeline: Director M. Ashraf Ganaie

HT News Network

Srinagar, Apr 7: In a significant development on World Health Day, Director Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Dr Muhammad Ashraf Ganaie, announced a major infrastructural upgrade at the premier health institute. Addressing a press conference in Srinagar, Dr Ganaie revealed that SKIMS has procured state-of-the-art medical equipment worth over Rs 50 crore, with additional equipment worth Rs 40 crore set to be acquired in the coming months. The institute has already placed a demand for over Rs 55 crore to ensure the hospital is equipped with the latest modern medical technology. Dr Ganaie as per the news agency Kashmir News Trust, said that the procurement process has been carried out through proper channels, and the objective is to upgrade SKIMS to meet the highest standards of patient care and clinical excellence. The newly acquired equipment includes advanced life-supporting and diagnostic systems that are expected to



significantly enhance the institute's capability to deliver specialized treatments and handle critical care cases more efficiently. The newly procured medical technology includes 150 ICU beds, high-end visualizer towers for kidney transplants, neurosurgery drills, biochemistry and urine analyzers, CT simulators, endoscopy units, portable X-ray and ultrasound systems, paediatric bronchoscopy tools, phototherapy units, high flow nasal therapy machines, bubble CPAP units, anaesthesia workstations, and a water filtration plant, among others. On the administrative front, the Director announced the promotion of 1,000 employees through Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs), a move that coincides with the occasion of World Health Day and is seen as a morale booster for the workforce. Responding to questions about earlier lapses in fund utilization, Dr Ganaie said a committee will be constituted to examine the reasons behind the non-utilisation

of allocated funds in previous years. "We are not here to accuse anyone, but we do want accountability. It's important to understand why funds lapsed so we can avoid similar issues in the future," he said. Dr Ganaie also welcomed constructive criticism and feedback from the public and stakeholders but urged that SKIMS, as a vital public institution, should not be unfairly maligned. "This institute belongs to all of us. While we are open to suggestions for improvement, let us not undermine its credibility. SKIMS is our shared asset," he remarked. Principal of JVC Bemina, Dr Fazal Parray, who was also present during the press conference, highlighted the transparent procurement and administrative systems in place at SKIMS. He noted that teams from the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) have regularly visited the institute—not to investigate corruption—but to educate staff about ethical conduct and the consequences of malpractice. "There is a proper mechanism in place that leaves no space for corruption. Our purchasing system is robust, and our staff is well-aware of their responsibilities," he said.

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EDITORIAL

Non-availability of ventilators at SKIMS a serious issue

The Sher-I-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) Soura is the only tertiary care hospital in the government sector in the Kashmir valley. As such one can expect that the necessary and up to date healthcare facilities are available at the hospital. However, as on date the situation is not so rosy at this primary healthcare institute and the same has sent shivers down the spine of the people especially those receiving treatment at the hospital.

Some days back the relatives of a young man virtually entered into a scuffle with the doctors and the para-medical staff at the hospital after they were denied the facility of a ventilator for their patient. The patient was so serious that he had to put on an artificial support system but the hospital authorities asked the relatives of the young man to go to a private hospital since the artificial support system was not available there.

The relatives of the young patient raised hue and cry in the hospital following which a ventilator was made available for the patient. The non-availability of a ventilator at SKIMS is a serious issue and this needs to be looked into by the people at helm at the hospital. It was due to the argument of the relatives of the young patient that a ventilator was made available to them. One cannot rule out denial of ventilators to some other patients who needed the same at the hospital.

The denial of a ventilator at SKIMS is not a small issue and it speaks volumes about the mismanagement at the hospital. This is no less than a crime and if a patient dies due to non-availability of a ventilator at the hospital the staff needs to be pulled up for the same. In other words we can say that the hospital administration didn't carry out physical checks of the ventilators at the hospital. The health minister needs to look into the matter so that things are set in the right direction and people don't suffer.

At the same time the government should also order a probe as to how come the doctors at SKIMS are asking the patients and their attendants to visit a private hospital for receiving treatment. There seems to be a nexus between such doctors and the management of the private hospital. It is the same hospital that has poached many doctors from the institute and given them jobs at the hospital.

WAVES: India Leading the Way for Global Creative Content Revolution



DHARMENDRA TEWARI
ADG, PIB, MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

Creativity has no boundaries. From time immemorial, the creators have been shaping this world. The great Creative ideas, which shaped us as "modern human beings", across all civilizations, in our long evolutionary journey from the dark ages, pushed creative vision of earlier generations with an aim to improve their future i.e. "Our Present Life". As we, Baby boomers to GenZ, enjoy the benefits of progress in the 21st century, it is the creativity of our ancestors that made human life better for us in the modern times. Thus, identifying the creators, giving them mentorship, sharing state of the art know-how, best global practices and by providing access to market for their creative work, becomes crucial for the policy makers in all generations.

In modern internet era, by unleashing the creative potential of the world, India is precisely riding on WAVES of creativity. New Delhi aims to unite the world politically as a "Creative Soft Power" promoting the global harmony among comity of nations. At the same time at working level of Media & entertainment industry our policy makers are "Connecting the Creators" through WAVES 2025 by "Connecting Countries. Be it Indian brand of Yoga & Ayurveda from ancient times or "Entertaining" music of Bol-

lywood in the last 100 years since talkies came into being, our creators have been shaping the world democratising the knowledge for creators of all generations. Thus WAVES, the World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit, happening in Mumbai from 1st to 4th May is a great opportunity for creators from across the globe to showcase their talent & truly be a part of creative journey, earn name & fame for their creativity. Be it films, music, games, comics or some tech innovation in making the education & healthcare more affordable, WAVES offers to the creators a "Wholesome Opportunity" to remain ahead by developing tools having potential to shape the media and entertainment industry.

Efforts of Ministry of Information & Broadcasting in identifying creative talent pool is bringing results. More than "750 Shortlisted Creators" from across the world filtered through 32 'Create in India, Create for the World' Challenges, will now showcase their work in Mumbai's Jio Convention Centre. They are not only creators but inventors in true sense. Some of the creators identified by government of India through a holistic approach of jury-based selection by industry experts & the market professionals have already come up with a great work that has a scalable potential to change our life by innovative means.

Next time when you go to cellular Jail in Port Blair as a tourist you will have a better experience to interact with freedom fighter Veer Savarkar. Simply because a creative firm used their Xtended Reality(XR) talent to make it possible. Under the aegis of WAVES challenge, Creators want to use the platform of WAVES to reach out to the other historical sites in India or abroad displaying their XR & Virtual Reality, VR skills while

narrating historical stories & the folklores. Another team of creators have used VR to give a real-world commerce feeling in their online purchase. Another tech-driven creative work, PosePerfect is an effort to correct the yogic postures of fitness freaks by using the XR as an Artificially Intelligent solution to imperfect poses of Yoga practitioners, a real time problem. With the right support and mentorship, youth creativity can position India as a global content hub, enhance governance, and create jobs, realising the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of 'Create in India, Create for the World' through WAVES.

Coders from the remote corners of India are also benefiting from CIC challenges under WAVES. A young 16-year-old boy from Kashmir has started giving shape to his dreams of making his own startup, thanks to the acknowledgement of his coding skills on the platform of WAVES. It is not just one story of a youth from Kashmir but there are many youths across the world who are trying their fate by showcasing their skills on the talent hunt forum, the CreatoSphere of WAVES. As the confluence of technology with artistic creation is at its peak, media & entertainment sector through its soft power has an immense potential to lead the way making India as a top global content creation hub in the times to come.

Given rich heritage of storytelling and prowess in coding, we are well positioned to use our skills in making creation not only traditionally ethnic but also ethical at a time, when telling the truth is so important to democratise traditional knowledge. The WAVES is all set to project before the world how creators sharpened the human understanding in all generations. It

is therefore imperative to judge the creative talent in all the formats of creativity, be it reel making or tell the truth hackathon. Top Comic makers & their creative comic animation is already making creatives WAVES in the media. In the world of classical Music, Dilli Gharana's talent hunt show on Doordarshan Wah Ustad is also reviving the traditional formats of creativity.

Further, if our modern GenZ creators play piano or any other musical instrument on their mobile app, Electronic Dance and Music & DJing Competition (EDM) is also tapping the new era talented creators. India has already reached out to about 160 nations across the world to join and see for themselves global creative talent identified by top creators of the world during the Grand Finale of season 1 of Create in India Challenges next month.

The first WAVES Summit is a milestone event for the Media & Entertainment (M&E) sector. This historic summit will bring together global leaders, media professionals, artists, policymakers, and industry stakeholders. Summit seeks to help India become the content hub of the world. With the advent of technology in creative space, some of the key challenges that have arisen are misuse of Artificial Intelligence, Deepfakes in images, audio & unregulated streaming revolutions, intellectual property right violations, misinformation menace and concerns on legacy media sustainability. As the first-ever event of its kind, WAVES 2025 will deliberate these issues & come up with solutions that promote cultural diversity, innovation, and equitable access to media platforms. WAVES 2025 is not just a summit; it is a vision for a more connected, creative, and collaborative world.

Heatwaves: A growing public health crisis for India



DR. SATYAWAN SAURABH

Heat waves are not new to India but have become increasingly dangerous in nature in recent years. Once considered a seasonal variation, heatwaves have now become a regular disaster in our cities and villages. In 2024, northwest India recorded 181 heatwave days – the highest ever. These numbers are not just weather statistics; they are a clear warning of the threat to life, health, and livelihoods. Heatwaves, prolonged periods of extreme heat above the normal temperature range, have become more severe in India due to climate change. In 2024, India recorded 554 heatwave days with maximum temperatures exceeding 47 degrees Celsius across several states. This increase has led to a rise in heat-related illnesses, disproportionately affecting the elderly, workers, and low-income communities.

Heatwaves and health: lack of shade, excess of distress

Extreme heat has a direct impact on our body. Dehydration, heatstroke, rapid heartbeat, and shortness of breath—these are common problems that come with heat waves. Children, the elderly, and the sick are the most affected. In Jharkhand, an abnormal increase in dehy-

dration cases was reported in the pediatric ward this year. Rapid urbanization and reduction of greenery have turned cities into heat islands. In cities like Delhi, night temperatures also remain 4-5 degrees above normal. For families living in slums, this situation can be painful to life-threatening.

Heatwaves and their impact on life systems

Heat closes schools, disrupts water supply, and power cuts become common. The poor and working class, who have neither access to cool places nor resources, are most vulnerable. Heatwaves have become a question not just of health but also of economic output. The productivity of people engaged in outdoor work, such as construction workers, farmers, and street vendors, is falling. According to the International Labour Organization, heatwaves could lead to a 2.2% drop in working hours in India, which could translate into a loss of up to 2.8% of GDP.

The effect is not the same on everyone.

Heatwaves do not hit everyone equally. Those without access to air conditioning, clean water, and health services are more vulnerable. Rural women who fetch water or work in the fields are doubly at risk. For families living in poor settlements in cities, heatwaves become the most severe form of inequality. Heatwaves cannot be fought with just a weather alert. It requires early warning systems, urban planning, expanding health services, and community participa-



tion. Cities like Ahmedabad, Surat, and Bhubaneswar have adopted heat action plans, showing that planned efforts can reduce mortality. In Surat, the 'cool roof' scheme reduced temperatures in slums by 3-4 degrees. In Bhubaneswar, drinking water stalls and shade structures were installed in crowded markets.

