



Amit Shah Calls for Final Push Against Militancy, Reviews Security

LG Sinha, Army Chief, heads of CAPFs, senior officers attend high level security meet

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, APR 08: Reiterating that the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is committed to build a secure and prosperous Jammu and Kashmir, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday directed the security agencies to further intensify anti-terror offensives in the Union Territory.

After chairing a high level security review meeting at Raj Bhavan here, Shah,



according to the news agency—, wrote on X: “Chaired a security review meeting for J&K along with Lt Governor Shri Manoj Sinha Ji and senior officials. Agencies crippled terror in J&K through the Modi Govt’s multi-pronged approach to security. Instructed to further intensify anti-terror offensives by advanced vigilance and seamless mutual coordination to achieve the goal of uprooting terror for good.”

“The Modi government is committed

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HM Amit Shah chairs a review meeting on development projects in Srinagar

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APRIL 8, : Home Minister Amit Shah chaired a review meeting on development projects in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in Srinagar today. According to News Service Associated News Bureau, ANB, The meeting was attended by Lieutenant Governor

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Three (3) More organizations disassociate themselves with Hurriyat conference.

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APRIL 8, In an important political development, three more organizations, Jammu Kashmir Islamic Political Party, Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Democratic League, and Kashmir Freedom Front, disassociate themselves from the Hurriyat confer

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Army Chief Visits Srinagar, Forward Posts to Review Security Along LoC

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APRIL 8 : Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Upendra Dwivedi visited Srinagar to assess the prevailing security situation and review the operational readiness of forces deployed in the region.

During his visit, the Chinara Corps Command

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Disruptions continue in Assembly for 2nd consecutive day

MLAs of ruling alliance protest; Waheed Para marshalled out, Sajad Lone clashes with NC legislators

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, APR 08: The Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly witnessed continued disruptions for the second consecutive day on Tuesday over the contentious Waqf (Amendment) bill-2025. The Speaker adjourned the House twice for brief intervals before eventually adjourning it for the day. As soon as the House assembled this morning, as per news agency—, National Conference MLAs stood up, demanding that their adjournment motion be allowed to discuss implications of the Waqf law.

Legislators of Peoples Democratic Party, Peoples Conference and Sheikh Khursheed were also on their feet demand

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No confidence motion moved against Speaker by opposition pdp, pc.

■ HT News Network



SRINAGAR, APRIL 8, : No-Confidence Motion was moved against Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather on Waqf Bill controversy.

According to News Service, Associated News Bureau, ANB, the motion was moved by Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and Peoples Conference (PC) submitted a no-confidence motion against Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather for rejecting discussion on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill-2025.

The opposition has sought the removal of the speaker. This decision stems from widespread outrage within the House over the Speaker’s actions, including the rejection of discussions on an adjournment motion and the refusal to entertain a resolution brought forward by opposition parties.

When the assembly proceedings started this morning, pdd, PC and ruling

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Bye Elections: Special Summary Revision begins for Budgam, Nagrota ACs

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 8: The Election Commission of India, has today began the process of Special Summary Revision for the Budgam and Nagrota Assembly Constituencies as part of bye polls in these ACs. As per schedule of SSR, the Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) for 77-Nagrota Assembly Constituency (AC) and 27-Budgam Assembly Constituency (AC) have

notified the draft publication of the electoral rolls for the upcoming bye-elections. The draft electoral rolls are now available for public inspection in the offices of concerned ERO, AERO and with BLO. The copies of these draft rolls have also been given to the recognized national and UT political parties. The Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Jammu and Kashmir, has urged all the eligible voters in these con

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SC, ST Judges 53 in J&K, marks 32% rise since 2020, reveals data

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APR 08: The representation of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) in Jammu and Kashmir’s judiciary remains disproportionately low, despite a gradual increase over the past five years.

According to data from the Union Law Ministry, the number of SC/ST Judicial Officers

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Over 25,000 drug abusers registered in J&K since 2022: Govt

Health Minister says comprehensive measures taken to combat drug abuse

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APR 08: At least 25,400 drug abusers have been registered in OPD and 1,595 in IPD across Jammu and Kashmir since 2022, the government said.

Responding to a question raised by several MLAs including Tanvir Sadiq, Basheer Ahmad Veeri, Narinder Singh, Shabir Ahmad Kulay and Javid Ahmad Mirchal, the



Health and Medical Education (H&ME) Department Minister, as reported by the news agency—said

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Over 4 lakh kanals state land under illegal occupation in J&K: Govt

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APR 08: : Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday said that a staggering 4,28,204 Kanals and 13 Marlas state and kahcharai land is under illegal occupation across the Union Territory.

Replying to a query by MLA Farooq Ahmad Shah, the minister incharge, as per the news agency—said that they have taken concrete measures to evict illegal occupants, with all entries in the name of such occupants being expunged.

“Special eviction drives are being continuously undertaken to reclaim encroached land. A total of 3,555 cases have

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Temp plummets in Kashmir, upper reaches receive fresh snowfall, rains lash plains

MeT issues ‘yellow alert’ for today, predicts gusty winds, light snow, rains for 2 days

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APR 08: A day after recording the hottest day, Kashmir on Tuesday witnessed a dip in the maximum temperatures as several higher reaches experienced fresh snowfall while the rains lashed the plains.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), several upper reaches including Sinthan Top received fresh snowfall today while the



rains lashed Kashmir till this evening, bringing down the mercury by 4 degree Celsius in Srinagar and by some degrees in

other parts compared to yesterday.

Pertinently, Srinagar on Monday recorded the

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No proposal to waive off KCC loans up to Rs 3 lakh for farmers: J&K Govt

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APR 08: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday clarified that there is currently no proposal under consideration to waive off Kisan Credit Card (KCC) loans up to Rs 3 lakh availed by farmers.

“There is no proposal in the government to waive off Kisan Credit Card (KCC) loans,” the government as per the news agency—said.

The Minister Incharge

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HT - BOTTOM

CHC Tral not upgraded despite calls for SDH status, claims govt

No shortage of staff at PHCs of Aripal, Dadsara, Kahlil: Health Minister

■ HT News Network/KNO

SRINAGAR, APR 08: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday said the Community Health Centre (CHC) Tral in south Kashmir’s Pulwama district has not been upgraded to the level of a Sub-District Hospital (SDH), although the matter was raised during a District Board meeting ten years ago. However, there is no staff shortage at the Primary Health Centres (PHCs) in Aripal, Dadsara and Kahlil.

Responding to a query by MLA Tral

Rafiq Ahmad Naik, Health and Medical Education Minister Sakina Itoo, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer), said that CHC Tral has not yet received SDH status.

“At present, austerity measures issued by the Finance Department are in force. Therefore, J&K is focusing on the consolidation of existing health facilities. Around 4,000 health institutes at various levels—Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary—already exist. Jammu and Kashmir ranks among the top Union Territories and larger



states in terms of health institution density,” she said.

Quoting a 2023 report published by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Gol, Itoo said J&K has one health institution for every 3,500 persons, compared to the national average of one per 6,000.

She said the feasibility surveys for the creation of new PHCs, NTPHCs, SDHs, and sub-centres in the UT are conducted by concerned offices. If the findings are in sync with the Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) norms, proposals are forwarded for further

approval, she added.

Regarding vacancies at CHC Tral, the minister said that two Medical Officers with postgraduate degrees in Surgery are currently performing the duties of consultant surgeons. Similarly, three Medical Officers with postgraduate degrees or diplomas in Gynaecology are providing gynaecological services.

“As for the Radiologist post, it has not yet been sanctioned for CHC Tral. However, Dr Zaffer Iqbal, a Medical Officer trained in ultrasonography

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Director Colleges visits Degree Colleges Lays emphasis on implementation of NEP-2020

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APRIL 08: In order to evaluate the academic, administrative and infrastructural operations of the Colleges in accordance with regulatory norms, the Director Colleges Higher Education J&K, Dr. Sheikh Ajaz Bashir visited various Degree Colleges here. The Director visited Government Degree College (GDC) Soibug, GDC Eidgah, GDC Hyderpora and Government Women's College Nawakadal and engaged in an insightful interaction with the staff members and students to gain insights into the educational standards, teaching methodologies and available facilities. He deliberated on several pertinent issues and emerging opportunities within the Department of Higher Education. He laid particular emphasis on the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the transformative potential it holds for the academic landscape. Key areas of discussion included



strategies to address the challenge of low student enrolment, promotion of research culture in undergraduate

institutions, smooth rollout of the Fourth year Undergraduate Programme (FYUGP), and the integration

of diploma-holding polytechnic students into mainstream college education. During the visit, meetings were held with the teaching staff and Admission/Academic Coordinators, wherein the Director reviewed the academic performance, teaching plans, internal assessments and student progression. He emphasized improving teaching quality, encouraging maximum student attendance, and boosting Skill development programs. The Director also undertook a comprehensive campus tour of the colleges, visited the newly constructed academic blocks, classrooms and lecture halls. Director colleges instructed the Principals to enhance the student presence and attendance to the colleges, by providing students with a rich academic and co-curricular environment. He also asked them to take measures against students falling short of attendance by notifying them and taking corrective measures as per statutory provisions.

Free bus service for women sees over 3.5 lakh passengers in a week

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, Apr 08 The newly launched free bus service for women has witnessed a massive surge in ridership in Jammu and Kashmir with over 3.5 lakh women availing the facility within just a week of its launch on April 01. The initiative, which aims to enhance women's mobility and ease of access to public transport, has received widespread appreciation. The female passengers from both urban and rural areas are using the service to travel to schools, colleges, offices and marketplaces. As per the details obtained by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), bus stops now witness large turnouts, especially during peak hours—8 to 10 AM, midday, and 4 to 6 PM. According to Smart City data, accessed by a KNO Correspondent, the daily ridership on electric buses has doubled since the scheme began. "Where earlier we saw around 20,000 to 21,000 people using the service, the number has now risen to more than 40,000," said an official. Presently, more than 95 plus air-



conditioned electric buses operate on more than 30 plus routes, carrying nearly 50,000 women passengers every day. Passengers have lauded the move, especially during the hot summer days. "More than half of my salary was spent on daily travel. Now, I save that money and can spend it on essentials," said a working woman from the outskirts of the city. Officials also acknowledged the initiative and added they had a substantial social impact, especially in empowering women and reducing their dependency on private or unsafe transport options. "To ensure the scheme remains viable in the long term, authorities are considering various funding mechanisms and government subsidies."—

Distt Admin Srinagar organises awareness camp on New Criminal Laws at Khonmoh

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APRIL 08: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, an awareness camp on the newly enacted three criminal laws was today organised by the District Administration Srinagar at the Community Hall, Khonmoh. The programme witnessed participation from key stakeholders, including Deputy Director Prosecution Srinagar, Javed Ahmed Bhat, Block Development Officer Khonmoh and representatives from the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar and other allied Departments. During the programme, the resource persons highlighted the key provisions and transformative aspects of the new criminal laws, aiming to sensitize the general public and stakeholders about the implications and changes brought forth by these legislations. The event was attended by a large gathering, including public representatives, community members, school children, and local residents, who engaged enthusiastically in the interactive sessions. The awareness camp is part of a broader initiative by the District Administration to ensure effective dissemination of information regarding legal reforms and promote legal literacy at the grassroots level. The awareness camp is part of a broader initiative by the District Administration to ensure effective dissemination of information regarding legal reforms and promote legal literacy at the grassroots level.