Heat governance: Legal and

policy framework needed now

Accurate heat forecasts and public warnings help reduce health risks. The Ahmedabad Heat Action Plan (2013) introduced color-coded alerts that helped residents and hospitals prepare for extreme temperature conditions. Creating cooling spaces in hospitals, training health professionals, and ensuring adequate medical supplies can reduce heat-related mortality. Thane

includes real-time monitoring to track heatstroke cases and provide immediate medical intervention. Creating cooling centers, distributing ORS packets, and ensuring water availability help protect low-income communities. In Bhubaneswar, temporary shade structures and hydration stations were installed in crowded markets to prevent heat exhaustion. Expanding green cover, promoting reflective

roofs, and building water reservoirs can significantly reduce urban temperatures. Surat launched a cool-roof initiative in slums, reducing indoor temperatures by 3-4 °C, benefiting thousands of residents.

Just like GRAP (Graded Response Action Plan) is implemented for air pollution in Delhi-NCR, an automated, data-based policy framework is needed for heatwaves as

well.

Combating future heat with today's policies

Heatwaves are not just heat; they are a warning – a test of the fabric of our cities, our economic policies, and our health systems. India must now treat heatwaves as a 'natural disaster' and prepare accordingly. Climate change is no longer a future worry – it is a present reality. And to combat this reality, we need policy, innovation, and justice. Only then will we be able to make that hot future a little more bearable and perhaps a little cooler. Strengthening heat health governance is critical to mitigate the growing threat of heatwaves. A proactive approach, integrating early warning systems, urban heat action plans, resilient infrastructure, and community participation, can save lives. As climate change increases extreme heat, long-term resilience can be built through collaborative policymaking, scientific innovation, and sustainable urban planning.

(Dr. Satyawan Saurabh is a poet, freelance journalist, and columnist.). He is a panelist on All India Radio and various TV channels. His articles on public policy, environmental change, and social issues keep getting published in various newspapers and magazines across the country. Currently he is active in writing and social dialogue from the Siwani area of the Bhiwani district of Haryana. Address: 333, Pari Vatika, Kaushalya Bhawan, Barwa (Siwani), Bhiwani, Haryana - 127045, Mobile: 9466526148, 01255-281381)



Govt to establish Joint Control Rooms for Forest Fires

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL, 7: Commissioner Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment Department, Sheetal Nanda, today chaired a meeting to review the preparedness and action plan for forest fires management.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Suresh Gupta; Chief Wildlife Warden, Sarvesh Rai; Additional PCCF, T Rabi Kumar; Director, Forest Protection Force, Sandeep Kujur; Secretary in Forest Department, Pardeep Kumar; Chief Conservator of Forests, Jammu/ Kashmir and other senior officers of the department attended the meeting.

The meeting had a detailed discussion on the prevailing scenario with regard to forest fires. It was informed that the Kashmir Division is prone to forest fires during March and April and less precipitation during the recent winters has increased the risk of these incidents. It was also revealed that in addition to natural reasons, the forest fires are also being caused by the unscrupulous elements. While the Department is taking preventive

measures to mitigate these fires due to natural causes, it has also initiated action against the culprits who deliberately set forest fires. There are 8 FIRs lodged in this regard, and the investigation has been initiated by the Police Department.

During the presentation, it was noted that although forest fires affected a small percentage of the total forest area, with damage limited to ground fires and no major crown damage reported, the Forest Ecology & Environment Department team is actively engaged in controlling and preventing these fires.

It was mentioned that the forest fires in Jammu Division usually occur during the dry and hot season of April to June. The department has already initiated various preventive measures in this regard.

The Commissioner Secretary emphasized upon the department to shift focus from fire fighting to preventive management of the forest fires.

It was also informed that for structured response to the forest fires, a detailed SOP is being formulated which defines the cri-



teria for categorization of low risk farm fires to high risk crown fires. The SOP also describes the preventive measures like creating fire breaks and control burns, prepared-

ness through establishing fire response units, response protocols, use of technology, community engagements and awareness programmes. The SOP will notify the composition of fire response teams, fire fighting equipments of each unit as also the format for reporting mechanism for forest fires.

The Commissioner Secretary directed that SOP needs to be made more specific with heat maps based on the past fire incidents and exclusive KMZ mapping of fire lines.

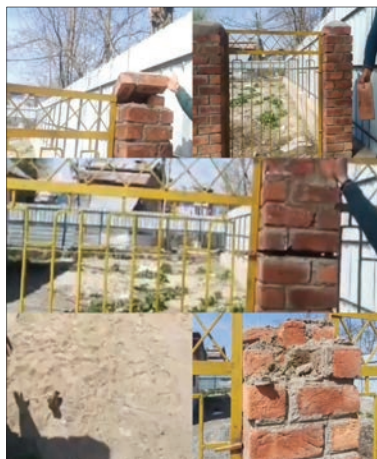
It was decided that present practice of having multiple control rooms shall be dispensed with to ensure optimum utilization of resources. For this purpose, joint forest fire control rooms shall be established in vulnerable areas, after proper mapping with pooling of the trained staff from Territorial, Forest Protection Force, Wildlife Protection and other organizations which shall be equipped with all requisite fire fighting equipment. The Commissioner Secretary directed for immediate notification of duty rosters, on this account, by the respective DFOs. He also asked for devising an interactive online reporting mechanism for forest

fires for better coordination among all stakeholders. He directed the field agencies to launch aggressive IEC campaigns to sensitize the general public for achieving the desired objectives. The Commissioner Secretary directed that SOP needs to be made more specific with heat maps based on the past fire incidents and exclusive KMZ mapping of fire lines. It was decided that present practice of having multiple control rooms shall be dispensed with to ensure optimum utilization of resources. For this purpose, joint forest fire control rooms shall be established in vulnerable areas, after proper mapping with pooling of the trained staff from Territorial, Forest Protection Force, Wildlife Protection and other organizations which shall be equipped with all requisite fire fighting equipment. The Commissioner Secretary directed for immediate notification of duty rosters, on this account, by the respective DFOs. He also asked for devising an interactive online reporting mechanism for forest fires for better coordination among all stakeholders. He directed the field agencies to launch aggressive IEC campaigns.

Public Outcry in Guloora Village Over Substandard RDD Work Tehsil Administration assured for strict action

■ DR.AB QAYOOM

Langate, April, 07: A wave of public resentment has erupted in Guloora village of Panchayat Halqa Langate over allegedly poor-quality work executed under the Rural Development Department (RDD). Locals have accused the department and its officials of negligence in supervising the fencing work of the Panchayat Ghar, carried out by a local contractor. According to a ground report by a senior correspondent of the Daily English Newspaper Headlines Today, the recently constructed fencing around the Panchayat Ghar is reportedly based on low-quality bricks and substandard materials. Residents claim the contractor used a sand mixture comprising nearly 60 per cent dust, severely compromising the structural integrity of the fencing pillars. Locals voiced serious concerns, stating that "even a baby touching the brick-based pillars could cause them to collapse," calling the



situation not only unfortunate but also unacceptable. They alleged that the Junior Engineer (JE) and Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) showed utter negligence, failing to inspect or ensure quality control until the entire work was completed. It is worth noting that just a month ago, thieves broke into the same Panchayat Ghar and stole three inverter batteries

after forcibly removing the main door. In response, the department swiftly sanctioned the fencing work—allegedly without proper monitoring or standards. Angered by the developments, villagers are now demanding strict action against both the contractor and the concerned RDD officials who oversaw or were involved in the project. In response to the outcry, Tehsildar Langate, Mohd Ismael, visited the site and assured residents of stringent action following a comprehensive technical review of the work. Speaking to Headlines Today, BDO Langate echoed the same assurance, stating that if the review confirms the use of substandard materials, not only will the work be redone, but the department will also initiate proceedings to blacklist the contractor from future projects under the RDD Langate division. As the investigation proceeds, locals await justice and accountability to ensure transparency and safety in public infrastructure development.

JKPCC hosts public hearing for proposed Steel Manufacturing Unit at SICOP-Sahar Logate

■ HT News Network

KATHUA, APRIL 7: The Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee (JKPCC) today conducted a public hearing for the proposed steel manufacturing project by M/s German Steel Works here at SICOP Industrial Estate-Sahar Logate.

The proposed industrial unit is designed to manufacture steel billets, ingots, and TMT bars ranging in size from 8 mm to 32 mm. As part of its infrastructure, the project includes the installation of two induction furnaces (2x25 TPH), a continuous casting machine (CCM), and a steel rolling mill with a production capacity of 30 TPH.

The hearing was held at Sahar Logate and was supervised by officials from the JKPCC, the office of Deputy Commissioner



Kathua, and the Divisional Officer PCC Kathua. Local residents and stakeholders actively participated in the proceedings, expressing their views and concerns about the project. The entire session was video-graphed and recorded in compliance with regulatory requirements. The documentation will be submitted to the Jammu & Kashmir Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (JKEIAA) for further processing of the Envi-

ronmental Clearance.

During the hearing, the project consultant presented a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report, detailing findings from environmental monitoring and analysis carried out in accordance with prescribed norms.

Pertinently, this public hearing is a key statutory requirement under the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification 2006, issued by the Minis-

try of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India. It ensures transparency and community participation in the environmental clearance process for industrial projects. The proposed industrial unit is designed to manufacture steel billets, ingots, and TMT bars ranging in size from 8 mm to 32 mm. As part of its infrastructure, the project includes the installation of two induction furnaces (2x25 TPH), a continuous casting machine (CCM), and a steel rolling mill with a production capacity of 30 TPH.

The hearing was held at Sahar Logate and was supervised by officials from the JKPCC, the office of Deputy Commissioner Kathua, and the Divisional Officer PCC Kathua. Local residents and stakeholders actively participated.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is inform to all general public through the medium of notice that i manzoor ahmad wani s/o gh rasool wani R/o khenpath that my father namely gh rasool wani s/o safder wani is passed on 18-05-1989 now i want to obtain death certificate if any body have any objection regarding issuance of death certificate he she the context of bdo singpora with in period of seven days

MANZOOR AHMAD WANI
S/O GH RASOOL WANI R/O KHENPETH

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is inform to all general public through the medium of notice that i shabir ahmad malla s/o mala ghulam R/o mirchimar mirgund that my son and daughter namely zain ali malla is born on 04-03-2021 and afreen shabir is born on 04-03-2016 now i want to obtain dob certificate if any body have any objection regarding issuance of dob certificate he she the context of bdo singpora with in period of seven days.

SHABIR AHMAD MALLA
S/O MALA GHULAM
R/O MIRCHIMAR MIRGUND

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is in form to all general public notice that i Ali mohd dar S/o gh mohammad Dar R/o mirgund that my father namely gh mohammad dar is passed on 23-08-2016 now i want to obtain date of death certificate if any body have any objection regarding issuance of death certificate he she the context of bdo singpora with in period seven days.

ALI MOHD DAR
S/O GH MOHAMMAD DAR
MIRGUND

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby informed that the actual and correct name of my daughter is Aaidah Zamir Ahmed D/o Shahid Zamir Ahmed and Mother's Name is Saima Bashir. D.O.B. 18.12.2010 R/o 18, Left Lane, Khan Colony, Chanapora, Srinagar, Kashmir of Class 9th PCHSS. The same name is mentioned in the DOB certificate issued by SMC. If any one has any objection in this regard my report to administration of presentation convent Higher Secondary School, Rajbagh, Srinagar within 7 days from publication of this notice.