PhysicsWallah expands presence in Srinagar with second tech-enabled offline Vidyapeeth Center

■ Jehangir Malik

SRINAGAR, Apr 8: PhysicsWallah (PW), an education company, has expanded its presence in Srinagar with the inauguration of a new tech-enabled PW Vidyapeeth centre at Rajbagh. Furthermore, registration for the PWSAT is also open, allowing students the opportunity to secure tuition fee waivers for offline courses. The exam will be conducted in both offline and online modes and will be open to students from class 7 to 12, as well as droppers aspiring to study for JEE or NEET. PW Vidyapeeths are tech-enabled offline centres where students attend in-person classes led by experienced teachers. The new PW Vidyapeeth is located on the 2nd & 3rd Floor, The Qureshiees, Near Modern Hospital, Rajbagh Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir-190008. PW's other existing Vidyapeeth centre in the city is situated in Bhagat. Ankit Gupta, CEO Offline, PhysicsWallah (PW) said, "At PW we always try



to find avenues of making students' learning experience better. By opening a new centre in Srinagar, in addition to our existing offline centres where students attend in-person classes led by experienced teachers. PhysicsWallah (PW), an education platform, was founded in 2020 by Alakh Pandey and Prateek Maheshwari. Headquartered in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, PW aims to democratize education through online, offline and hybrid platforms. Initially launched as a You-

Tube channel in 2016, PW now offers education to students through its YouTube channels, including vernacular languages. PW aims to create a hybrid education ecosystem in the country by establishing tech-enabled offline and hybrid centres in cities nationwide. PW's offerings span various educational segments, including test preparation, a skilling vertical, higher education, and education abroad. PW has raised funding from investors, including Hornbill Capital, Light speed Ventures, West Bridge and GSV Ventures.

Aga Syed Hassan to Attend 10th Peace and Reconciliation Conference in Chennai

■ HT News Network

Srinagar April 08: President of Anjuman-e-Sharie Shian and founder of the Anjuman Interfaith Dialogue Chapter, Aga Syed Hassan Mosavi Al-Safavi, along with his deputy Aga Syed Mujtaba Abbas Mosavi, will attend the 10th Peace and Reconciliation Conference in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The participation was confirmed by the Anjuman spokesperson, who said both leaders have received official invitations and will be representing the organization at the event.(KNS)

Nasir welcomes removal of DDC Chairman Budga

■ HT News Network

Srinagar Apr 08: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Senior leader and Advisor to HCM Nasir Aslam Wani Sogami Tuesday welcomed the removal of DDC Budgam Nazir Ahmad Khan after a year-long legal and political battle, stating that his removal signifies a strong affirmation of democratic will at the grassroots level. In a statement released from the party headquarters Nawa-e-Subha, Nasir emphasized that this incident exposes the extreme measures that an individual, with silent support, can take to hold onto power. "However, it also confirms a fundamental truth: democracy may be delayed, but it cannot be denied. The people's will has triumphed, demonstrating that accountability, no matter how delayed, is inevitable," he added. Expressing satisfaction with the court's decision not to provide protection to Khan, thus allowing the meeting to proceed as directed, Nasir said, "In a desperate attempt to maintain the status quo, Nazir Ahmad Khan filed a petition to halt the no-confidence meeting scheduled for April 7. The court rejected the plea and denied him protection, clearing the way for the meeting to take place as planned. The petitioners, all 13 elected DDC members, were represented by Advocates Zamir Abdullah and Zahir Abdullah, whose legal intervention played a crucial role in upholding the democratic mandate. This victory serves as a reminder that the voice of the people cannot be silenced, and that justice will prevail in the face of adversity."

Woman rescued after jumping into Jhelum in Srinagar

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, Apr 08: A woman jumped into the river Jhelum from Budshah Bridge in Srinagar on Tuesday, prompting a swift rescue operation by the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), officials said. An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that soon after the incident, SDRF personnel launched a rescue operation and successfully pulled the woman out of the river after hectic efforts. She was immediately shifted to a nearby hospital for medical aid. "Her condition was not known immediately but is said to be stable," the official added. The reason behind the woman's act is being ascertained—

J&K Bank ties-up with Escorts Kubota Ltd to boost agricultural financing Customers availing finance eligible for Rs 15,000 discount

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, Apr 08: In a move aimed at promoting mechanization in agriculture and providing accessible financing to farmers across the country, J&K Bank today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Escorts Kubota (P) Ltd. (EKL) – a leading manufacturer and supplier of agricultural machinery, including hydraulic mobile cranes, earth-moving equipment, farm tractors and engines. Deputy General Manager (Agri/MSME) Rakesh Magotra signed the MoU on behalf of J&K Bank during a brief ceremony at the Bank's corporate headquarters, while General Manager Kamlesh Yadav represented Escorts Kubota Ltd. at the event that was also attended by all J&K-based dealers of EKL. By virtue of the MoU, the Bank will be one of the preferred financiers (on a non-exclusive basis) for customers



purchasing farm equipment from EKL. Notably, customers availing finance through J&K Bank will be eligible for an upfront discount of Rs 15,000 on all tractor models of Escorts Kubota Ltd. Commenting on the development, the Bank's

General Manager (Credit) Ashutosh Sareen said, "This tie-up with EKL reflects our commitment to empower our farming community by enabling easier access to farm equipment financing through tailored solutions. Our aim is to provide all

the necessary financial support to the agriculture sector especially in J&K, which is perfectly aligned with the Government's strong focus on agricultural development and improving the farmers' incomes." Speaking about the agreement, Whole-time Director & CFO (EKL) Bharat Madan stated, "This alliance with J&K Bank reinforces Escorts Kubota's dedication to providing farmers with accessible and cost-effective credit solutions. By making financing simpler, we aim to support rural growth and strengthen the agricultural sector in India." In his remarks on the alliance, Chief Officer (Tractor Business Division - EKL) Neeraj Mehra said, "Beyond credit, this initiative enables farmers to adopt modern equipment suited to enhance productivity of their operations. Further, J&K Bank's vast network ensures credit flows to even the most remote fields, strengthening.

EDITORIAL

Revisit security plan for visit of high profile personality to Srinagar

The visit of a high profile personality to Srinagar always creates problems for the city residents especially for those who live along the airport road right from Humhama area to Rambagh area. Same happened during the visit of Home Minister Amit Shah and people faced numerous problems while heading towards their destinations on Monday and Tuesday. On Monday the authorities virtually sealed the airport road in the afternoon when the Home Minister was about to reach Srinagar.

Even though the Home Minister reached after 6:30 PM, the people at helm had imposed restrictions on the movement of people from late afternoon. The worst thing in this whole scenario was that people were not allowed to even walk on the main road and those who dared to do so were stopped by the security personnel time and again. The unnecessary restrictions on the movement of people does not augur well, more so at a time when the situation is normal in the valley.

The procedure was repeated on Tuesday when the Home Minister was scheduled to leave Srinagar in the evening. The authorities yet again made the movement of people virtually impossible and it seemed as if curfew had been imposed in Srinagar especially on the airport road. The problems got compounded as Srinagar received rain in the late afternoon. Due to the restriction on the movement of people the entire stretch of airport road witnessed massive traffic jams once the vehicles and people were allowed to move.

Since this is not for the first time that the security agencies imposed restrictions on the movement of people on the airport road it is important that this procedure is revisited so that the people don't face any inconvenience in future. This would give an impression that the government in place is worried about the time management of the commoners especially the patients. As time is precious for one and all it is important that this necessary factor is kept in mind while devising a plan for the hassle free movement of a high profile personality during his visit to Srinagar.

One can assume that any minister who is on a visit to Srinagar does not want the people of Srinagar or any other place of Kashmir to be put to trouble. Given this situation it is important that minimum trouble is meted out to the common masses during a visit of any high profile personality to Srinagar. This would come as a huge relief to the people especially those living along the airport road.

Cultivating Resilience: Revitalising Agripreneurship In Kashmir Valley

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The verdant valleys and snow-clad peaks of Kashmir create an idyllic picture of agricultural abundance, yet the region's agri-entrepreneurs grapple with significant challenges in harnessing this potential. Agriculture has always been central to the region's economy, but translating that into modern agribusinesses remains a daunting task. These challenges stem from a mix of environmental, economic, and socio-political factors that complicate the path for ambitious entrepreneurs looking to make a mark in Kashmir's agricultural sector.

The Kashmir Valley, with its breathtaking landscapes and fertile soil, offers a natural haven for agriculture. Known for its world-class saffron, apples, and walnuts, the region has long been an agricultural hub. However, while the potential for agribusiness in Kashmir is immense, agri-entrepreneurs often face an uphill battle. Despite the promise of high-value crops and unique products, turning this promise into sustainable business ventures is fraught with challenges. From geopolitical tensions to the limitations of outdated infrastructure, aspiring agricultural entrepreneurs must overcome numerous barriers in their quest to build thriving enterprises.

Kashmir's distinct geography, climate, and resources make it one of the most unique agricultural regions in the world, yet agri-entrepreneurs are often hindered by factors beyond their control. Moreover, as the global demand for organic and high-quality produce increases, entrepreneurs in Kashmir are at a crossroads. They have the potential to tap into global markets, but only if they can surmount the complex set of challenges that stand in their way.

The following factors affect agripreneurship in Kashmir, along with the role of CIED-IUST in its enhancement.

Geopolitical Instability:

It refers to the political, social, and security challenges that arise due to ongoing disputes, internal conflicts, and socio-political unrest in the region. This instability often disrupts economic activities, hinders investments, affects tourism, and creates an uncertain environment for development, including in sectors like agriculture, education, and entrepreneurship. It can lead to limited access to markets, reduced infrastructure development, and a lack of policy consistency, all of which impact the region's overall growth

and stability.

The CIED IUST plays an indispensable role in cultivating innovation and entrepreneurial ethos, particularly in regions beset by geopolitical turbulence such as Jammu & Kashmir. Aligned with its mission to engender a culture of entrepreneurship, the Foundation equips the youth with transformative education, specialised training, and vital resources to navigate multifaceted challenges. In the face of severe disruptions prompted by political unrest, entrepreneurs like Shahid-ul-Islam Bhat, founder of Agri SeSo LLP, exemplify perseverance, relying on the Foundation's steadfast support. Through its strategic initiatives, the CIED IUST Foundation empowers entrepreneurs to transcend barriers related to market access, transportation disruptions, and supply chain volatility, thereby mitigating the inherent uncertainties of such tumultuous environments. By serving as a catalytic force for innovation and entrepreneurial advancement, the Foundation not only addresses immediate impediments but also fortifies the region's long-term resilience, driving inclusive and sustainable growth.