SHAHID ZAMIR AHMED
R/O CHANPORA, SRINAGAR.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information to the general public that I want to apply for fertilizer licence if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She contact with Chief Agriculture office Baramulla within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

MUSHTAQ AHMAD MIR
S/O MOHD MAQBOOL MIR
R/O KREERI

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR, KREERI
(Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of IDREES RASHID DEADER S/O ABDUL RASHID DEADER R/O BANDI BALA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 10/02/2009 and event has been shown to be occurred at home for issuance of delay order .In this connection . if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

Executive Magistrate
1st Class KREERI

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is being notified that my name on my bank account numbers mentioned before 0122020100000103, 01220401 00003790, 0091040100021921 chalma enterprises branch pahalgam has been wrongly mention as Mohammad Ashraf Hakeem my actual name as per Aadhar is Mohammed Ashraf Hajam C/o Ghulam Nabi Hajam R/O Naid Mohalla Bijbehara ANANTNAG JAMMU AND KASHMIR 192124 If anyone have queries please contact branch office pahalgam WITHIN a period of 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohammed Ashraf Hajam
C/o Ghulam Nabi Hajam
R/O Naid Mohalla Bijbehara

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER LAHDC-KARGIL

Where an application by been received From Shri Ahmad Hussain S/O Abdul Rahman Khanral Chakanleg for HPA Cancellation Mahindra finance kargil UT ladakh-Now therefore it is notified for general that if any to the HPA Cancellation of vechile No LA01- 3929 Shall be filled written in the office of the ARTO Kargil within a period of 7 days after that no objection will be entertained.

No ARTO /K/2025/03
Dated 04/04/25

از نیابت شانگس اچہ بل

عنوان درخواست منجانب محفوظہ نافذ و جرم عبدل شیدوانی سامنے براہ شانگس اچہ بل نسبت ابراہی لیگی تیر (وارث جائز) سرٹیفیکٹ

اشتہار بمراد آگاہی

ماملہ مندرجہ الصبر میں پٹواری ملتق سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی۔ مطابق رپورٹ پٹواری وڈینٹر سرٹیفیکٹ سال کاؤنٹر عبدل شیدوانی ولد ملک محمد شیدوانی سامنے براہ شانگس اچہ بل مورخہ 19/03/2025 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے متوفی اپنے چھٹے مندرجہ ذیل وارثان جائز پھوجو گھیا رشتہ براہ متوفی

1. غویسہ ریشتر متوفی

2.....شاہد شید پسر //

3...زاد شید //

اس طور کنبل (3) افراد پر مشتمل مطابق رپورٹ پٹواری مندرجہ وارثان جائز کے علاوہ اوکوئی وارثان جائز نہیں ہے سرٹیفیکٹ زیر بحث ابراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو کوکوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ دن کے اندر پیش کرے معاذ کرنے کے بعد کوکوئی عذر یا اعتراض قبول نہیں ہوگا

نائب تصدیق

IMPORTANT NOTICE

It is for general information that I have Changed the name of my Daughter Alaina Parvaiz instead of Khadija Parvaiz which was wrongly registered in schools and Govt records. Now I have Correct this error in both School Records at R/P School Mallabagh Srinagar and as well as in Govt Records issued by Registrar Births and Deaths Srinagar Municipal Corporation bearing registration No: 7818.

Parvaiz Ahmad Khan
F/O : Alaina Parvaiz
R/o: Koker Bagh Mallabagh, Hazratbal Srinagar
Kashmir- 190006
M: 7006765763

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my registration certificate (RC) of My vehicle (Santro) bearing registration no JK05C- 4601 Model 2011 .while travelling from Lal chowk to Qamarwari Srinagar.Now I am applying for its duplicate if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She contact with ARTO Baramulla Head-quarter Spore within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained .

NAME : LATIEF AHMED WANI
S/O : GHULAM MUHAMMAD WANI
ADDRESS: HARDUSHIVA SOPORE BARAMULLA
CELL.NO 8825075508 9419678899

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR, KREERI
(Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar has submitted case file pertainingto Birth of AARZOO ISHFAQ, UZMA ISHFAQ & IYMAN ISHFAQ D/O ISHFAQ AHMAD SIRAJ R/O WATERGAM Tehsil WAGOORA Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 01/02/2020 , 23/05/2018 & 01/02/2020 and event has been shown to be occurred at SDH KREERI for issuance of delay order .In this connection . if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

Executive Magistrate
1st Class KREERI

Govt DEGREE COLLEGE (WOMEN) KUPWARA J&K

No :GDCWK 25/26

Fresh Tender Notice

Dated 07/04/25

Sealed tenders, affixed with revenue stamp of Rs 2 and accompanied with CDR of R 3000 in favour of Principal GDC Womens Kupwara are invited from the genuine and experience Parties / Individuals /Contractors for the running the collage canteen for the year 2025-26 on a consulated rent. 12000 The list of edibles along with specifications to be sold in the canteen which rates are to be quoted , and details bid documents document can be collected from the convenor College Canteen committee 6005 783335 or from the office on working days . The successful bidder shall have to sell only listed tendered items in the canteen i and shall have to execute agreement with the collage for abiding by all items farther and conditions laid in the bid document. Last Date for submission of tenders is 15 April 2025 up to 04,00pm.

DIPK-142/25
Date: Apr 7, 2025

Principal
Govt Degree Collages Womens
Kupwara





Bandipora admin launches grassroots IEC campaign to curb Drug Abuse DC leads awareness drive from Aloosa Block

■ **Farooq Rather**

BANDIPORA, APRIL 07: As part of the UT level IEC campaign against Drug Abuse, the District Administration Bandipora today launched a comprehensive panchayat level Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign across the district. The campaign, organised in every block of district, aimed to create mass awareness and encourage public participation in preventing substance abuse and supporting affected individuals. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of civil society members and local youth.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri presided over the event at Block office Aloosa.

On the occasion, resource persons from Health, Social Welfare, Education, Police and other concerned departments deliberated on the causes, consequences, and preventive measures related to drug abuse, while also highlighting the role of public participation in curbing the growing threat.

Speaking on the occasion, DC said that drug abuse is a serious social issue that requires a united response from all sections of society.

He said that the district administration is committed to the rehabilitation and reintegration of individuals affected by substance abuse, and several initiatives have been taken to support victims of drug abuse.



He further stressed the need to engage youth, educational institutions at grassroots level in the fight against drugs, adding that awareness and timely intervention can save lives and build a healthier society. He said the campaign, being conducted across all panchayats of the district, aims to educate and sensitize the public, and mobilize stakeholders to create a drug-free environment in Bandipora.

Qadri laid special focus on how youth can play a proactive role in acting as ambassadors of change in society.

Similar awareness programmes and IEC activities were simultaneously conducted in every block of district at panchayat level, attended by senior officers from District Administration to ensure wider outreach and grassroots involvement. Speaking on the occasion, DC said that drug abuse is a serious social issue that requires a united response from all sections of society. He said that the district administration is committed to the rehabilitation and reintegration of individuals affected by substance abuse, and several initiatives have been taken to support victims of drug abuse. He further stressed the need to engage youth, educational institutions at grassroots level.

DDC Member Hajin A, ADC participate in IEC campaign against Drug Abuse at HSS Aragam

■ **HT News Network**

BANDIPORA, APRIL 07: As part of the UT Level IEC Campaign against Drug Abuse, an awareness programme was today held at Higher Secondary School (HSS) Aragam.

The programme, aimed at raising awareness about the dangers of drug abuse, was attended by District Development Council Member Hajin A, Dr. Ghulam Mustafa Khan; ADC Bandipora, Zaffar Hussain Shawl besides a large gathering of public including parents and youth.

On the occasion, a series of engaging activities were held, including informative lectures by resource persons on the physical, psychological, and social consequences of drug addiction besides engaging interactive sessions were also held.



Speaking on the occasion, DDC Member emphasized the importance of public involvement and educational efforts in combating the drug menace. He highlighted the pivotal role of sports in keeping youth away from the path of drug addiction.

Dr. Mustafa said that the

youth are the future, and it is our collective responsibility to protect them from the clutches of drug abuse. In his address, ADC emphasized the urgent need to combat the growing menace of drug abuse, highlighting the devastating impact of drug addiction on individuals, families, and society as a whole.

Awareness Program on Nasha Mukht Bharat Held at Panchayat Halqa Guloora, Langate

■ **DR. AB QAYOUM**

Langate, April, 07: An impactful awareness program under the Nasha Mukht Bharat campaign was held today at Panchayat Halqa Guloora, organized by the RDD Division Langate in collaboration with the Revenue Department Langate. The event aimed to raise consciousness about the growing threat of drug abuse and the collective responsibility to combat it. The program saw active participation from health department officials, civil society members, students from various schools, and faculty from the BDO Office Langate, who also hosted the event. The initiative was further strengthened by the presence of distinguished dignitaries including doctors, senior teachers, and officers



from Handwara Police. Tehsildar Langate, Mohd Ismail, was the keynote speaker and delivered a powerful address on the increasing menace of drug addiction. He emphasized the gravity of the issue, stating, "Drug abuse has become a major social concern. Our society is becoming increasingly vulnerable, and it's imperative for parents, teachers, and community leaders to stay vigilant and guide the youth away from this trap."

The attendees appreciated the initiative,

acknowledging the vital role such awareness programs play in educating both youth and adults about social and legal issues surrounding drug abuse. Civil society members called for the continuation of such programs in the future to strengthen community engagement and awareness, ensuring that preventive measures reach the grassroots level. The event concluded with a unified pledge to spread awareness and work collectively toward a drug-free and socially responsible society.

CUKashmir observes 'World Health Day'

■ **HT News Network**

Ganderbal, Apr 7: Health Centre, Directorate of Students Welfare (DSW) Central University of Kashmir (CUKashmir) in collaboration with District Non-Communicable Disease Division, CMO and BMO Ganderbal, Dental and Oral section, District Hospital Ganderbal and Kashmir Eye Hospital observed "World Health Day" under the theme "Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures" at varsity's Tulmulla Campus.

Inaugurating the programme, Vice Chancellor, Prof. A Ravinder Nath, emphasized the importance of preventive care, early interventions, and community-based health education for ensuring a healthier tomorrow. He said such comprehensive health awareness and screening programmes sensitise the students, faculty and other functionaries of the university about the prevalence of non-communicable diseases and the role of physical activity, mental well-being, and balanced diets. Dean Academic Affairs, Prof. Shahid Rasool in his address, said, the theme "Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures" underscores the vital role of early health practices in shaping long-term outcomes. "From maternal and child health to youth mental well-being and the prevention of lifestyle diseases, the message is clear: investing in health from the start is the surest path to a hopeful and productive future," Prof. Shahid said. Dean School of Legal Studies, Prof. Farooq Ahmad Mir in his address spoke about the rising burden of non-communicable diseases and the urgent need to educate youth about healthy lifestyle.

World Health Day: Free Medical Camp, Health Card facilitation held for Senior Citizens at Ahata Waqar Chanapora

■ **HT News Network**

SRINAGAR, APRIL 07: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, in collaboration with the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir and Prayas Juvenile Aid Centre, observed World Health Day at Ahata Waqar, a day-care and recreational centre for the elderly in Chanapora. The initiative was conducted under the guidance of Shazia Tabasum, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority; under the chairmanship of Tasleem Arif, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar; and under the supervision of Sajad Ur Rehman, Sub-Judge/Secretary, DLSA Srinagar.