Inadequate Infrastructure

The dearth of contemporary infrastructure, particularly in rural locales, significantly impedes the efficiency of supply chains. Suboptimal road connectivity, a lack of advanced cold storage facilities, and an underdeveloped logistics sector exacerbate the issue, culminating in substantial post-harvest losses, especially for perishable commodities.

One of the entrepreneurs, Adnan, the founder of Al Karim Souk Private Limited, grappled with profound logistical inefficiencies due to inadequate transportation and storage infrastructure. However, through the CIED IUST Foundation's specialized training in state-of-the-art logistics solutions, he was able to enhance operational efficiency, streamline processes, and significantly mitigate post-harvest losses. By providing targeted expertise and fostering innovation, the Foundation empowered Adnan to overcome infrastructural deficits, transforming his business into a more resilient and sustainable enterprise.

Market Access Barriers & Technological Deficiencies

Geographical isolation and limited marketing channels create significant barriers for entrepreneurs, restricting their ability to access larger markets. The intermittent closures of national highways and the exploitation by middlemen further impede profitabil-

ity, especially for those in rural areas. These challenges, coupled with technological deficiencies, hinder growth and restrict scalability. Boosting innovation and fostering entrepreneurship is crucial for national development, business growth, and societal transformation.

The Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development (CIED) at IUST aims to address these issues by reshaping the entrepreneurial mindset, particularly in regions burdened by high unemployment. By creating a robust ecosystem that fosters innovation, CIED empowers youth to turn their entrepreneurial aspirations into scalable ventures. Through collaboration with university resources and hands-on learning, CIED equips entrepreneurs with the tools to modernise and thrive.

Fawzul Kabir, an entrepreneur and founder of GR8 Sports India Pvt Limited, initially faced significant challenges in accessing international markets due to supply chain inefficiencies. However, with CIED's cutting-edge training in modern technologies, Fawzul adopted automated systems, overcoming logistical challenges and elevating his business. His success not only expanded his reach beyond local markets but also culminated in ICC approval, earning international recognition for his products within the global cricket ecosystem. This transformation highlights the far-reaching impact of CIED's approach, demonstrating how innovation can overcome market access and technological barriers, driving sustainable growth and global competitiveness.

Policy and Bureaucratic Obstacles

Despite government initiatives aimed at supporting agricultural entrepreneurship, bureaucratic red tape often delays access to subsidies and grants. A lack of clarity in policy implementation can leave entrepreneurs without the necessary support. One of the entrepreneurs from Kashmir, Refaz Ahmad Wani of Twin Tech encountered bureaucratic hurdles that complicated his business documentation processes, highlighting the need for more streamlined government procedures.

Fragmented Landholdings & Limited Access to Finance

The prevalence of small, fragmented landholdings significantly restricts economies of scale and mechanisation by, making it difficult for entrepreneurs to implement large-scale farming practices or invest in modern agricultural technologies. This fragmentation, coupled with limited access to finance, creates a vicious cycle that stifles growth and inno-

vation. Entrepreneurs, particularly those in the agricultural sector, often struggle to secure funding due to the perception of their ventures as high-risk by banks and financial institutions. This lack of financial resources hampers their ability to invest in new technologies, expand operations, and drive growth. One of the entrepreneurs, Asifat Shafi, founder of Shanara, faced considerable challenges stemming from both fragmented land resources and limited access to finance. The inefficiencies caused by small landholdings restricted her ability to scale her operations and improve productivity. Additionally, Asifat confronted significant hurdles in acquiring the necessary financing, compounded by cultural constraints and the absence of robust support networks for women entrepreneurs in the region. Despite these obstacles, the CIED IUST support proved transformative. Through strategic mentorship, access to alternative funding, and tailored guidance, CIED empowered Asifat to overcome both land and financial limitations, allowing her to scale her business and make a significant contribution to the regional economy. This highlights the crucial role of CIED in breaking down barriers and fostering sustainable entrepreneurial growth in challenging environments. Besides this, the CIED IUST has emerged as a crucial player in supporting agricultural entrepreneurs in Kashmir. By providing targeted assistance, the foundation effectively addresses these hurdles:

Capacity Building: CIED offers training programs that equip entrepreneurs with modern agricultural techniques and business skills, enabling them to enhance productivity.

Financial Support: The foundation connects entrepreneurs with potential investors and facilitates access to funding, helping to overcome financial barriers.

Market Development: CIED assists in creating pathways for entrepreneurs to access larger markets, increasing their profitability and sustainability.

Infrastructure Improvement: Initiatives focused on enhancing logistical networks and cold storage facilities are pivotal in reducing post-harvest losses.

Through these efforts, the CIED IUST is helping to cultivate a more resilient agricultural sector in Kashmir. With continued support and investment, the region has the potential to thrive as a key player in the global agricultural market, positioning its entrepreneurs at the forefront of sustainable and innovative agribusiness practices.

Need for pragmatic reforms in higher education



VIJAY GARG

Effective policy frameworks are essential for guaranteeing the quality, accessibility and sustainability of education, which serves as the foundation of a nation's advancement. Nevertheless, the medical and higher education sectors are frequently impeded by outdated and rigid regulations rather than facilitated by them. The National Medical Commission's (MCI) arbitrary criteria for recognising medical colleges and the University Grants Commission's (UGC) salary regulations for private institutions are examples of how bureaucratic rigidity can result in unintended consequences. To resolve these concerns and cultivate a more inclusive and efficient education

system, it is imperative to implement pragmatic policy reforms.

MCI requires medical colleges to have a certain number of hospital beds and patient load for recognition. Although the goal is to give students clinical experience, this strategy ignores medical education development. Digital health technology, simulation-based learning and telemedicine allow students to develop practical skills without a bed-patient ratio.

Existing laws have led to unscrupulous activities like institutions manipulating inspection figures. Instead of infrastructure-based assessments, medical education policies should prioritise competency-based evaluations, outcome-driven learning and ethical training. Acknowledging modern pedagogical breakthroughs would improve healthcare and education.

Ideally, Governments and medical regulatory bodies should strive to promote preventive healthcare by decreasing the burden of diseases through improved



nutrition, hygiene, vaccination and lifestyle awareness. Nevertheless, the requirement for a high patient burden in medical education implies a reactive rather than preventive approach, one that presupposes a persistent or expanding sick population. This criterion

could potentially impede the ability of medical colleges to maintain recognition if society makes genuine strides towards improved health outcomes. This prompts critical enquiries:

a) Are we indirectly promoting a system that capitalises on illness rather than

well-being?

b) Is it necessary to restructure medical education to prioritise preventive care, public health initiatives and advanced technology rather than solely focusing on hospital patient numbers?

The primary objective of a progressive medical edu-

cation system should be to prevent individuals from entering hospitals rather than to overcrowd them. Rather than being penalised for a lower patient count, medical institutions should adapt if public health improves. Another flawed regulation is the UGC's insistence that private institutions follow Government salary scales for faculty. Although it is imperative to provide educators with equitable compensation, the imposition of public-sector pay structures in private institutions without providing financial assistance imposes an excessive burden on these institutions. Private universities are compelled to increase tuition fees, rendering education untenable for many students, as they primarily rely on tuition revenue.

Similarly, the insistence on 40 acres of land as a prerequisite for starting a university is an outdated and impractical regulation in today's digital era. With online education, virtual labs, cloud computing and digital libraries gaining prominence, the traditional concept of vast physi-

cal campuses is becoming less relevant. A university's effectiveness should be measured by teaching quality, research output and student success, not the size of its campus. Policymakers must adopt a more pragmatic and research-driven approach to regulations in medical and higher education. Instead of one-size-fits-all rules, a more adaptive framework should be developed that considers technological advancements, economic realities and global best practices. Engaging stakeholders-academics, industry experts and students-would result in policies that enhance education quality while maintaining affordability and accessibility. The future of education depends on our ability to reform outdated regulations and embrace innovation. Pragmatic policies will not only benefit institutions and students but also contribute to national progress by creating a more skilled, ethical and competent workforce.

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Innovation Vs Engineering: Distinct Forces Shaping The Future

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From last two centuries in the dynamic landscape of progress and technological advancement, two terms frequently arise – innovation and engineering. While often used interchangeably, they represent fundamentally different yet complementary concepts. Innovation is the spark that ignites new ideas and visions, whereas engineering is the structured process that brings those visions to life. Understanding the relationship between the two is crucial for businesses, educators, and aspiring change-makers who wish to leave a meaningful mark on the world.

Defining Innovation and Engineering

Innovation is the process of introducing something new – a novel idea, product, method, or approach that adds value. It stems from creativity, imagination, and a deep understanding of problems or unmet needs. Innovations can be groundbreaking, like the invention of the internet, or incremental, like enhancing a smartphone's battery life.

Engineering, on the other hand, is the disciplined application of scientific and mathematical principles to design, build, and maintain structures, machines, systems, and processes. It is methodical, rooted in logic and analysis, and requires rigorous testing and validation. Engineers take ideas – whether innovative or traditional – and convert them into real-world applications.

The Mindset: Creative vs Analytical

Innovation often begins with a question: What if? Innovators are typically driven by curiosity and vision. They see possibilities where others see limitations and are not afraid to challenge the status quo. Think of Thomas Edison, Steve Jobs, or Elon Musk – their ideas transformed entire industries by reimagining what was possible.

Engineering, however, starts with how. Engineers ask, How can we make this work? They deal with constraints, feasibility, optimization, and safety. Their mindset is one of practicality, structure, and implementation. While engineers can be innovative, their primary focus is on making things function reliably and efficiently.



Innovation Without Engineering: A Castle in the Air

A great idea without execution is just a dream. Many innovative concepts never see the light of day due to the lack of technical feasibility or poor implementation. Engineering serves as the bridge between imagination and reality. For instance, the idea of self-driving cars has been around for decades, but it is only through the advancement of computer vision, machine learning, and sensor engineering that we are beginning to see practical versions of this innovation on the road.

Innovation without engineering can also lead to unrealistic expectations. Without understanding technical limitations, even the most creative ideas can falter. Engineering grounds innovation, shaping it into something sustainable, efficient, and impactful.

Engineering Without Innovation: A Treadmill of Routine

Conversely, engineering without innovation can become routine, resulting in incremental improvements without real breakthroughs. While incremental engineering

plays a critical role in improving safety, performance, and cost-efficiency, it often lacks the disruptive impact that innovation brings.

Consider the automotive industry. For decades, traditional car manufacturers focused on engineering refinements – better fuel efficiency, improved aerodynamics, and enhanced materials. But it took innovators like Tesla to question the very foundations of how cars are powered and sold. This innovation sparked a transformation, which engineers then had to catch up with and implement at scale.

Symbiotic Relationship

Despite their differences, innovation and engineering thrive when they work together. A culture that fosters both creativity and technical excellence can lead to extraordinary results. For example, in product development, innovators may come up with a concept for a wearable device that tracks health metrics. Engineers then take over to develop the electronics, design the software, ensure battery life, and test the product's durability and safety.

This interplay is especially evident in tech companies like Apple and Google, where innovation drives vision and engineering ensures flawless execution. The design of an iPhone, for example, begins with innovation in aesthetics and user experience, but it is engineering that ensures every component fits in a slim body and works without overheating.

Education and Industry: A Need for Balance

Educational systems and industries must recognize and nurture both aspects. Traditionally, engineering education has focused heavily on technical skills, often at the expense of creativity. However, modern problems – from climate change to global health crises – demand innovative thinking coupled with solid engineering.

Programs that integrate design thinking, entrepreneurship, and interdisciplinary collaboration help students and professionals embrace both mindsets. Similarly, companies are increasingly valuing innovation as a core competency, encouraging engineers to think outside the box, challenge assumptions,

and prototype new ideas.

Real-World Examples

1. A Big Computer to Smartphone

A perfect example of innovation and engineering working together is the journey from early computers to modern smartphones.

Innovation: The idea of shrinking a large computer into a small, handheld device was revolutionary. Visionaries imagined a future where people could access the internet, send emails, take pictures, and use GPS—all from one portable device. This was a product of innovative thinking.

Engineering: Turning that idea into a reality took years of advanced engineering. Engineers had to create smaller, faster processors, improve battery life, develop high-resolution touchscreens, and build compact yet powerful hardware. Software engineers developed operating systems like iOS and Android that could run efficiently on mobile devices. Every detail, from the phone's shape to the strength of its materials, involved engineering precision.

From Room-Sized Machines to Your Pocket: In the 1940s and

1950s, computers were so large they occupied entire rooms and required constant maintenance. They were slow, expensive, and only used by governments or large institutions. Innovation asked, "What if this machine could be made smaller and used by everyone?" Engineering made that possible. Over decades, engineers miniaturized components, invented the microchip, and optimized energy consumption. Today, your smartphone is more powerful than those early computers—a clear result of innovation and engineering working together.

2. SpaceX: Elon Musk's vision of making space travel more accessible was an innovation. The engineering behind reusable rockets, fuel systems, and autonomous landing systems made that vision a reality.

3. 3D Printing: Initially an innovative concept for rapid prototyping, 3D printing became a widespread manufacturing tool through relentless engineering refinement, making it faster, more precise, and capable of handling a wider variety of materials.

The Future: A Fusion of Minds

As we look to the future, the line between innovation and engineering will blur further. The rise of artificial intelligence, biotechnology, quantum computing, and sustainable technologies requires a fusion of innovative vision and engineering mastery. Teams will need to be more cross-functional, with engineers learning to think like innovators and innovators understanding the basics of engineering feasibility.

Innovation and engineering are no longer siloed disciplines – they are two sides of the same coin. A brilliant future will be built by those who can dream big and also build smart.

What We've Learned

Innovation and engineering may differ in their approach, but they are partners in progress. One brings the bold idea; the other brings it to life. In a world that is increasingly fast-paced and complex, fostering a balance between these two forces will be essential. Whether you are a student, a business leader, or a curious thinker, embracing both innovation and engineering will empower you to not just imagine the future – but to build it.

In Loving Memory of Yasir Ahmad: A Light That Still Shines

DANISH ASHRAF
TEACHER

A small child from Tral who devoted his life, like water, to learning the words of Allah. A sad and heartbreaking piece of news from Tral (Kashmir) shook many hearts. Yasir Ahmad, a 12-year-old student of Darul Uloom Shahi Hamdan, passed away in a tragic fire incident. He was a bright and dedicated child who had devoted his young life to the learning of the Holy Quran. Yasir was not like other children of his age. While most kids were busy playing with toys or spending time on mobile phones, Yasir was immersed in memorizing the Quran. From an early age, he had chosen the path of faith and knowledge, turning his heart towards Allah.

He left behind the comfort of his home, the warmth of his parents, and the joyful moments with friends – all for the sake of drawing closer to his Creator. The prayer mat at the madrasa became his resting place, and the Quran his closest companion.



Though the fire may have taken his physical form, it could never dim the light of his soul. Lamps like Yasir never truly go out. They con-

tinue to glow in the hearts of those who remember them, reminding us of the beauty and strength of sincere faith. Yasir's life teaches us that

love for religion has nothing to do with age or strength. It is about having a pure heart and true dedication. In his short time in this world, he became a powerful example for both young and old. As our beloved Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said:

"The best among you are those who learn the Quran and teach it."

Yasir was truly among those best ones. He left this world while walking the noble path of knowledge – a path that leads straight to the mercy of Allah. Yasir still lives – in our prayers, in our hearts, and in the legacy he left behind. He reminds us that the journey of religious knowledge only needs passion and sincerity.

We pray that Allah grants Yasir Ahmad the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdaus and blesses his parents, teachers, and loved ones with patience, strength, and peace.

Ameen. Ya Rabb al-Alameen.

Distraction – The Silent Killer of Dreams

DANISH ASHRAF KHAN
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A goal is not just a simple word. It is a picture of your biggest dreams and the life you wish to build. It shows who you want to become and what you hope to achieve. Your goal is part of your identity. With focus, hard work, and patience, even the smallest dream can become real.

But reaching a goal is not easy. It requires quiet effort. You don't have to tell everyone what you're doing—let your success speak for itself. Still, in today's busy and digital world, many young people are being silently pulled away from their path by one strong enemy: distraction.

When we hear the word "distraction," we often blame mobile phones. I see many students spending hours scrolling on social media without realizing how much time has passed. Some say, "I'll do it tomorrow," but that tomorrow never comes. This

habit is dangerous. Phones are not bad on their own—in fact, they can be used to learn, create, and connect. The real problem is how we use them. Without control, these devices can steal valuable time and energy.

But distractions don't stop at phones. One of the most harmful types comes in the form of wrong friendships. A careless or negative group of friends can slowly weaken your focus and change your mindset. They may seem fun and friendly at first, but over time, they may lead you away from your goals. Once you get used to that life, it's hard to return to the right track.

Of course, fun, friends, and sports are important. They keep life enjoyable and help reduce stress. But anything in excess becomes harmful. Spending too much time on phones, going out without a reason, or trying to impress others can make you forget what truly matters.

Some days, your dreams might feel far away. You might feel like you're the

only one trying while others waste time. But it's better to stand alone for the right reason than to follow the wrong crowd.

A bad friend might tell you, "There's time, enjoy now," but that advice is dangerous. Not every smiling face is honest, and not every friend is true. Remember, time once gone never comes back. The best time to work on your future is right now.

Today's world is full of distractions—social media, peer pressure, stress, laziness, and more. But none of them are stronger than your dream. No one else can live your dream or reach your goal for you.

So protect your dreams. Be wise with your time. Choose good friends. Stay focused, even if it means walking alone. One day, your success will speak so loudly that everyone will notice.

Stay silent now, and the world will clap for you later.

Because those who work quietly are the ones people remember the most.



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Chief Justice inaugurates training program on Computer Skill Enhancement

HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 08: Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy), Justice Tashi Rabstan, today inaugurated one day training programme on Computer Skill Enhancement "Level I & II" (ECT_7_2024 & ECT_12_2024) for Advocates of Jammu district at J&K Judicial Academy, Janipur.

The Chief Justice also released two significant compendiums, on the occasion, in presence of Justice Atul Sreedharan, Judge, High Court of Madhya Pradesh, Justice Sindhu Sharma, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh (Chairperson, Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy).

The training programme was organized in collaboration with eCommittee, Supreme Court of India. Shahzad Azeem, Registrar Gen-

eral, High Court of J&K and Ladakh; M.K. Sharma, Principal Secretary to Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh; Rajeev Gupta, Registrar Vigilance; Sandeep Kour, Registrar Judicial; Shazia Tabasum, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Service Authority; Anoop Sharma, Registrar Computer (IT), High Court of J&K and Ladakh; Fayaz Ahmed Qureshi, CPC; Mayank Gupta, Joint Registrar Protocol and Jeevan Kumar, Secretary, High Court Legal Service Committee attended the inaugural session.

The inaugural session of the programme was also attended by Satinder Singh, Registrar Recruitment; K. Nirmal Kotwal, President, J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu and his Executive Members besides Bhagirath, President, Young Lawyers Association, High Court of J&K and Ladakh.

On the occasion, Chief Justice officially released two compendiums 'Breaking Barriers: Landmark and



Recent Judgments Shaping the POCsO Act'; and 'Redefining Justice: Landmark and Recent Judgments Shaping the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act 2015'. These publications shall serve as invaluable resources, encapsulating key judicial pronouncements that have shaped and strengthened the child protection laws in our country.

In his inaugural address, Justice Tashi Rabstan emphasised that the

intersection of law and technology is no longer a concept of the future but it is our reality today. He stated that rapid digitization of court processes, development of e-Courts services and integration of information technology into legal practice are reshaping the way justice is accessed, understood and delivered. He highlighted that the strength of any justice delivery system lies in the synergy between the Bench and

the Bar. As courts move towards e-filing, virtual hearings, digital display boards and online case management systems, the Bar must be equally skilled and confident in engaging with these systems, he added. Justice Sindhu Sharma, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, in her welcome address, underscored that the initiatives under the e-Courts Project are not merely policy documents, but a vision to bring judicial services to the fingertips of citizens. She emphasized that this training ensures no advocate is left behind in the process. She further added that it is our collective responsibility to ensure that technological progress does not create a divide, but rather unites the system in a shared pursuit of excellence. She also appreciated the efforts of the J&K Judicial Academy for releasing two significant compendiums.

The first technical session was chaired by Justice Atul Sreedharan,

Judge, High Court of Madhya Pradesh, who shared valuable insights from his experience as a judge, emphasizing the evolving role of technology in the judicial process. He highlighted how modern judges are increasingly integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools and digital platforms in their workflow, particularly in drafting and delivering judgments.

Justice Shreedharan explained the practical use of Microsoft Word for typing judgments, focusing on its advanced features like templates, formatting tools and auto-citation management, which significantly enhance the efficiency and precision. He further illustrated how online legal research portals, AI-driven case law databases and dictation software are transforming the traditional style of judgment writing. Moreover, he underscored the importance of adapting to technology to meet the growing demands of judicial work.