Key dignitaries and speakers addressed the gathering, underlining the importance of physical and emotional well-being of senior citizens. Sajad Ur Rehman, Sub-Judge/Secretary, who was the chief guest on the occasion, interacted warmly with the elderly attendees, listened patiently to their concerns, and offered on-the-spot solutions to their grievances—demonstrating the Legal Services Authority's commitment to accessible justice and schemes available to senior citizens.

Mustafa Nazir, Manager of Prayas Juvenile Aid Centre emphasized the significance of inter-organizational collaboration in creating a support system for vulnerable groups.

A major highlight of the program was the Free Medical Camp, which offered specialized geriatric consultations to cater to the distinct health needs of elderly individuals.

In addition to this, physiotherapy services were provided to support mobility and promote active living among the senior population.

The distribution of Vandana Health Cards added immense value by connecting the attendees to ongoing health benefits, thereby enhancing their access to essential medical services in the long term.



SANKALP HEW MS Budgam organises Career Counseling programmes at Budgam

■ **HT News Network**

BUDGAM, APRIL 07: SANKALP HEW Mission Shakti (MS) Budgam organised Career Counseling programmes at Govt Degree College (GDC) Budgam, Charar-e-Sharif and Beerwah. The programme was organised as part of a planner and operational manual of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) for the female students across various educational institutions in the Budgam district. In this connection, Professional Career Counselor and Career Counseling Officer deputised by University of Kashmir and District Employment

and Career Counseling Office Budgam respectively for carrying out the said sessions across various educational institutions. The programme was organized to make students understand intricacies involved in making current and future career decisions and to better understand the various career opportunities available. Highlighting the importance of Career Counseling was aimed to help in the selection of the appropriate career and aid in the development of confidence and skills. Career Counseling enables students to find their purpose, explore rewarding opportuni-

ties and accomplish their professional objectives. Through these career counseling sessions, the students were assisted in decision making by providing information about the chosen career path, other available career options, their pros and cons, job prospects and also helped in locating resources for obtaining important career-related information. At the end of the programme, Career Booklets were distributed among students at each Educational Institution. The programme was attended by faculty members of GDCs, staff of SHEW Budgam at each institution.

Bandipora Shines with Health and Legal Awareness on World Health Day 2025

■ **HT News Network**

Bandipora, April 7: In a powerful showcase of collaboration between healthcare and legal institutions, District Hospital Bandipora, in partnership with the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Bandipora, marked World Health Day with an impactful event centered on health awareness, legal empowerment, and climate change.

The event was inaugurated by Hon'ble Khaleel Ahmad Chaudhary, Chairman DLSA and Principal District & Sessions Judge Bandipora at Auditorium, Bandipora.

With a warm Welcome Note by Dr. Tahira, District Health Officer, who set the tone by emphasizing the vital role of community engage-

ment in creating a healthier society. Dr. Masarat Iqbal Wani, Medical Superintendent of District Hospital Bandipora, took the stage next to enlighten the audience about Government healthcare schemes and awareness programs, urging people to take full advantage of these life-improving services.

Focusing on preventive health, Dr. Asif Iqbal, Medical Officer, spoke passionately about the importance of proactive healthcare, advocating for regular checkups and healthy lifestyle choices. Adding a crucial legal perspective, Advocate Amir Shafi delved into the Legal Aspects of Health, educating attendees on their healthcare rights and the legal frameworks designed to protect them.

Production-Oriented Theatre Workshop Kicks Off at Government Degree College Ganderbal

Organized by Kashmir Performers Collective, Approved by Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India

■ **HT News Network**

Ganderbal, April 7, 2025 In a grand celebration of art, heritage, and youthful expression, the Production-Oriented Theatre Workshop was inaugurated today at Government Degree College, Ganderbal. With the energetic presence of students, faculty, theatre lovers, and cultural dignitaries, the workshop commenced under the dynamic anchoring of Ms. Tooba Rasheed, setting the tone for a journey of creativity, learning, and cultural revival.

The workshop is proudly approved by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, under its Cultural Function and Production Grant Scheme (CFPGS), and is being held in collaboration with Government Degree College, Ganderbal, in association with Manzoor Mir's Academy of Arts, Pattan, Kashmir. It is being organized under the visionary leadership of Kashmir Performers Collective (KPC),



a dynamic theatre group rooted in Kashmiri soil. Ms. Tooba Rasheed Workshop Coordinator A warm welcome was extended to media professionals whose presence added great value to the occasion. Special acknowledgment was given to Mr. Gulam Barji the dedicated Media Supervisor for his tireless coordination and commitment to cultural documentation.

Mr. Manzoor Ahmad Mir a celebrated playwright and director opened the session with a moving address highlighting the importance of theatre as a medium of healing, empowerment and cultural preservation. With his legacy of

landmark productions and initiatives like Paather, Multilingual Theatre Festivals and Chochi Katter, Mr. Mir reaffirmed his vision of nurturing Kashmiri youth through the arts.

The day continued with deeply insightful lectures Principal GDC Ganderbal Prof. Fouzia Fatima spoke on the Holistic Role of Theatre in Student Development, emphasizing its emotional and intellectual impact. Mr. Bhawani Bashir Yasir conducted the first formal session on Basics of Theatre & Stage Production blending theory with practical guidance. Mr. Mohammad Amin Bhat elaborated on Theatre Production Techniques and Their Contemporary Relevance. Mr. Syed Hamayun Qaiser inspired the audience with reflections on Theatre in Contemporary Society and praised the vision of Mr. Mir and his team. Dr. Morifat spoke passionately on The Role of Culture and Language in Theatrical Expression from a Kashmiri Perspective.





3rd Orientation/ Training prog. for Haj pilgrims of Shopian on April 12 at Tak Masjid

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APRIL 07: J&K Haj Committee Srinagar has scheduled the 3rd orientation/training programme for the selected Haj pilgrims of district Shopian for Haj-2025 on 12 April, 2025. Accordingly, all the selected pilgrims of district Shopian are informed to attend the 3rd orientation/ training programme at Tak Masjid, Shopian, on 12 April, 2025 from 10:00 AM onwards.

DLSA Bandipora observes 'World Health Day'

■ HT News Network



BANDIPORA APRIL 07: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Bandipora today organised a Legal Awareness programme to observe 'World Health Day' under the theme 'Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures.'

The programme held at Govt NM Boys Higher Secondary School, Bandipora was inaugurated by Khalil Ahmad Choudhary, Principal District and Sessions Judge (Chairman DLSA) Bandipora accompanied by Dr. Masrat Iqbal, Medical Superintendent Bandipora; Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Dr Nisar Ahmad; District Health Officer, Dr. Tahira Nazir; District and other Medical Officers.

The programme aimed to create awareness among the participants about people's general health and wellbeing around the world.

Chairman DLSA Bandipora in his speech highlighted that this year, the World Health Organization (WHO) has chosen the theme 'Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures,' a powerful reminder that the health of our mothers and newborns is the foundation upon which our communities and our world are built.

Unsafe Sericulture Building in Jugarpora Raises Alarms; Locals Demand Demolition and Probe

■ DR.AB QAYOOM

Handwara, April, 07: A one-story Sericulture Department building constructed two years ago in Jugarpora village of Handwara, Kupwara district, has been declared completely unsafe for any kind of use or movement, sparking concern among locals and raising serious questions about the quality of construction and official oversight. According to residents, the building — consisting of three rooms — was meant to serve the day-to-day operational needs of the Sericulture Department and provide safe space for employees. However, locals allege that the construction was marred by collusion between officials and the contractor, who is reportedly currently employed with the Health Department. Instead of using officially sanctioned materials, the contractor allegedly used mud and other substandard materials, despite the project's cost running into lakhs of rupees. Locals claim the building stands today as a symbol of negligence and misuse of public funds, putting lives at risk. "This is what happens when departments prioritize contractor interests over public safety," said a resident, expressing deep frustration. Fearing a potential tragedy, residents have appealed to Deputy Commissioner Kupwara to intervene and demolish the unsafe structure before it causes loss of life. The demand for a thorough probe and strict action against those involved — including the contractor and concerned officials — is growing louder. When contacted by Headlines Today, the District Sericulture Officer Kupwara clarified that he has recently joined the post and was unaware of the past developments. "I will call for the file and initiate an inquiry into the matter. Tomorrow, I will personally visit the site and take necessary action," he assured.

The incident has once again brought to light concerns about accountability and transparency in public infrastructure projects. Locals are hopeful that swift action will be taken before any irreparable damage occurs.



Javed Rana reviews working of forest department

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 7: Minister for Forest, Ecology & Environment, Javed Ahmed Rana, today chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to review key issues and development plans of the forest department.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Forest Department, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and other senior officers.

While addressing the meeting, Javed Rana emphasized the importance of maintaining accountability and transparency in administrative matters to ensure effective service delivery. He instructed the officers to ensure timely resolution of employee related matters to maintain a positive work environment and motivation.

Javed Rana also directed for development of an online portal to facilitate all transactions related to timber stock and supply, aiming streamlining of the process while reducing potential irregularities. He said that this will ease out the procurement process on notified rates and will provide timely updates on the stock and supply



position.

"With development of an online portal, we will be able to constantly monitor and facilitate transparent transactions to create win-win situation for the government and people as well," he said.

The Minister also reviewed availability of timber across all regions of J&K. He reiterated government's commitment towards

ensuring equitable distribution of timber across all regions and directed the officers to address the needs of the public effectively.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were also held on environmental pollution. The Minister sought actionable solutions from the concerned officers to curb this problem. He also laid emphasis on affor-

estation and reviewed the progress on development of high quality planting material through advanced research.

Rana said that saplings of important species should be raised every year for supply to the forest department and other user agencies for coverage of forest area.

He also reviewed the criteria set for establishment of new stone crushers in Jammu and Kashmir. He impressed upon the officers that stone crushers should be established after following all due norms and guidelines. The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Forest Department, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and other senior officers.

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DC Kulgam takes review of Revenue Deptt; directs officers for efficient service delivery

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, APRIL 07: To review the functioning of Revenue Department, and ensure efficient and prompt public service delivery in the district, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan on Monday chaired a meeting of the Revenue Department in the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex, here.

The meeting reviewed in detail the tehsil wise progress on status of online services provided to citizens on Jan Sugam and Revenue Plus e.g Issuance of certificates, Fards, Demarcations etc, digitization and scanning of revenue records, removal of encroachment from state/ kacharia land, Change of



Land Use cases, grievances regarding Migrant properties, progress of revenue court cases in different offices, progress of different services under PSGA, progress of Mussavies and Geo-referencing in each tehsil, disposal of SRO cases, progress on land allotment to different departments for

govt projects. Besides, the meeting also discussed Land Acquisition for PWD, PMGSY, Jal Shakti and other depts, progress on Samadhan registrations disposal, disposal of grievances on Revenue Plus portal, Issuance of Land Pass books to the farmers and land identification for Compen-

satory Afforestation under CAMPA. DC urged the revenue officers to ease out the day to day difficulties of common masses by visiting for on spot inspections.

He said that the progress of each Tehsildar is being monitored strictly on the basis of above parameters. The meeting was attended by ADC, Viqar Ahmed Giri; ACR, Reyaz Ahmad Shah; all Tehsildars of the district, besides other officials of revenue department. To review the functioning of Revenue Department, and ensure efficient and prompt public service delivery in the district, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan on Monday chaired a meeting of the Revenue Department in the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex, here.