Dr. Abhijeet Singh Jasrotia Slams INDI Alliance for Misleading Voters over Waqf Amendment Act

HT News Network

Srinagar, 08, March 2025 In a fiery press conference at the BJP headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, BJP spokesperson Dr. Abhijeet Singh Jasrotia launched a blistering attack on the INDI Alliance MLAs for creating chaos in the J&K Assembly over the Waqf Amendment Act. Flanked by Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Media Incharge J&K BJP, and party leader Amit George, Dr. Jasrotia accused the alliance of deceiving the very people who voted them to power. "Since this Gath Bandhan government has failed to deliver in the past six months, they are resorting to diversion tactics to avoid accountability on core issues," Dr. Jasrotia asserted. He described the uproar in the Assembly as a "planned conspiracy" to distract the masses from matters of public importance. Citing Article 252 Clause



2, he defended the Waqf Amendment Act passed by Parliament, saying the matter is currently sub judice and that disrupting Assembly proceedings over it is a blatant misuse of taxpayers' money. "This is a betrayal of public trust. These MLAs are wasting time and resources instead of addressing real issues faced by people," he added. Dr. Jasrotia questioned the silence of these parties' MPs during the Parliamentary debate on the Act and condemned their theatrical protests in the J&K Assembly as attempts to misguide the public. "Why didn't they raise objections

in Parliament? This drama is meant to cover up their failures," he said. He also accused the alliance of harming the interests of Pashmunda Muslims, who rely heavily on the ongoing tourist season. "Do they want to snatch away the livelihoods of those operating Shikaras and Rehrijs?" he asked, challenging opposition leaders to highlight any real welfare measures taken for marginalized Muslim communities. Targeting parties like the NC, Dr. Jasrotia reminded them of the unfulfilled promises made in their election manifesto. "For

seventy years, they fooled the people with empty slogans. The same is being repeated now," he said. He further called for legal action against those disrupting the Assembly and questioned the effectiveness of the Waqf Board in terms of delivering on educational and healthcare infrastructure, scholarships, and pensions.

Referring to the "Sachar" Committee report, he said it exposed the hollow claims of these parties regarding Muslim welfare. "Just like they misled the nation on CAA and NRC, they are doing the same now," he added, naming even a former Deputy Speaker among those "fooling voters."

Dr. Jasrotia concluded by accusing the INDI Alliance of double standards, pointing out that the same "Act is proposed to be adopted in Kerala", where they are in power. "These parties mold laws to suit their vote-bank politics," he said.

Ruling party playing role of opposition, dodging Waqf Amendment Bill: Hakeem Yaseen

HT News Network

Srinagar, April 08: Hakeem Muhammad Yaseen, President of the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Front (PDF) and former minister, on Tuesday criticized the ruling party for evading its responsibilities and behaving like an opposition force by disrupting proceedings in the Assembly.

He expressed deep concern over the government's failure to take up the Waqf Amendment Bill, a matter of significant public inter-

est, especially for the Muslim community of Jammu and Kashmir.

"For the first time in history, we are witnessing a ruling party deliberately stalling its own Assembly proceedings. Instead of facilitating dialogue and decision-making, they are playing the role of the opposition," he said.

Hakeem Yaseen said that the Waqf Amendment Bill deserved urgent attention, as it directly affects the management of religious and charitable properties across the Union Territory.

"Despite being a Muslim-majority region and with over 20 per cent of the population impacted by Waqf affairs, the ruling party chose to look the other way. This is a clear attempt to divert attention and silence serious discussions," he added.

Calling the behavior a "mockery of the public mandate," Hakeem said that while the matter may be sub judice, there was still ample scope for legislative discussion and clarity.

"People had high hopes

that the government would prioritize this bill and bring transparency and reform to Waqf management. Instead, their silence and disruption speak volumes about their intent."

He urged the government to stop playing politics inside the Assembly and fulfill its legislative responsibilities. "The Waqf Amendment Bill cannot be brushed aside. The public is watching, and history will judge those who chose silence over accountability," he added

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار اچہل انت ناگ

درخواست منجانب سائل انسہ مشتاق دعوہ مشتاق دتتر ان مشتاق احمد میر ساکنہ کواریکام اچہل انت ناگ ضلع انت ناگ بمرا حصول RBA سرٹیفیکٹ بحق دتتر

اشتہار ہمارا آگاہی

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان میں درخواست سال دفتر ذیل زیر کاروانی ہے اس نسبت پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ فتوالا ریکارڈ طلب کے کس سے عیاں ہوتا ہے سال موضع سال کواریکام میں رہائش پذیر ہے سال بیک واؤز مرہیں اتالیے سال دھرم کوکھا منتقل باغہ ہے سال کا نمبرہ بذیل افراد منتقل ہے

1. مشتاق احمد ولد مشتاق 50 سالہ سرکاری ملازم IPC
2. منہید اختر دعوہ مشتاق 45 سالہ گھر ٹوکام
3. ... عمر مشتاق پسر 11 سال زیر تعلیم
4. ... انسہ مشتاق دختر 17 سال
5. ... عروہ مشتاق دختر 11 سال

اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد میں بتایا گیا سال کے نمبرہ کی کس آمدنی 4000+ Lpc مطالبہ سرٹیفیکٹ زیر بحث اجہل کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو عہدہ یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عہدہ یا اعتراض ساتھ دن کے اندر راندہ پیش کریں معاد کرنے کے بعد کوئی عہدہ یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

نائب تحصیلدار

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار کیری

عنوان درخواست منجانب سید مشتاق احمد ولد مرہوم سید جلال الدین ساکنہ کیری نسبت اجرائی کیہ لیر (وارث جائز) سرٹیفیکٹ بحق وارثان بوہدو فتوالا والدہ خود

اشتہار ہمارا آگاہی

ماملہ مندرجہ عنوان میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی۔ مطابق رپورٹ پٹواری وڈیٹور سرٹیفیکٹ سال کا والد مرہوم سید جلال الدین ولد سید غلام الدین مورخہ 24/11/2024 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے متوفی اپنے پچھلے مندرجہ ذیل وارثان جائز چھوڑ گیا

1. سید مشتاق احمد پسر متوفی حیات مرحوم
2. ... سید فرید احمد پسر فوت شدہ
3. ... سید شریفہ بیگم دختر فوت شدہ
4. ... سید توہیدہ دختر حیات موجودہ
5. ... سید عظیمہ بانو پوتی حیات
6. ... اشادہ دختر پوتی حیات
7. ... سید نومان فرید پوتی حیات

اس طور کنہی (7) افراد پر منتقل مطابق رپورٹ پٹواری مندرجہ وارثان جائز کے علاوہ اور کوئی وارثان جائز نہیں ہے سرٹیفیکٹ زیر بحث اجہل کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو عہدہ یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عہدہ یا اعتراض ساتھ دن کے اندر پیش کرے معاد کرنے کے بعد کوئی عہدہ یا اعتراض قبول نہیں ہوگا

نائب تحصیلدار کیری

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR Aripal
(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 ARIPAL) has received a case file pertaining to death of MUSHTAQ AHMAD DAR S/O ABUL GANI DAR R/O Jawahirpora Lam, Tehsil Aripal Distt. Pulwama wherein the date of death has been verified as 31/03/2025 and the incident has been shown to have happened at the deceased's home which caused the delay in seeking the certificate.
Now that the case is under consideration for the issuance of the certificate, anyone having any objection shall approach this office within 07 days of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained after the notice period.
Executive Magistrate
1st Class Aripal

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on the name of GH RASOOL DAR S/O GH QADIR DAR R/O WALRAMAN .Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040009277 wants to be registered on the name GHULAM QADIR DAR S/O GHULAM RASOOL DAR R/O WALRAMAN .If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.
Name...GHULAM QADIR DAR
S/O ...GHULAM RASOOL DAR
R/O WALRAMAN DISTT..... BARAMULLA

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is inform to all general public through the medium of notice that i sajad Hussain malla s/o Gh Hussain malla R/o Rakhi Duslipora that my daughter namely quratul-ain dob is 12 02 2016 now I want to Obtain dob certificate he she the context of bdo singpora with in period of seven days.

Sajad Hussain malla

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is inform to all general public through the medium of notice that i gulzar ahmad mir s/o Ab samad mir R/o Rakhi duslipora that my daughter namely Arbeena gulzar dob is 08-05-2011 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 sevendays

Yours faith fully
Gulzar ahmad mir
Ab samad mir Rekhduslipora

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 the information of the general public that I have correction in name of my bank passbook now I want to change this correction as per my adhaar card I want change my father's with husband name from Dilshada bano to Dilshada bano w/o mushtaq Ahmad I also want change my adress from matipora pattan to dar mohalla sultanpora pattan. If any body has any objection regarding this please contact jkbank singpora within 7 days no objection accepted after the stipulated time period.

Name, Dilshada bano
W/o . Mushtaq Ahmad
R/o dar mohalla sultanpora pattan

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on the name of HABIBULLAH BHAT S/O MOHD RAMZAN BHAT R/O WALRAMAN .Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040009365 wants to be registered on the name MOHAMMAD AMIN BHAT S/O HABIBULLAH BHAT R/O WALRAMAN .If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name...MOHAMMAD AMIN BHAT
S/O ...HABIBULLAH BHAT
R/O WALRAMAN
DISTT..... BARAMULLA

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is being notified that my name on my bank account number 0122040800008740 branch pahalgam has been wrongly mentioned as Zaitoon jan. my actual name as per Aadhar is Zaitoon Begum C/o Mohd Shafi Gojer Chohan. R/o Khelan Gojran. Veersaran Pahalgam ANANTNAG JAMMU AND KASHMIR If anyone have queries please contact branch office or call 9484205133

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 AQSA JAVID S/O JAVID AHMAD BHAT R/O ALLAPORA Tehsil WAGOORA Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 12/04/2021 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



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DDC Kupwara chairs DLRC meeting

Emphasizes on mass awareness of schemes, financial inclusion and employment generation

■ HT News Network

KUPWARA, APRIL 08: District Development Commissioner (DDC), Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan, today, chaired the meeting of District Level Review Committee (DLRC) here to review the performance of line departments and banks with regard to saturation of different government schemes in the district. Addressing the meeting, DDC emphasized upon the officers of line departments and bankers for financial inclusion and saturation of various centrally sponsored schemes so that the people especially marginalized sections of the community get

benefited at large.

The DDC directed all the banks and the sponsoring agencies to work with greater coordination and cohesion to achieve the goals and targets of financial inclusion, besides, generation of employment for unemployed youth of the district. She further directed banks for early disposal of financial assistance cases, and instructed line departments to sponsor cases to respective bank branches strictly as per service area, within the stipulated time frame. The DDC stressed the need for grassroots awareness of financial and social security schemes sponsored by the Government, and directed the



departments to hold awareness camps for the people. While highlighting the overall performance for FY 2024-25 under annual district credit plan, Lead District Manager, Kupwara, Tariq Ahmad Jan informed the house that achievements under ACP 2024-25 for the district stood at Rs.1850 Crores till the end of third quarter which constitutes 112.98% against target of Rs.1637 Crores. The achievements under priority sector advances were to the tune of Rs.803 Crores against target of Rs.1411 Crore for ACP 2024-25 which constitutes 56.91% while as under non-priority sector the

achievements are to the tune of Rs.1046.86 Crores against target of Rs.226 Crores which constitutes 463%. Rs.166.38 crore have been disbursed by the banks amongst 10021 beneficiaries. It was also informed that Rs.6100 lakh were disbursed under PMEGP scheme against 1125 cases up to 31.12.2024. The Potential Linked Credit Plan was also launched in the meeting. Officers from line departments, representatives from different banks and other concerned were present in the meeting.