DC Ganderbal reviews progress of Ring Road Project Phase IIA

■ HT News Network

GANDERBAL, APRIL 07: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, today chaired a key meeting to discuss the progress of Ring Road Project as well as assessment of structures, trees, crops and other utilities falling within the alignment of the Ring Road Project Phase IIA from Pandach to Manigam. The meeting focused on ensuring a comprehensive inventory of all affected utilities and assets to facilitate smooth execution of the project. At the outset, the DC took a detailed review of the ongoing efforts related to the preparation of the inventory, covering structures, fruit and non-fruit bearing trees, mechanical and electrical equipment, and other utilities impacted by the proposed alignment.

The DC directed all concerned departments to submit the inventory-cum-assessment reports at the earliest, emphasizing strict adherence to rules and regulations during the process. He stressed that joint site visits by the concerned departments are essential before preparing final assessments to ensure accuracy and transparency. The DC underlined the importance of coordination among departments to ensure a smooth and fair assessment process for landowners affected by the project, which is vital for expediting land acquisition and compensation procedures.

Nazir Ahmed Khan Removed as Budgam DDC Chairperson After No-Confidence Motion Passes

■ HT News Network

Budgam, Apr 7, KNT: In a notable shift in local governance, Nazir Ahmed Khan has been removed from his post as Chairperson of the District Development Council (DDC) Budgam after a no-confidence motion against him was unanimously passed by council members.

The motion, brought forward by thirteen DDC members on February 29, 2024, accused Khan of failing to convene council meetings for over a year and alleged widespread administrative negligence during his tenure. The issue eventually reached the Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court, which on March 29 directed the Deputy Commissioner of Budgam to take necessary action within two weeks.

Responding to the court's directive, the Deputy Commissioner convened a special



session of the DDC on April 7. All 13 signatories to the motion voted in favor, leading to Khan's removal. This marks the first successful no-confidence vote against a DDC chairperson in the region since the councils were established.

Following the session, council members thanked the High Court and the Deputy Commissioner for ensuring transparency and due process in the matter. [KNT]

'World Health Day' celebrated at Shopian

■ HT News Network

SHOPIAN, APRIL 07: Health Department Shopian in collaboration with District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Shopian celebrated World Health Day at Mini-Secretariat Shopian today.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Dr. Arshad Hussain Tak was the chief guest on the occasion.

During inaugural speech, CMO said that the goal of World Health Day is to raise awareness about global health issues and encourage individuals, communities, and governments to take action towards improving health outcomes for all people, regardless of their socio-economic status, location, or background.

District Nodal Medical Officer, Shopian highlighted the role of the Ayush in improving the health standard of the people.

Dr. Mohd Yousuf Naikoo's and Dr. Abdul Rashid Parray provided crucial information in raising awareness about both health and



legal rights. The inclusion of sessions on government health schemes and the intersection of law with healthcare access is especially valuable, as many individuals may not be fully aware of the resources available to them.

The goal is to educate people on the importance of taking care of their health and well-being, and to advocate for better access to healthcare, improved public health systems, and the reduction of health inequalities. The officers and officials of the health department and other concerned were present.

DC Baramulla reviews PMAY-G, PMAY-U & MGNREGA progress 94% Rural & 70% Urban targets achieved

■ HT News Network

BARAMULLA, APRIL 07: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the status of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban (PMAY-U) and MGNREGA in the district.

During the meeting, Assistant Commissioner Development Baramulla informed that under PMAY-G, a total of 339 houses were sanctioned under the SECC category, out of which 336 have been completed, marking a 99% completion rate. Similarly, under the non-SECC category, 5621 houses have been completed against a target of 5999, achieving a 94% success rate.

Appreciating the overall performance, the DC directed that the remaining houses be completed by June 2025. He stressed the



importance of expediting the remaining works and ensuring all genuine beneficiaries receive timely assistance.

Under PMAY-U, it was informed that 70% of the targeted houses have been completed. The DC directed the concerned officers to ensure that construction work is initiated immediately by those benefi-

ciaries who have not yet started work on their houses.

He also instructed Executive Officers of Municipal Councils/ Committees to identify suitable land for BPL beneficiaries under PMAY-U and initiate the process of identifying eligible beneficiaries for the upcoming PMAY Urban 2.0 phase.

The DC emphasized transparency, effective monitoring and inter-departmental coordination to achieve full saturation and realize the goal of 'Housing for All'.

The DC also reviewed the implementation of MGNREGA in the district, during which Additional Deputy Commissioner apprised him of significant achievements under the scheme. Against the targeted 11.35 lakh mandays, the district has generated 24.06 lakh mandays, reflecting substantial over-achievement.

A total of 15,000 works have been taken up under MGNREGA, out of which 14,100 have been physically completed and 6,937 completed financially. The remaining 8,063 works are under various stages of execution. The district has ensured timely wage disbursement, achieving 99.96% payments within the stipulated 15-day period. The total material liability under the scheme stands at Rs.32 crore.





NCORD meeting: Drug control measures reviewed in Poonch Install CCTV cameras; intensify NMB campaign in educational institutions: DC to stakeholders

HT News Network

POONCH, APRIL 07: Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal today chaired a meeting of District Level Committee under the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) to review and enhance strategies to combat the menace of substance abuse in the district.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the status of each department regarding their activities and efforts aimed at achieving a drug-free Poonch. He directed the police department to intensify crackdown on drug peddlers and continue aggressive enforcement drives. All Executive Magistrates and line departments were instructed to extend full cooperation in the district-wide campaign against drugs.

The DC also emphasized the need for holding of regular divisional and tehsil-level NCORD meetings by all SDMs and Tehsildars. He directed them to invite heads of Panchayat-level Committees to these meetings and focus on assessing local drug-related challenges. Officials were also asked to regularly review the performance of Panchayat-level committees and promptly report any suspicious activities to the concerned authorities.



It was noted that the district has achieved 100% installation of CCTV cameras and computerized billing systems at all chemist shops. The DC called for strict monitoring of these systems to prevent sale of psychotropic drugs. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of proactive measures, directing the Education Department to install CCTV cameras in all educational institutions to monitor any illicit activity related to drug abuse. Additionally, he instructed the department to display 'Nasha Mukat' banners prominently at the entry gates of schools and colleges.

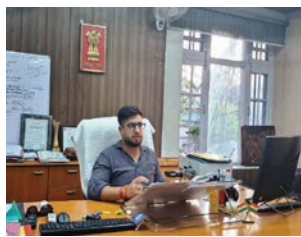
The Deputy Commissioner mandated the appointment of Anti Drug Captains (ADC) in all educational institutions. These students will work closely with school administration to identify and support drug addicts within their institutions.

The DC called for joint initiatives involving all concerned departments, including Social Welfare, Health, JKSRM, Rural Development, Revenue, Police, Excise, Education and others to advocate for active awareness programs about the adverse effects of drug abuse. He reiterated the critical role of awareness campaigns in fostering a drug-free environment.

Moreover, he directed the Health & Transport Department to implement thorough testing measures and maintain comprehensive records. The Deputy Commissioner further ordered the destruction of any illegal poppy straw cultivation in forest areas, reinforcing the commitment to combat drug proliferation.

DC Rajouri ropes in Social Media influencers to champion public awareness campaign

HT News Network



RAJOURI, APRIL 7: In a significant step to harness the power of digital platforms for public outreach, Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma today held an interactive meeting with prominent social media influencers of the district.

During the session, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the vital role that digital influencers can play in shaping public opinion and spreading awareness, especially among the youth. He emphasized the need to actively disseminate key messages under the Nasha Mukht Abhiyan, which commenced today across the district as part of a broader initiative to curb drug abuse and promote a healthy lifestyle.

The DC urged the influencers to also focus on promoting different government schemes, tourism-related content, mental health awareness—particularly related to depression—as well as messages related to road safety and youth empowerment through Mission Youth.

"Social media is a powerful tool and your contribution can significantly enhance the visibility and impact of these campaigns," he told the influencers.

To streamline efforts and ensure coordinated action, the District Information Officer (DIO) was instructed to work closely with the influencers and provide them with necessary content, updates, and support for wider dissemination of official information. The meeting concluded with a collective resolve to use digital influence as a means of bringing about positive social change in Rajouri.

Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Series of anti-drug awareness events held across Kathua District

HT News Network

KATHUA, APRIL 7: As part of the ongoing "Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir" campaign, a series of impactful awareness and outreach activities were organized across various locations in Kathua district to educate communities, especially the youth, about the dangers of drug abuse and promote a drug-free society.

An Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign was conducted in Panchayat Gurah Kalyal where a community awareness session was held. Local residents, including youth and elders, actively participated in the session aimed at sensitizing people to the growing threat of substance abuse. Resource persons from health, social welfare and other departments highlighted the social, psychological, and physical impacts of drug addiction and emphasized the need for community vigilance and support systems.



In another significant outreach initiative, an awareness program was organized at Government School Gurha Mundian. The session, conducted under the aegis of Nasha Mukht campaign, featured informative talks by educators and counselors, who discussed the importance of making informed life choices and resisting

peer pressure. Students were encouraged to become ambassadors of change in their communities by spreading awareness among their peers and families.

Recognizing the power of sports in channelizing youth energy positively, various sports were organised at Panchayat Bhaddu Lower. The event drew

enthusiastic participation from local youth and featured friendly competitions in volleyball, kabaddi, and athletics. The event served as a reminder of the importance of a healthy lifestyle and the role of physical activity in building resilience against substance abuse. An IEC campaign was also held at Government School Jandore, Block Keerian Gandal. The initiative included poster displays, awareness talks, and interactive sessions with students and faculty. The campaign reinforced the message that preventive education is key in curbing drug abuse and fostering a safe, healthy environment for future generations.

These activities are part of the larger goal of the Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir campaign, which aims to create drug-free communities through education, engagement, and empowerment. The District Administration Kathua, in collaboration with local institutions, continues its commitment to the cause with active participation from civil society.

Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin DC inaugurates Collection-cum-Segregation Shed at village Dhanore Dhindian - Rajouri

HT News Network

RAJOURI, APRIL 7: Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma today inaugurated a collection-cum-segregation shed at Dhanore Dhindian constructed under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G). The newly inaugurated facility is aimed at enhancing solid waste management in the area, especially with regard to plastic waste. It will cater to the waste collection and segregation needs of several adjoining panchayats and the nearby Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU), ensuring a cleaner and more sustainable environment, the officials said.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner said that the establishment of the segregation shed is a significant step towards effective waste management and environmental conservation. "All plastic waste from the surrounding areas will now be scientifically collected and segre-



gated here. This initiative will go a long way in supporting the vision of a clean and green Rajouri," he added.

He also urged the local community members and educational institutions to actively participate in keeping their surroundings clean and cooperate with the administration in achieving the objectives of SBM-G.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Sheraz Chouhan; Technical Officer to Executive Engineer REW; concerned BDO and other officers during the visit.

IEC activities organised across District Udhampur under Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan

HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, APRIL 07: As part of the ongoing under the Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan, a series of Information, Education and Communication activities were conducted across different blocks of District Udhampur.

The awareness campaign was held under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai and witnessed enthusiastic participation from local people including students and Youths. A sensitization session was also organized which emphasized the urgent need for community-level interventions in tackling drug abuse particularly among the youth.

A video documentary showcasing the devastating impact of drug addiction was screened to spread awareness about the physical, mental and social consequences of substance abuse. The initiative aimed to mobilize communities and instill a sense of responsibility among citizens, especially the younger generation to join hands in building a drug-free society. As part of the ongoing under the Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan, a series of Information, Education and Communication activities were conducted across different blocks of District Udhampur. The awareness campaign was held under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai and witnessed enthusiastic participation from local people including students and Youths. A sensitization session was also organized which emphasized the urgent need for community-level interventions in tackling drug abuse particularly among the youth.

DC Rajouri conducts surprise inspections to oversee Nasha Mukht Abhiyan Activities in Schools

HT News Network

RAJOURI, APRIL 7: In a continued effort to intensify the fight against drug abuse, Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma today conducted surprise inspections at Government Higher Secondary School Dodasan Bala and Government Higher Secondary School Saaj to oversee the ongoing activities under the Nasha Mukht Abhiyan.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with staff and students, emphasizing the critical need to create widespread awareness among youth regarding the ill effects of drug abuse. He urged educational institutions to play a proactive role in sensitizing students and involving them as ambassadors of change in the community.

"Students are the backbone of our future, and it is our collective responsibility to ensure they grow in a safe and drug-free environment," he said while encouraging teachers to engage students through rallies, debates, skits, and awareness sessions.

Meanwhile, Assistant Commissioner Development Rajouri, Vijay Kumar Verma visited Government High School Gurdhan Bala and took stock of the awareness activities being conducted under the campaign.

Similarly, Additional Deputy Commissioners and Sub-Divisional Magistrates visited various educational institutions and public locations across the district to monitor the progress and ensure effective implementation of the Nasha Mukht Abhiyan.

The district administration has adopted a multi-pronged approach to tackle the issue of drug abuse, with special focus on awareness generation, community involvement, and educational outreach.

SVaNidhi se Samriddhi & Main Bhi Digital campaign Kick starts in Udhampur

HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, APRIL 7: Municipal Council Udhampur today kick started the SVaNidhi se Samriddhi and Main Bhi Digital campaign in the city, aimed at empowering eligible beneficiaries of flagship schemes through financial inclusion and digital literacy.

As part of the initiative, beneficiaries were sensitized and linked to eight major socio-economic welfare schemes of the Government of India. These included PM Suraksha Bima Yojana, PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, PM Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana, PM Jan Dhan Yojana, One Nation One Ration Card, PM Matru Vandana Yojana, Janani Suraksha Yojana etc.

The objective of the campaign was to ensure saturation of flagship government schemes, enabling holistic development.

During the campaign, officials from Municipal Council Udhampur and other departments interacted with beneficiaries, highlighting the benefits of digital payments, social security schemes and insurance coverage.

Speaking on the occasion, CEO Municipality Udhampur Rajinder Digra reiterated the commitment of the Council to extend the benefits of welfare schemes to every eligible citizen and ensure last-mile delivery of services.

The campaign will continue over the coming days with door-to-door outreach and on-ground awareness activities, ensuring that no beneficiary is left behind.

DC inspects upgradation, Development Works on Doda-Khellani stretch of NH

HT News Network

DODA, APRIL 07: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Harvinder Singh today conducted a comprehensive inspection of the new Doda-Khellani stretch of National Highway, here. During the visit, he assessed the quality of work and instructed the General Manager NHIDCL to ensure repair work is carried out on the cracks and damaged areas of the road stretch. Later, the DC Doda also reviewed the ongoing upgradation and blacktopping work on the old Highway Khellani-Doda road. He directed the executing agencies to adhere strictly to quality standards and expedite the pace of work to ensure timely completion. During the inspection, local residents apprised the Deputy Commissioner of several issues seeking upgradation of drainage system and the construction of retaining walls at vulnerable points to prevent erosion and enhance road safety. They also demanded blacktopping of the remaining stretches of the old road.

GMC Doda hosts Quiz Competition, Academic Engagement to mark World Health Day-2025

HT News Network

DODA, APRIL 7: The Department of Community Medicine of Government Medical College (GMC) Doda celebrated World Health Day 2025 with great zeal and academic fervour under the guidance of Dr. Suresh Kotwal, Head of the Department, and the able leadership of Principal Dr. Rakesh Bahl.

This year's theme, "Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures," highlighted the essential right of every individual to access quality healthcare, proper education, and a clean and supportive living environment.

To commemorate the occasion, a thought-provoking Undergraduate Quiz Competition was organized under the banner of the Indian Association of Preventive and Social



Medicine (IAPSM). The competition aimed to enhance awareness among medical students about pressing public health challenges while encouraging academic curiosity and problem-solving abilities. The quiz focused on key subjects such as maternal and child health, health equity, nutrition, disease prevention, and healthcare systems.

The event was conducted success-

fully by Dr. Imran Zaffer Senior Resident from the Department of Community Medicine and Dr. Gurjinder Senior Resident from the Department of Biochemistry. It witnessed active participation from undergraduate students who demonstrated commendable knowledge, enthusiasm, and teamwork in tackling complex questions on preventive and social medicine.





Fiji's Health Minister Lalabalav calls on EAM Jaishankar

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, APR 7 (UNI)

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday met with visiting Fijian Health Minister Ratu Atonio Rabici Lalabalavu and discussed the ongoing bilateral health and medical cooperation.

In a post, the EAM said: "Pleased to meet @MOHFIji Minister Dr. Ratu Atonio Rabici Lalabalavu this morning.

"Discussed our ongoing health and medical cooperation, an important pillar of our long-standing partnership."

The visit of the Fijian Health Minister comes as



Fiji has reported a shortage of IV fluids to treat dengue patients.

The Fijian Health Ministry said it is responding to concerns raised about current global shortage of IV fluids which is expected to continue through 2025 amid supply con-

straints.

It said that intravenous fluids are not out of stock in the country.

The Fiji Pharmaceutical & Biomedical Services had received 3,000 units of saline solution last week and another 4,200 units is yet to be cleared

by the Fiji Procurement Office.

The Ministry said it is optimistic that the current supply of IV fluids is sufficient to meet the surge in dengue fever cases.

Fiji has reported 2,841 laboratory-confirmed cases of Dengue Fever in the West, while the Central Division recorded 1,090 cases with numbers rising, and the Northern Division recorded 1,095 cases, while the Eastern Division recorded 102 laboratory-confirmed cases.

Leptospirosis cases from the January to March this year stand at 818 cases nationally, Fijian reports said.

SC slams UP Police for converting civil suits into criminal cases

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, APR 7 (UNI)

The Supreme Court on Monday came down heavily on Uttar Pradesh Police on converting civil cases into criminal, saying it shows a complete breakdown of the rule of law in the state.

Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna warned the state government of imposing damages if



similar petitions are filed in the future.

The apex court stayed

prosecution in a conversion case and directed state police chief Prashant Kumar and investigating officer to file a response within two weeks.

The case in question is related to a cheque bounce case and the police filed chargesheet after converting civil suit into a criminal case.

The petitioner approached the highest

court of the country and alleged that the police took money for converting this issue into a criminal case.

The court said, "Everyday civil suits are being converted to criminal cases. It is absurd merely not giving money cannot be turned into an offence. It is strange and this is happening day in and day out in Uttar Pradesh".

Kunal Kamra moves HC for quashing FIR, hearing on Apr 8

AGENCIES

MUMBAI, APR 7 (UNI)

Stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra, currently facing a backlash for his controversial comments about Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, has moved Bombay High Court, seeking quashing of multiple FIRs against him while praying for an urgent hearing.

The court has fixed April 8 for the date of hearing. The matter was mentioned on Monday before Justice Sarang Kotwal's bench which agreed to give an urgent hearing, while saying that if he wants relief from arrest, he will have to approach the appropriate bench.

In his petition, Kamra



contended that the police actions infringe upon his fundamental rights as guaranteed by the Constitution, including the right to freedom of speech and expression, the right to practise any profession or business, and the right to life and personal liberty.

After the case was registered, city police had summoned him on three

occasions for questioning in connection with his controversial statement against Shinde but he failed to appear all three times.

The charges against him include offences under Sections 353(1)(b) and 353(2) pertaining to public mischief and 356(2) for defamation, according to the Bhartiya Nyay Sanhita

(BNS).

The MIDC police had registered a case against Kamra on a complaint from Shiv Sena MLA Murji Patel which was subsequently transferred to the Khar police.

Patel claimed that during a stand-up comedy performance at the Habitat Studio in Unicontinental Hotel, Khar, Kamra made derogatory statements about Eknath Shinde, which he argued defamed Shinde and incited hatred between political parties, harming the sentiments of both his party and its rivals.

Two more FIRs were also registered against Kamra which are under probe by Khar police station.

CM Majhi to attend Odisha Investors Meet and MoU signing ceremony in Delhi

AGENCIES

BHUBANESWAR, APR 7 (UNI)

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi will address various stakeholders and industry leaders, and oversee the signing of key MoUs during his visit to Delhi, which will continue until April 9, official sources said on Monday.

Majhi, who left for Delhi on Sunday, is scheduled to hold significant discussions aimed at propelling Odisha toward greater industrial advancement and economic growth.

During this two-day event, he will engage with stakeholders and industry leaders, sharing his vision



for Odisha's future and highlighting the reforms and initiatives undertaken by the state government to foster a conducive environment for investments.

The state is expected to sign several key Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) that will not only strengthen the existing industrial ecosystem but also attract substantial

investments to generate employment and boost economic development.

Official sources said MoUs will be signed with Indian Oil Corporation Ltd, Petronet LNG, Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd, among others.

These collaborations underscore the state's commitment to making Odisha a leading hub for petrochemicals and chemicals, positioning it as a vital contributor to the nation's strategy for sustainable growth.

In an effort to attract diverse industrial investments, the Chief Minister will also visit the HCL Tech campus in Noida.

The visit symbolizes the strides Odisha aims to make in integrating technology and innovation into its industrial framework.

He is also scheduled to hold one-on-one meetings with influential industry leaders from various sectors to explore potential partnerships that can further enhance Odisha's industrial landscape.

These efforts are aligned with the vision of "Purvodaya"—the resurgence of Eastern India—as the state remains determined to seize emerging opportunities.

Majhi is expected to return to the state capital on April 9.

Sri Lanka turns to India to stave off potential economic impact of Trump tariffs

AGENCIES

COLOMBO/NEW DELHI, APR 7 (UNI)

Amid the new tariffs imposed by US President Donald Trump, Sri Lanka has turned to India to help it stave off the potential detrimental impact the tariffs can have on the island country's economy.

During the meeting of Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Sri Lankan President brought up the matter and emphasised on enhancing Colombo's economic cooperation with New Delhi to deal with the fallout of such actions with geo-economic implications, according to the Daily Mirror.

Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, briefing the media in Colombo, said that there was reference to this aspect during the bilateral discussion between Prime Minister



Modi and Sri Lankan President Dissanayake. He said the President emphasised this matter during talks, and the two sides would seek to further enhance economic cooperation to deal with the fallout of such actions. He said tariffs were a matter affecting both the countries.

The two leaders signed seven MoUs (Memorandum of Understanding) which covered areas such as defence, health sector cooperation, energy, digitisation, and the intercon-

nection of the power grids and the development of the country's Trincomalee region as an energy hub.

The Trincomalee area, which is a major region of Sri Lankan Tamils, was a key area of the MoUs signed and is a trilateral arrangement between India, Sri Lanka, and the UAE to develop the city.

PM Modi also virtually inaugurated the Sampur solar power project, the temperature-controlled warehouse in Dambulla and the

supply of solar energy to 500,000 religious institutions. He pledged assistance to develop Thirukoneswaram temple in Trincomalee, the sacred city complex of Anuradhapura and the Sita Temple in Nuwara-Eliya.

He also visited the revered Anuradhapura yesterday, along with President Dissanayake, to inaugurate two railway projects.