DC Budgam reviews status of works approved under District Mineral Fund (PMKKKY)

■ HT News Network

BUDGAM, APRIL 08: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo today chaired a meeting of District Mineral Fund (DMF) to review the status of works approved under Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojna (PMKKKY) in the district. DC reviewed the status of works approved under DMF in the areas with high priority and other priority sectors. The series of developmental works amounting to Rs.327.71 lakh covers vital sectors including Health, Education, Power Development and Jal Shakti, aiming to strengthen public infrastructure and improve service delivery across the district. Key works approved under the Health sector include the provision of hotline connectivity at CHC Kremshore,



CHC Chattergam, PHC Soibugh, PHC Ompora, PHC Khag, and CHC Pakherpora. In addition, procurement of critical medical equipment such as digital X-ray cassettes, biochemistry analysers, deep freezers, plasma expressers, autoclaves, and microscopes for District Hospital Budgam was approved. Under the Jal Shakti Department, the procurement of water tankers of 9000-litre and 6000-litre capacities will address water supply

needs in the district. In the Education sector, works include the construction of a toilet facility at Mixed Primary School Gopalpora and provision of electricity at Government schools in Khan Mohalla Kuzwera and Dounkal Bagh Sail. The Power Development Department will establish a buffer stock of 15 (100 KVA) transformers to strengthen power infrastructure and ensure timely replacements during exigencies.

DC Bandipora chairs Aadhaar Monitoring Committee meeting, stresses on 100% enrollment

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, APRIL 08: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri on Tuesday chaired District Level Aadhaar Monitoring Committee meeting at mini secretariat, here. The meeting discussed threadbare various agenda points including Aadhaar Saturation across different age groups, operational Aadhaar Centers, Biometric updates, Birth Registration based Aadhaar Enrolment and other issues. The Project Manager, UIDAI presented a detailed briefing on the Aadhaar saturation status in the district besides highlighted various issues and measures



required to saturate left out population. It was informed that 64 Aadhaar Enrollment Centers are currently operational in the district. DC directed the concerned departments to formulate a calendar for Aadhaar updation drives in schools to expedite the enrollment process among school-going children. He also instructed officials to ensure that all non-functional Aadhaar

centers are made functional without delay. Qadri urged the Education Department, ICDS, and Health Department to take the lead in Aadhaar enrollment to achieve 100 percent saturation. He emphasized the need for conducting awareness camps on Aadhaar enrollment and organizing training sessions for Aadhaar operators to enhance the efficiency of enrollment services.

ADC Handwara inspects functioning of District Hospital

■ HT News Network



KUPWARA, APRIL 8: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi today paid a surprise visit to District Hospital Handwara to inspect its functioning. During the visit, the ADC inspected various sections of the Hospital including OPD, Emergency, Gynea and other wards, and checked the duty roster of the doctors and hospital staff. The ADC interacted with the patients and enquired about the healthcare and treatment facilities provided in the hospital. He also interacted with the doctors and medical staff, and impressed upon them to work with more dedication and ensure that all the patients especially coming from far flung areas are provided better healthcare facilities.

Orientation/ Training programme for Haj pilgrims of Anantnag on April 10 at GDC Women

■ HT News Network

ANANTNAG, APRIL 08: The training for selected Haj pilgrims of Anantnag regarding Manasik-e-Hajj and other logistics for Haj-1446 (H) 2025, under third phase is scheduled to be on 10th April 2025 from 10:30 AM at Auditorium Hall of Govt. Degree College (GDC) Women Anantnag. It is mandatory for all the selected Haj pilgrims to attend this important session, where detailed guidance on the various aspects of performing Haj including the spiritual and logistical arrangements, will be provided.

Orientation programme for Hajj Pilgrims of Baramulla on April 12 at Masjid Ameer Shah

■ HT News Network

BARAMULLA, APRIL 08: The selected Hajj Pilgrims of district Baramulla are informed that the Orientation cum Training Program is scheduled to be held on 12th of April 2025 from 10:00 AM till 3:00 PM at Masjid Ameer Shah (Baitul Mukarram) Baramulla. All the selected Haj Pilgrims of the District Baramulla are as such informed to ensure their presence in the said Orientation Training Program at the aforementioned venue on the scheduled date and time.

GDC Frisal celebrates Birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APRIL 08: Government Degree College (GDC) Frisal, Kulgam, organized a preamble recitation and pledge day to commemorate birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar today on 8th April 2025. The event emphasized the contributions of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the chief architect of the Indian Constitution, and aimed to instill his ideals of equality, justice, and fraternity among students and faculty. The program commenced with a brief introduction on the life and legacy of Dr. Ambedkar, followed by the collective recitation of the preamble of Indian Constitution. Principal of the college, Dr. Ishtiyaq Ahmad Shah delivered an insightful address highlighting the relevance of Dr. Ambedkar's vision in contemporary India and emphasized the need for youth to actively participate in nation-building by upholding constitutional and moral values.

BJP J&K Honours Rashtriya Bal Puraskar Awardee Ayaan Sajad in Srinagar.

■ HT News Network

srinagar, 08, March 2025 – The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K today felicitated Rashtriya Bal Puraskar Awardee Ayaan Sajad in a special ceremony held at S-1, Church Lane, Srinagar. The event was graced by Ashok Koul, BJP General Secretary (Org), J&K, and Ranjodh Singh Nalwa, BJP Minority Morcha President, who honored Ayaan Sajad for his remarkable achievements and contributions. Speaking on the occasion, Ashok Koul lauded Ayaan Sajad's exceptional talent, dedication, and contributions



that earned him the prestigious Rashtriya Bal Puraskar, India's highest civilian award for children. He emphasized that young achievers like Ayaan are an inspiration for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir, and their success reflects the immense potential in the region. Ranjodh Singh Nalwa also

congratulated Ayaan and his family, acknowledging his hard work, perseverance, and outstanding accomplishments. He assured BJP's continued support in nurturing young talent and promoting skill development among youth. Ayaan Sajad expressed gratitude to the BJP leadership especially the organisers of BJP Minority Morcha for the honor and pledged to continue working hard to achieve greater heights. The event concluded with warm wishes for Ayaan's bright future and a commitment to empowering young talents in J&K.

Saakshar Bharat Mission Employees Stage Silent Protest in Budgam Demand Regularization and Pending Honorarium

■ HT News Network

Budgam, Apr 8 : Employees of the Jammu and Kashmir Saakshar Bharat Mission (JKSBM) on Tuesday staged a silent protest in Budgam, pressing for the regularization of their services and the release of their long-pending honorarium. The protesting employees, who were engaged under the centrally sponsored scheme in 2011 to enhance literacy across Jammu and Kashmir, expressed deep concern over their uncertain job status and unpaid dues for the past 18 months. Speaking to news the aggrieved employees said they have dedicated over a decade to improving literacy, especially in rural and



underserved areas, but are now grappling with financial hardship and a lack of job security. Their key demands include immediate regularization of services, release of pending honorarium, and absorption into government departments or a Special Recruitment Order (SRO) to secure their future. The protestors urged the government to acknowledge their contribution to the education sector and take concrete steps to address their grievances without further delay.

MD JJM asks Jal Shakti divisions for expenditure reconciliation by April 10

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APRIL 8: Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Khurshid Ahmad Shah, today convened a review meeting of Jal Shakti (PHE) divisions of Kashmir province in Civil Secretariat, Srinagar. The meeting was attended by Superintending Engineers of respective circles, Executive Engineers of Civil and Mechanical divisions and officers of Mission Directorate. The MD enquired about the pace of execution of projects in the Kashmir region. He was informed that with the arrival of outside labourers, execution of works specific to outside work force have gathered momentum while as the routine works like pipe laying and general civil works are being executed at steady pace. He directed the divisional officers to monitor these works expeditiously so that the quality of work is maintained as per set standards.



The MD directed the officers to reconcile the expenditure on Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) and Public Financial Management System (PFMS) by 10th April 2025 as directed by the Ministry Of Jal Shakti, Government of India. He also enjoined upon the officers to clear the disparities in fund utilisation

between the two portals within one week. The meeting also discussed uploading of data on PM Gati Shakti for which refresher training will be imparted at Chief Engineer, PHE Kashmir office tomorrow in batches. Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Khurshid Ahmad Shah, today convened a review meeting of Jal

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DC Kulgam reviews implementation of self-employment schemes

Farooq Rather



KULGAM, APRIL 08: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan today conducted a comprehensive review of the progress made in implementation of self-employment generation schemes in the district.

During the meeting, DC took stock of the existing employment schemes being implemented by different departments in the district including DIC, Employment, JKEDI, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal and Sheep Husbandry, Handloom, Handicrafts, Cooperatives, KVIB and WDC. Khan emphasized upon the banks to speed up the disbursement of credit to all the approved cases at the earliest.

He enjoined upon the officers to cover all the unemployed youth identified in the baseline survey of Mission Yuva so that they can earn their sustained livelihood.

Earlier, the AD Employment gave a detailed powerpoint presentation regarding the different employment generation schemes implemented including PMEGP, PMFME, IDDS, HADP, KVIB, EDI, Mumkin, Vishwa Karma, Mudra, KVIC and others. Directions were issued to all agencies to ensure public outreach so that more and more youth are enrolled in these schemes, and also ensure time bound disposal of the applications.

The meeting was attended by GM DIC, CAO, CHO, CAHO, DSHO, District Officer KVIB/KVIC, AD Handicraft/Handloom, District LDM and District Manager WDC.

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.

Urban Cruiser Hyryder Elevates Mobility Experience with Advanced Feature Enhancements

HT News Network

Srinagar: Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) today announced that it has introduced feature upgrades in the Urban Cruiser Hyryder that redefine safety, comfort, and convenience. The latest enhancements underscores Toyota's commitment to customer-centric innovation, seamlessly incorporating valuable feedback and evolving market trends to elevate the driving experience.

Widely celebrated and embraced as India's first Self-charging Strong Hybrid Electric SUV, the Urban Cruiser Hyryder has already crossed the milestone of 1 lakh sales. It continues to win hearts with its innovative technology, exceptional fuel economy, dynamic performance, and premium driving experience.

The key change points of the Urban Cruiser Hyryder include: structural enhancements have been introduced across all variants for improved safety, airbags are now standard across all variants, ensuring enhanced passenger safety, the Electronic Parking Brake (EPB) has been added to automatic transmission across certain variants for added convenience and safety.

The new 6-speed Automatic Transmission (6AT) replaces the previous 5-speed manual gearbox in AWD variant. The 8-way Adjustable Power Driver Seat is now available in higher variants for a personalized driving position. A Rear Door Sunshade has been introduced in higher variants for improved passenger comfort. The Tyre Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS) has been introduced in more variants for better real-time tyre pressure monitoring. Ambient lighting has been introduced in higher variants to enhance the premium cabin experience. The Air Quality Index Display has been added to select variants, ensuring better air quality monitoring inside the cabin.

DC Baramulla reviews progress under Aspirational District Programme

HT News Network

BARAMULLA, APRIL 08: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today chaired a review meeting at the DC office meeting hall to assess the progress across various indicators of the Aspirational District Programme (ADP).