Regarding the issue of defence cooperation, Sri Lankan President Dissanayake said that the signed MoU assured that Sri Lankan soil and waters will never be used against India's interests.

Calling it an "umbrella framework document" for the already existing defence ties, he added that the MoU will give impetus to the already existing exchanges, capacity building, port calls by naval units of both the countries and defence industry cooperation.

Little chance of Xi-Trump meeting now; Beijing has to act on fentanyl: Ex-CIA official

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON/BEIJING, APR 7 (UNI)

Former CIA official Dennis Wilder has said there is little likelihood of a meeting between US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping now, as China needs to take positive steps on the fentanyl problem.

Speaking to the South China Morning Post, he said: "We are far away from a Xi-Trump meeting right now. I don't think it will happen any time

soon."

Wilder, former CIA deputy director for East Asia, said: "We are far away from a Xi-Trump meeting right now. I don't think it will happen any time soon, and the reason is that China has not responded appropriately to President Trump, who has made clear that before negotiations can begin, China needs to take positive steps on the fentanyl problem."

Elaborating on the issue, he said "What has China done? China has

told Trump that he should thank China for what they have done on fentanyl. They have issued a white paper suggesting that they've done all they can. But fentanyl from China continues to be caught at the American border in large numbers.

"So how is it that all of this fentanyl is still coming to the United States if Beijing is doing such a good job?"

The constant stream of fentanyl coming from China has been a major issue in the US, as it has



caused an addiction epidemic in many areas. While China criminalised the production of the very powerful analgesic (painkiller) in the country, it

has done little about its supply overseas.

As the drug is over 80 times more potent than heroin, it has been used in narcotics production and

illegally smuggled into the United States by drug cartels and crime syndicates, causing major law and order problems.

Wilder said that for any official meeting to take place between Xi and Trump, "Beijing needs to unilaterally take steps, such as imprisoning the people involved in the fentanyl trade, sentencing them, and punishing the companies involved. Until it takes those steps, I don't think Trump is very interested in negotiations."

Accusing Beijing of

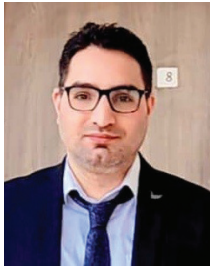
using fentanyl as a tool for political leverage against Washington, he said "My problem is, China has used this fentanyl issue as a political card. When relations were good, China did a little more on fentanyl, but when relations were bad, China did nothing.

"China needs to stop using this card, because a huge number of Americans between the ages of 18 and 45 die every year. It is the largest killer of people in that age group. This should not be a politi-

cal negotiation. China could do the right thing."

The situation between China and the US has continued to deteriorate, as the second Trump administration's global trade tariffs were particularly very high on China, which is among the largest trade partners of the US. In his 'reciprocal tariffs' Trump had introduced an additional 34% tariffs on Chinese goods as part of steep levies imposed on most US trade partners, bringing the total duties on China this year to 54%.

Eminent medico receives 'Academic Life Membership' of top national diabetes research organization



AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Kashmir-based medico cum noted health columnist Dr Tasaduk Hussain Itoo has received the prestigious 'Academic Life Membership' from Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India (RSSDI), the top national diabetes research organization and leading scientific authority of diabetologists in India.

Dr Itoo completed his Bachelor of Science degree from University of Kashmir, MBBS degree from Univer-



sity of Jammu and went on to earn a Certificate Program for Clinicians in Diabetes Management (CPCDM) accredited by Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India (RSSDI).

Currently serving as a doctor at Narayana Health, Dr Itoo is also a fellow of the International Diabetes Federation (IDF Fellow, Belgium).

He is further affiliated with prestigious organiza-

tions including the American College of Physicians (USA), Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India (RSSDI), Royal College of Physicians of London, and Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh.

Study links excessive screen time to sleep disruptions, depression in girls

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Excessive screen time among adolescents negatively impacts multiple aspects of sleep, which in turn increases the risk of depressive symptoms, according to a study.

The associations were particularly strong among girls, said researchers from Karolinska Institutet in Sweden. Previous studies have suggested associations between screen time, sleep disruptions, and depression in teens. However, sleep problems and depression often coincide, and the direction of these associations has been unclear.

In the new study, published in the open-access journal PLOS Global Public Health, the researchers tracked 4,810 Swedish students aged 12-16, collecting data on sleep quality and quantity, depressive symptoms, and screen usage at three time points over a



year.

The findings showed that increased screen time led to deteriorated sleep within three months, impacting both the duration and quality of sleep.

Screen time was also found to postpone sleep times towards later hours -- disrupting multiple aspects of the human sleep-wake cycle at once.

Among boys, screen time had a direct adverse

effect on depression after twelve months, while among girls the depressive effect was mediated through sleep disturbances.

Sleep could explain about half (38 per cent-57 per cent) of the association between screen time and depression in girls.

Boys who spent more time on screens also experienced sleep disruptions, but these were not

strongly associated with later depression, the study showed.

"We found that adolescents who reported longer screen times also developed poorer sleep habits over time. In turn, this led to increased depression levels, especially among girls," said the researchers led by Sebastian Hokby from Karolinska Institutet.

While there's no single, universally agreed-upon amount of screen time for adolescents, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends less than 2 hours of screen time per day for children over age five through adolescence.

Sleep and depression often coincide, and both may have consequences for the development of cognitive abilities and emotion regulation abilities.

The researchers called for reducing screen time for better sleep and mental health.

India poised to lead South Asia in AI adoption with 1.25 mn professionals: Report

AGENCIES
MUMBAI

India is emerging as a leader in artificial intelligence (AI) adoption in South Asia, with a talent pool of 1.25 million professionals in the emerging technology, a report said on Thursday.

The report by Boston Consulting Group (BCG) showed that AI is no longer an emerging trend; it is a game-changer for India's agriculture and healthcare sectors.

In the healthcare industry, AI has the potential to bridge gaps in medical access and affordability.

India faces a shortage of doctors, with a doctor-to-patient ratio of 1:900, and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) account for 66 per cent of deaths in the country.

AI-powered diagnostics can make healthcare more efficient, reducing diagnostic reporting time in radiology by 46 per cent,



said the report.

AI-driven solutions have also helped cut mammography costs by 66 per cent and made tuberculosis diagnosis significantly more affordable.

With the expansion of telemedicine and AI-assisted screenings, millions in rural India can now access quality healthcare remotely.

"AI is transforming India with its innovative solutions revolutionising

industries across sectors, especially healthcare and agriculture," said Sidharth Madaan, Managing Director and Partner at BCG.

For instance, AI is reshaping India's healthcare by making diagnostics smarter, treatment faster and care more accessible. Agriculture, another key sector for India's economy, is also undergoing a transformation through AI adoption.

Since 85 per cent of

Indian farmers manage small landholdings and depend on rainfall, AI-driven solutions can help optimise farming practices.

AI-powered crop monitoring and disease detection have been shown to increase farm productivity by up to 8 per cent. The technology is also improving post-harvest logistics, reducing food spoilage, and increasing farmer profits by up to 7 per cent.

Additionally, AI-enabled precision farming techniques are helping reduce water and fertiliser use by 28 per cent, making agriculture more sustainable and cost-effective.

"Ethical AI governance is crucial for ensuring data security and fair access to AI-driven solutions. Public-private partnerships will play a major role in fostering innovation, while scalable AI pilots will help refine technology applications in real-world scenarios," the report noted.

Blood pressure patterns in early pregnancy can predict hypertension risk years later

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Blood pressure patterns observed in the first half of pregnancy, even among women without hypertensive disorders of pregnancy (HDP), can predict the risk of developing hypertension up to 14 years after giving birth, according to a study.

High blood pressure is a risk factor for heart disease, the leading cause of death.

The study, appearing in the journal Hypertension, focusses on a group of postpartum women who are not currently recognised as being at high risk for future hypertension and cardiovascular disease because they did not develop HDP during pregnancy.

HDP includes serious complications such as preeclampsia and gestational hypertension during pregnancy and is known to increase the risk of heart disease later in life.

The team led by



researchers from the University of Pittsburgh, in the US, found that women who showed certain blood pressure patterns during the first 20 weeks of pregnancy were more likely to develop hypertension later in life.

The study followed 174,774 women who received prenatal care at a US-based healthcare non-profit Kaiser Permanente Northern California

between 2009 and 2019.

None of these women had hypertension, kidney, liver, or heart disease, or a history of preeclampsia before pregnancy. Researchers tracked their health records up to 14 years after delivery to identify new cases of hypertension.

The team identified six distinct risk groups of blood pressure trajectory -- ranging from ultra-low to

elevated-stable patterns. Women with elevated-stable blood pressure patterns were found to be at the highest risk.

This study shows that blood pressure trajectories during early pregnancy can stratify this risk, even for women without HDP.

The study showed that these blood pressure patterns could differentiate risk levels among women with and without HDP.

Among groups of women who did not develop HDP, those with higher-risk blood pressure patterns -- including elevated-stable patterns -- during early pregnancy were still 11 times more likely to develop hypertension years later than those women with less risky blood pressure patterns.

The researchers called for identifying women at higher risk, offering targeted surveillance and early interventions, potentially preventing future heart problems.

Beat the Heat: How to Keep Animals Cool This Summer

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The year 2024 saw the hottest summer since 1901, and this year is expected to be no different, with experts warning of severe heatwave conditions in multiple parts of India.

Just a few days into April, several cities across the country are already experiencing rising temperatures. While many efforts are made by humans to stay cool during the summer, animals are often overlooked.

Here's a list of things you can do to help both companion animals and farmed animals beat the heat:

Providing Water: Ensure there is always fresh water available for animals to drink. Be sure to change the water regularly to prevent contamination.

Shelter: Stray dogs often seek shelter beneath cars during the summer. Make it a habit to check under



your car before driving it out of the parking lot. Keep pet animals indoors to protect them from heatstroke. If left outside, they may suffer burns on their paws or become dehydrated.

Observe Their Behavior: Watch for signs of exhaustion, such as panting, drooling, or lethargy, which may indicate heatstroke. If you notice any of these signs, move the

animal to a cooler place and offer water. You can also pour room-temperature water on the animal to help cool it down.

Praveen Suresh, Manager of Disaster Preparedness and Relief at Humane World for Animals India, emphasized that while heatwaves affect millions of people, the impact on animals remains a largely overlooked crisis.

He noted that reports suggest heatwaves are expected to intensify, putting both urban and rural animal populations at risk. "In an agrarian country like India, where the majority of the rural population depends on both agriculture and livestock for their livelihood, the loss of animals due to heat stress presents a severe challenge," he said.

Common gut bacteria can make diabetes, cancer drugs less effective: Study

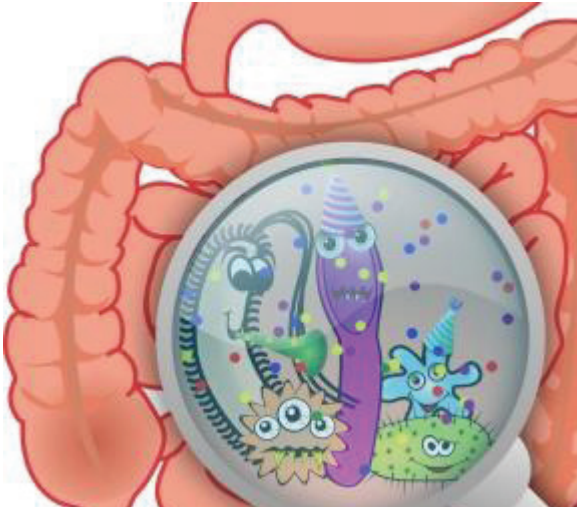
AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Common gut bacteria can metabolise some oral medications potentially rendering these important drugs against migraines, depression, type 2 diabetes, and prostate cancer less effective, according to a study on Thursday.