The meeting involved in-depth discussion regarding the progress made under various indicators of the Aspirational District Programme, including health and nutrition, education, agriculture and water resources, financial inclusion and basic infrastructure.

During the meeting, DC took a review of the physical and financial progress of various projects undertaken under the ADP programme and directed the concerned officers to prepare the DPRs for various pending projects of financial year 2024-25 within 3 days.



He emphasized the need for sustained efforts to address developmental gaps and to further improve the district's overall performance under the ADP framework. Furthermore, the meeting also discussed the utilization of award money recently received from NITI Aayog, in recognition of Baramulla's exemplary performance

under the Aspirational District Programme during the previous financial year.

DC lauded the efforts of the district administration and line departments that contributed to this achievement, and highlighted the need to channel the funds strategically to ensure impactful outcomes across various indicators of the pro-

gramme.

Meanwhile, to bridge the academic gap for rural and marginalized students, DC instructed the concerned officers to collaborate with reputed coaching centres and platforms to provide free and subsidized coaching for competitive examinations such as NEET and JEE.

Furthermore, DC directed concerned officers to prepare an actionable roadmap for effective utilization of CSR funds available to the district to focus on the development of Uri Sub-division which requires additional developmental focus to accelerate progress.

The meeting was attended by the Joint Director Planning, Javed Ahmad; Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Medical Officer, Medical Superintendent of GMC associated Hospital, representatives of NHPC and officers from other concerned departments.

Stree Shakti Women Leaders Conclave generates illuminating sessions at IIM Nowgam

HT News Network

Srinagar: In continuation with the historic Women Leaders Conclave by Stree Shakti - The Parallel Force and She Leads, the series of powerful sessions titled Tracks were held at the Indian Institute of Management IIM Pohru Nowgam, Srinagar. The speakers from eminent walks of life participated and deliberated in the impressive sessions featuring burning topics such as Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment, Redefining the future of work, Women's health and Holistic well-being, Sports enhancing Gender Equality, Her Story: Women Rewriting the Narrative, and several other tracks; issues were discussed during day-long deliberations. The three-day Stree Shakti Women Leaders Conclave is a first of its kind, focusing on diverse issues and outlooks of women from the country and the world. As a matter of fact, more than 100 women leaders, scholars and entre-



preneurs from diverse field shared their expertise on these illuminating sessions. The conclave's comprehensive approach to addressing women's issues was widely appreciated, with many participants expressing their gratitude for the opportunity to engage with thought leaders and change-makers. The event served as a catalyst for meaningful conversations, inspiring a new wave of women's empowerment and leadership in the region. Rekha Mody, the founder and Chairperson of Stree Shakti, also

an eminent women leader of the country, opined that Kashmir has been an epicenter of positive power and spirituality, and they are not there just for women's empowerment but to give a message of peace and prosperity to the entire world. She observed that already burning demands raised by Stree Shakti and She Leads, like free transport for women and reservation issues, have been addressed, and more recommendations would come up through this historic conclave.

DC Kulgam reviews implementation of HADP credit-linked schemes

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, APRIL 08: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan convened a meeting with officers from various line departments and representatives of banking institutions here today to review the implementation of credit-linked schemes under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme. The meeting focused on assessing the performance matrix, sanctioning and disbursement status of cases under HADP in the district. The DC directed all concerned departments and banks to ensure maximum outreach, covering every farmer and farming family in the district under these schemes. He set the target of 1500 registrations in different schemes with credit linkage and disbursement before the end of this month. Khan emphasized the need for block-level credit outreach camps



to raise awareness among farmers about beneficiary-oriented schemes. He reiterated that achieving the desired targets in the agricultural sector requires the proactive involvement of banks in providing hassle-free credit facilities to farmers. He further underscored the necessity of strong coordination between banks and government departments to ensure credit linkage and seamless implementation of schemes benefiting the farming community. The meeting was attended by ADC Viqar Ahmed Giri, ACD, CPO and other officers.

District-Level Coordination Committee meeting held at Shopian

HT News Network

SHOPIAN, APRIL 08: On the directions of the Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, the first Coordination Committee meeting of various stakeholders of the justice delivery system of District Shopian was held today at the District Court Complex, Shopian. The meeting was chaired by Principal District & Sessions Judge and Chairman Coordination Committee, Mehmood Ahmad Chowdhary. From civil and police administration, the meeting was attended by DC Shopian, Shishir Gupta; SSP Shopian, Anayat Ali; ACR Shopian, Superintendent Special Jail Pulwama, and other district/sectoral officers and police officers.

The meeting was also attended by Sub-Judge/CJM and Secretary of the Committee, Sheikh Gowhar Hussain, and Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Mudasar



Farooq. During the proceedings, various issues pertaining to the timely delivery of justice to litigants were discussed, including infrastructural challenges and institutional requirements in the district.

The Principal District & Sessions Judge emphasized the need to strengthen and streamline the coordination between the judiciary and other stakeholders for ensuring an efficient and robust justice delivery mechanism.

DC Bandipora reviews District CAPEX Budget

Directs Officers to focus on high social impact projects, timely execution

HT News Network

BANDIPORA, APRIL 08: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora Manzoor Ahmad Qadri on Tuesday chaired a meeting to review the progress of District CAPEX Budget 2024-25 and preparations for the formulation of District CAPEX budget 2025-26.

During the meeting, DC reviewed sector wise financial and physical progress under District CAPEX Budget 2024-25.

The meeting was informed that out of 1594 approved works under District CAPEX, 1279 are targeted for completion during 2024-25.

He also took stock of the progress achieved under the Area Development Fund (ADF) and Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), directing the concerned departments to ensure timely and



effective execution of all approved projects without any delay.

Addressing the officers, Qadri emphasized to focus on infrastructure creation under District CAPEX to create tangible assets for public welfare.

He instructed officers to prioritize projects that have high social impact and long-term benefits, while ensuring effective utilization of public funds and maintaining the quality of work.

DC directed the concerned departments to take action against contractors who violate terms and conditions of contract. Among others, the meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Chief Medical Officer, Executive Engineers, BDOs and other concerned. DC directed the concerned departments to take action against contractors who violate terms and conditions of contract.





Dr Jitendra inaugurates Himalayan High Altitude Atmospheric, Climate Research Centre at Mandlote, Chenani

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, APRIL 08: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Earth Sciences, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh, today inaugurated the Himalayan High Altitude Atmospheric and Climate Research Centre and flagged off the Indo-Swiss Joint Research Project titled ICE-Crunch at Village Mandlote, Chenani in Udhampur district.

The Indo-Swiss project, in collaboration with ETH Zurich, Switzerland, focuses on study of ice-nucleating particles and cloud condensation nuclei properties in the north-western Himalayas.

The event was attended by Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Science and Technology, Satish Sharma, DDC Chairperson Udhampur, Lal Chand, Member Legislative Assembly Chenani, Balwant



Singh Mankotia, Secretary, Ministry for Earth Sciences GoI, Dr. M. Ravichandran, Vice Chancellor of Central University Jammu, Professor Sanjeev Jain, Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai, Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, Centre Incharge, Dr. Shweta Yadav, Registrar of Central University Jammu, Professor Yashwant Singh and other senior officers besides PRI members and locals.

While addressing a massive gathering, the Union Minister congratulated the people and expressed pride in establishment of the climate research centre in Chenani. He stated that the centre would focus on advanced research related to climate patterns including rainfall and cloudburst predictions, which are crucial for the Himalayan region.

Highlighting India's scientific advancements, Dr. Singh said that prior to 2014,

India was seen as a fragile economy, but today under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has emerged among the top five global economies. To realize the dream of a Viksit Bharat by 2047, he emphasized the importance of value addition from previously unexplored areas, particularly hilly regions like Jammu & Kashmir.

He added that India is leading global initiatives on climate concerns and has made remarkable improvements in weather forecasting, attributing this progress to the reforms brought under the Modi Government. Dr. Singh highlighted that in the early days of Modi 3.0, the government has already taken over 100 crucial decisions across diverse sectors, including preventive healthcare, space research and medical advancements.

Referring to Udhampur's development, the Union Minister said that the district has emerged as a model in the country. In the past five years, Udhampur has consistently ranked among the top three in PMGSY road construction.

Javed Rana hears public grievances at Jammu

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 08: Scores of delegations from Jammu and other areas today met Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana at Civil Secretariat, Jammu to apprise him of their grievances and issues. The delegations raised collective and individual issues and sought their early redressal.

While giving patient hearing to grievances brought into his notice by various delegations and individuals, the Minister assured the visiting deputations that all their genuine issues would be examined for early redress.

Minister said that Omar Abdullah led government is committed to delivering effective governance and ensuring that public grievances are resolved on priority basis.

He also said that government has a primary focus on improving the standard of living further and highlighted several key initiatives undertaken by the government in this direction.

Delegation of Contractors Association calls on DC Kishtwar

■ HT News Network

KISHTWAR, APRIL 08: A delegation of Contractors Association Kishtwar today met with Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan. During the meeting, the delegation, led by Association President Mohammad Imran Qazi, presented a comprehensive list of issues and demands. The demanded Reservation of Works in local projects, Issuance of Low-Value Tenders, Relaxation in Turnover Criteria and Other issues impacting the Small Contractors Association.

The Deputy Commissioner listened attentively to the concerns raised and assured the Association members to look into their genuine issues.

SDM prohibits sale, consumption of liquor, non-veg food in Katra

■ HT News Network

KATRA, APRIL 08: Sub-Divisional Magistrate today issued Prohibitory orders restricting sale/possession/consumption of liquor and non-vegetarian food such as eggs, chicken, meat, mutton, sea food, fish, prawns, lobster etc. in Katra Town and certain areas in the territorial jurisdiction of the Sub-Division. "In suppression of all previous orders on the subject, I, Piyush Dhotra Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Katra by virtue of powers vested in me under section 163 Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) do hereby, prohibit sale/possession/consumption of liquor and non-vegetarian food such as eggs, chicken, meat, mutton, sea food, fish, prawns, lobster etc. in Katra and following given areas in the territorial jurisdiction of Sub-Division, Katra" the order stated. The restrictions have been imposed on the track from Katra to Holy Cave and in villages within a distance of upto 02 Km on both sides of the track; Arli, Hansali and Matyal Villages; Within 200 meters on both sides of the Katra-Tikri Road, including villages Chamba, Serli and Bhagta; Within 200 meters on both sides of the Katra-Jammu Road including villages Kundrorian, Kotli Bajallian, Nomain and Maghal; Within 200 meters on both sides of Katra-Reasi Road from Katra to Nau Devian and Aghar Jitto and Nau Devian markets; Within 200 meters on both sides of the Railway Station Katra-Sool Road and Within 100 meters on both sides of Panthal-Domall Road.