Researchers from the University of Pittsburgh and Yale University in the US showed that gut bacteria metabolises oral drugs that target cellular receptors called GPCRs.

Drugs that act on GPCRs, or G protein-coupled receptors, include more than 400 medications approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the treatment of many common conditions such as migraines, depression, type 2 diabetes, prostate cancer, and more.

"Understanding how GPCR-targeted drugs interact with human gut microbiota is critical for advancing



personalised medicine initiatives," said Qihao Wu, Assistant Professor at the Pitt School of Pharmacy.

"This research could help open up new avenues for drug design and therapeutic optimisation to ensure that treatments work better and safer for every individual," Wu said.

The effectiveness of a drug varies from person to person, influenced by age, genetic makeup, diet and

other factors.

Recently, researchers discovered that microbes in the gut can also metabolise orally administered drugs. It breaks down the compounds into different chemical structures which then alters the drugs' efficacy.

To learn more about which gut bacteria metabolises which drugs, the team built a synthetic microbial community composed of

30 common bacterial strains found in the human gut.

In the lab study, they added each of the 127 GPCR-targeting drugs individually to tubes containing the bacteria.

The experiment showed that the bacterial mix metabolised 30 of the 127 tested drugs, 12 of which were heavily metabolised. This meant that concentrations of the original drug were greatly depleted because they were transformed into other compounds.

Overall, the findings, published in the journal Nature Chemistry, suggest that "specific gut bacteria could make GPCR-targeting drugs less effective by transforming them into other compounds," the team said. The team urged for more research to understand the potential impact in people and that patients shouldn't stop taking or, change their medication without consulting their provider.



CSK seek turnaround against PBKS after three defeats

AGENCIES

CHANDIGARH, APR 7 (UNI)

Desperate to arrest a three-match losing streak, Chennai Super Kings (CSK) will be hoping to rediscover their winning ways when they face Punjab Kings (PBKS) in a crucial IPL encounter at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Cricket Stadium in Mullanpur on Tuesday.

Having begun their IPL 2025 campaign with a confident win over Mumbai Indians, CSK have since slumped to three consecutive defeats - against Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Rajasthan Royals and Delhi Capitals - with each loss exposing key vulnerabilities in both their batting and bowling combinations. The five-time champions have already used 17 players in just four matches, including all their overseas options, indicating a clear lack of settled strategy.

Captain Ruturaj Gaikwad, who has shown flashes of form with 121 runs from four outings, will be expected to anchor the innings, while Noor Ahmad, the tournament's leading wicket-taker so far with 10 scalps, remains their best hope with the ball. However, questions remain around the form and role of senior players like Ravindra Jadeja and Shivam Dube, and the underwhelming returns from their spin department led by Ravichandran Ashwin.

In contrast, Punjab Kings have looked a more cohesive unit, despite a 50-run defeat to Rajasthan

KKR aim to ride momentum against LSG

AGENCIES

KOLKATA, APR 7 (UNI)

Reignited by a crushing 80-run victory over Sunrisers Hyderabad, Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) will aim to consolidate their form when they face Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) in the 21st match of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 at Eden Gardens here on Tuesday.

After a stuttering start to their campaign, KKR's emphatic win at home not only lifted them to fifth on the points table but also revived belief in a side that had looked short of rhythm in earlier games. Their net run rate, once in the negative, now stands at +0.070—an indication of their resurgence as serious contenders in this season's competition.

At the heart of KKR's revival is their well-balanced bowling unit, particularly the spin duo of

Varun Chakaravathy and Sunil Narine, who choked SRH's chase with precision on a slow surface. Their eight overs will once again be the focal point when they take on a Lucknow side that has been inconsistent with the bat.

Venkatesh Iyer's explosive 60 off 29 and young Angkrish Raghuvanshi's composed 50 against SRH gave KKR's batting order a much-needed shot of confidence. With captain Ajinkya Rahane anchoring the top order and Rinku Singh closing out games, the team appears to have found a strong core. Openers are yet to fire, but stability at No. 3 and 4 has eased some of that pressure.

Meanwhile, LSG are coming off a narrow 12-run win against Mumbai Indians and are placed sixth on the table. While Nicholas Pooran remains their

most consistent batsman this season with 201 runs at a stunning strike rate of 218.47, the rest of the batting order has yet to click in unison. Mitchell Marsh's fifty in the last outing offers encouragement, but the continued poor form of Rishabh Pant and David Miller is a concern.

On the bowling front, Shardul Thakur has been among the wickets for LSG, but his economy remains a worry. Ravi Bishnoi and young Digvesh Singh Rathni will have key roles to play, especially in the middle overs.

With Eden Gardens offering a pitch that suits spinners and rewards patient strokeplay, Tuesday's clash is likely to be shaped by how well each team navigates the middle overs. Weather conditions are expected to be dry with mild

humidity in the evening.

Having beaten LSG in both fixtures during IPL 2024, and with momentum now on their side, KKR enter this clash as favourites—poised to build on their rejuvenation in front of a passionate home crowd.

Predicted XIs:

KKR: Quinton de Kock (wk), Sunil Narine, Ajinkya Rahane (c), Venkatesh Iyer, Rinku Singh, Moeen Ali, Ramandeep Singh, Andre Russell, Harshit Rana, Varun Chakaravathy, Vaibhav Arora

Impact Player: Angkrish Raghuvanshi

LSG: Aiden Markram, Mitchell Marsh, Nicholas Pooran, Rishabh Pant (c & wk), Ayush Badoni, David Miller, Abdul Samad, Shardul Thakur, Digvesh Singh Rathni, Akash Deep, Avesh Khan

Impact Player: Ravi Bishnoi

dra Jadeja, MS Dhoni (wk), Ravichandran Ashwin, Noor Ahmad, Mukesh Choudhary, Khaleel Ahmed, Matheesha Pathirana.

Pakistan fined for slow over-rate in third ODI against New Zealand

AGENCIES

MOUNT MAUNGANUI, APR 7 (UNI)

Pakistan have been fined five per cent of their match fee for maintaining a slow over-rate against New Zealand in the third ODI here on Saturday.

Jeff Crowe of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees imposed the sanction

after Mohammad Rizwan's side was ruled to be one over short of the target after time allowances were taken into consideration.

In accordance with Article 2.22 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to minimum over-rate offences, players are fined five per cent of their match fee for every

over their side fails to bowl in the allotted time.

Rizwan plead guilty to the offence and accepted the proposed sanction, so there was no need for a formal hearing, according to an ICC media statement.

On-field umpires Chris Brown and Paul Reiffel, third umpire Michael Gough and fourth umpire Wayne Knights leveled the charge.

Messi scores but Inter Miami held by Toronto

AGENCIES

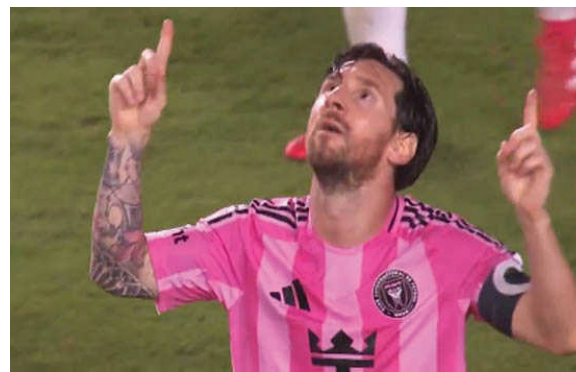
MIAMI, APR 7 (UNI)

Lionel Messi scored a first-half goal but could not prevent Inter Miami from stumbling to a 1-1 home draw against Toronto in their MLS match here.

Italian midfielder Federico Bernardeschi gave the Canadian side the lead with a deft finish in Fort Lauderdale after combining with compatriot Lorenzo Insigne on Sunday.

Messi put his side on level terms when he took a touch after Telasco Segovia's pass before swiveling and smashing a low drive past goalkeeper Sean Johnson.

Inter Miami controlled



more than two thirds of possession but was repeatedly denied in the second half by Johnson, who made nine saves during the match.

The result leaves Inter Miami second in the 15-team Eastern Conference standings with 14

points from six outings, a point behind Columbus but with a game in hand.

Toronto is 14th with just three points so far. Elsewhere in the MLS on Sunday, Minnesota won 2-1 at New York City and San Jose cruised to a 6-1 home victory over DC United.

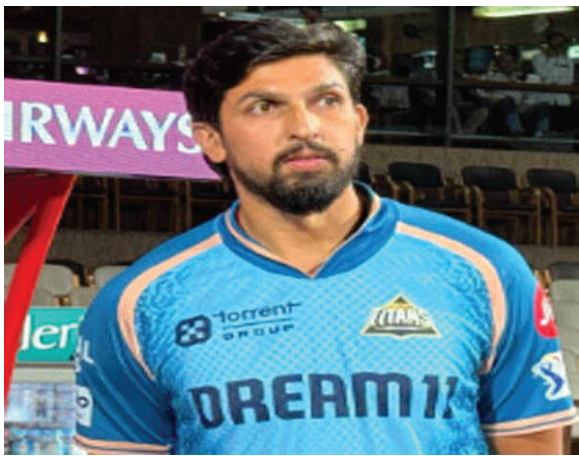
GT bowler Ishant Sharma fined for breaching IPL Code of Conduct

AGENCIES

HYDERABAD, APR 7 (UNI)

Gujarat Titans bowler Ishant Sharma has been fined 25 per cent of his match fees and has also accumulated One Demerit Point for breaching the IPL Code of Conduct during his team's match against Sunrisers Hyderabad at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium here on Sunday night.

Ishant admitted to the Level 1 offence under Article



2.2 and accepted the Match Referee's sanction.

For Level 1 breaches of the Code of Conduct, the Match Referee's decision is final and binding.

Meanwhile, Gujarat Titans cruised to a commanding seven-wicket win over Sunrisers Hyderabad with skipper Shubman Gill's classy half-century and Sherfane Rutherford's power-packed finish complementing Mohammed Siraj's fiery four-wicket spell.

Bakrania shines as Tanzania claim shock U19 Men's Cricket World Cup spot

AGENCIES

ABUJA, APR 7 (UNI)

Tanzania have shocked the field in Nigeria, going five matches unbeaten to take the African regional qualification spot for next year's ICC U19 Men's Cricket World Cup.

Laksh Bakrania's side closed out tournament victory with a win over Sierra Leone, the last of their round robin fixtures to finish with a perfect 10 points to hold off Namibia (eight points) and Kenya (six points) for the World Cup spot.

The Tanzanians are the



first team to qualify via the regional qualification pathways, a feat made more remarkable considering the team entered the competition from the Division Two phase back in August 2024.

There was an element of

history repeating itself at the competition, with skipper Bakrania once again haunting the Namibians, like he did four years ago at the same competition as a 14-year-old in Rwanda.

Claiming a match-

winning five-wicket haul with his left-arm orthodox against the Namibians in 2021, the now-senior international and U19s captain claimed 2/17 (10) and made an invaluable 34 with the bat as his side held on in a 17-run win.

The win meant the Tanzanians created separation from the tournament favourites, closing out competition victory thanks to subsequent wins over Kenya and Sierra Leone, an ICC report said.

A delighted Bakrania struggled to hold back the emotion upon qualification.

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