GDC Ramgarh hosts documentary screening on Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's Birth Anniversary

■ HT News Network

SAMBA, APRIL 08: The NSS Unit "Prabha" of Government Degree College, Ramgarh organized a documentary screening to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the principal architect of the Indian Constitution and a beacon of knowledge and social justice. The event was conducted under the esteemed guidance of the Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Meeru Abrol, who encouraged the volunteers to follow the path of knowledge, equality, and justice as envisioned by Dr. Ambedkar. The activity was coordinated by Prof. Brahm Dutt, NSS Programme Officer, who highlighted the importance of educating students about Dr. Ambedkar's life, struggles, and contributions to the nation.

PMAY-G Workshop promotes "Housing for All" Mission at Samba

■ HT News Network



SAMBA, APRIL 08: The Department of Rural Development today marked a significant milestone in rural housing development through a comprehensive workshop and awareness camp on the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G).

The transformative initiative brought together rural residents, officials, and stakeholders to accelerate the mission of "Housing for All" across the district.

The strategically organized event was inaugurated by Director RDD Mohammad Mumtaz Ali along with District Development Commissioner Samba Rajesh Sharma. The event unveiled pathways for hundreds of rural families to realize their dream of owning a pucca house through the government's flagship housing scheme.

"This workshop represents our unwavering commitment to transform rural living conditions and ensure no eligible family remains without dignified housing in Samba district," said the District Development Commissioner.

Participants received expert guidance on navigating eligibility criteria, application procedures and utilizing digital platforms like the Awaas+ app—empowering them with knowledge to access benefits efficiently. The interactive sessions featured success stories from previous beneficiaries, demonstrating the life-changing impact of the scheme.

The Department has established dedicated support channels for ongoing assistance. Rural residents of Samba district seeking information about PMAY-G benefits can contact the Department of Rural Development, District Samba, or visit www.pmayg.gov.in.

Record 14737 houses completed under PMAY-G in District Poonch in FY-2024-25

■ HT News Network

POONCH, APRIL 08: District Poonch has achieved an extraordinary milestone in the financial year 2024-25 by completing a record 14,737 houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G). The remarkable accomplishment stands as a testament to the district administration's firm commitment to rural development, inclusive growth, and the national objective of "Housing for All."

The Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin, a flagship housing scheme of the Government of India, aims to provide pucca houses with all basic amenities to the homeless and those living in kutcha houses in rural areas. In line with this vision, District Poonch, under the focused and mission-driven leadership of District Development Commissioner Vikas Kundal, successfully navigated administrative chal-



lenges and geographic constraints to deliver housing to thousands of eligible families across the district. What makes this achievement even more noteworthy is the scale and efficiency of financial disbursement. A total of Rs. 14,631.50 lakh was credited directly into the bank accounts of 39,064 beneficiaries through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mechanism. This ensured transparency, eliminated middlemen, and empowered beneficiaries to build homes according to their

needs. The robust and timely disbursement of funds also reflects the administration's commitment to good governance and responsive public service delivery.

This progress was made possible through the coordinated efforts of the officers and field-level workers of the Rural Development Department and other stakeholders who worked tirelessly under the strategic direction of the District Development Commissioner. Regular monitoring, field visits, use of digital technol-

ogy, and grievance redressal mechanisms further strengthened the scheme's implementation and helped accelerate the pace of construction across the district. Beyond numbers, the successful execution of PMAY-G in District Poonch has had a transformative impact on the lives of thousands of rural families. For many beneficiaries, owning a permanent house has meant a life of dignity, safety, and stability. The provision of secure housing has also catalyzed improvements in sanitation, health, education, and overall well-being, contributing to the holistic development of rural communities.

Moreover, the initiative has generated employment opportunities for local artisans, laborers, and material suppliers, giving a boost to the local economy. It has fostered community participation and strengthened the social fabric by promoting inclusive growth and equitable access to government benefits.

ADC reviews development activities in Bhaderwah Sub Division

■ HT News Network

BHADERWAH, APRIL 08: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bhaderwah Sunil Kumar Bhutyal today convened an introductory meeting with officers from different departments to review ongoing developmental works in the Sub Division and enhance inter-departmental coordination.

The meeting was attended by ASP, Tehsildar Bhaderwah, Tehsil Bhalala, Executive Engineers of PWD (R&B) and Irrigation & FC, Divisional Forest Officer, CDPO, Block Medical Officer, Horticulture Development Officer, Executive Officer of Municipal Committee, besides officers from the Social Welfare, Agriculture, and Education Departments, along with Principals of the government institutions.

The ADC took a comprehensive review of developmental projects across the sub-division. He emphasized the importance of effective ground-level monitoring, transparency and timeline completion of



the projects to benefit the public. The departments were directed to maintain close coordination to resolve execution challenges, especially in remote and underserved areas.

A major highlight of the meeting was the focus on curbing drug abuse in the region. The ADC called upon the Education, Health, and Social Welfare Departments to intensify awareness campaigns, workshops, and community engagement programs in educational institutions and localities. He underlined the role of preventive education, student counselling, and youth-centric sports and cultural activities to address,

Poshan Pakhwada-2025 activities inaugurated in Reasi

■ HT News Network

REASI, APRIL 08: The Poshan Pakhwada-2025 activities were formally inaugurated here today at a collaborative event organized by the Department of Women and Child Development. The event witnessed the participation of key officials and field functionaries dedicated to improving nutritional outcomes in the district. Suninderjeet Kour (CDPO Reasi), Dr. Lekha Bhasin (CDPO Pouni), and Shahid Mughal (CDPO Arnas and Mahore) jointly inaugurated the campaign in the presence of Anganwadi Workers (AWWs), Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs), and Supervisors. The event marked the beginning of a fortnight-long campaign aimed at raising awareness about nutrition, health, and well-being among women, children, and adolescent girls. As part of the launch, the participants also attended the live inaugural webcast of Poshan Pakhwada 2025, organized by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (W&CD), Government of India. The webcast emphasized the critical role of local-level interventions in addressing malnutrition and promoting healthy dietary practices. The officials encouraged all stakeholders to actively engage with the community throughout the Pakhwada through the outreach and IEC (Information, Education, Communication) activities. The campaign will include home visits, growth monitoring drives, Poshan rallies, recipe demonstrations, and community-based events to reinforce the importance of balanced nutrition and maternal-child health. Poshan Pakhwada 2025 reflects the government's continued commitment to the objectives of the POSHAN Abhiyaan—ensuring holistic nourishment for every child and woman in the country.

Reasi admin gears up for 3-day Baisakhi Festival at Dera Baba Banda Bahadur Shrine

■ HT News Network

REASI, APRIL 08: Additional Deputy Commissioner Rakesh Kumar convened a comprehensive review meeting today to assess the preparations for the 3-day Baisakhi Festival at the Holy Shrine of Dera Baba Banda Bahadur starting from April 11, 2025. In the meeting, a detailed discussion was held on several arrangements to ensure the

smooth conduct of the festival, which draws thousands of devotees every year.

ADC Rakesh Kumar directed the concerned authorities to deploy adequate police personnel and implement appropriate security checks to ensure the safety and security of all visitors during the Festival.

He stressed the need for a reliable and uninterrupted supply of water and electricity during the festival days and directed the concerned departments to take adequate



measures. He sought special attention on the maintenance of roads, particularly the road from Simbal Choa leading to the shrine and directed for necessary repairs well before the festival. He also instructed the traffic police to make detailed traffic arrangements including provision of parking space to ensure smooth and safe movement of vehicles. The Municipal authorities of Reasi and Katra were asked to make necessary sanitation arrangements in and around the shrine and

keep the provision of mobile toilets at the strategic points for convenience of the devotees. The Health Department was asked to ensure the availability of medical staff, first aid kits, and ambulances at the festival site. The meeting decided to station a medical team at the shrine to deal with any medical emergencies promptly. ADC Rakesh Kumar also called for the readiness of the Fire and Emergency Services Department to handle any potential fire hazards or emergencies.





PM Modi hails PM Mudra Yojana, says Rs 33 lakh cr loans sanctioned under scheme

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, APR 08 (UNI)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said over Rs 33 lakh crore in collateral-free loans have been sanctioned under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana and noted that over 70 per cent of Mudra loan beneficiaries are women.

Interacting with beneficiaries of the scheme at his residence, he said, "In the last ten years, more than 52 crore loans worth over 32.6 lakh crore rupees have been sanctioned under the scheme."

The Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, which provides collateral-free loans of up to 20 lakh rupees to micro and small enterprises, today completed 10



years, which was launched in April 2015.

At his residence, PM Modi greeted the beneficiaries stating, "I thank you all for coming to my residence. It is said in our scriptures that when guests come to a house, the house becomes pure, so I welcome you all."

Highlighting how the scheme has transformed lives by turning dreams

into reality, PM Modi said the initiative has empowered those who were previously overlooked, and underlined that for the people of India, nothing is impossible.

PM Modi said the Mudra Yojana was introduced to provide financial support to the countless individuals and enable them to showcase their entrepreneurial

skills.

He highlighted that the scheme aims to empower youth of the country, making them self-reliant and confident, with the ability to become job creators rather than just job seekers.

Praising women's participation, Modi said, "In Mudra scheme, the highest number of women have come forward. Women have applied for the most loans, received the most loans, and are also the fastest to repay them."

"The PM MUDRA Yojana isn't just a loan scheme – it's a powerful movement driving financial inclusion, strengthening women participation, and promoting self-reliance at the community level," he added.

Communal division being used to distract from core issues, alleges Kharge

AGENCIES

AHMEDABAD, APR 8 (UNI)

In a veiled attack on the ruling party, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday alleged that attempts are being made to divide the country on the basis of religion to deflect attention from the country's fundamental problems.

Addressing the opening session of the extended Congress Working Committee (CWC) here, Kharge said, "Today, communal division is being used to deflect attention from the nation's fundamental problems. Oligarchic monopoly, on the other hand, is on the path of controlling the government by capturing the resources of the country."

Kharge also alleged that a "well-planned conspiracy" is underway to malign the image of national heroes and tarnish the legacy of the Congress party.

He accused some political forces of creating a hostile atmosphere against the party, which he said has a proud 140-year history of service and sacrifice for the nation. Effort is being driven by individuals and groups "who have nothing to show as their achievements" and "played no role in the freedom struggle of



India," he stated.

Kharge said, "They are deliberately trying to present the relationship between Sardar Patel and Pandit Nehru as one of rivalry or conflict. However, the reality is quite the opposite - both leaders shared a deep mutual respect and were, in fact, two sides of the same coin. Numerous events and historical records stand as testimony to the warmth and cooperation between them."

Mentioning the 1937 speech of Sardar Patel at Gujarat Vidyapeeth, Kharge said, "At that time, Nehruji was serving

as the Congress president, and the youth of Gujarat were eager to have him visit and campaign during the provincial elections. On March 7, 1937, Sardar Patel said, "The day Gujarat proves its loyalty to the Congress by winning this election campaign we will greet Congress president Nehruji with flowers and welcome him with open hearts."

"This clearly reflects the deep affection and respect Sardar Patel had for Nehruji," Kharge added.

Slamming the RSS for allegedly claiming the legacy of Sardar Patel, Kharge said Sardar Patel's

ideology was contrary to the ideas of RSS and even had banned the organisation.

He said this year marks 100 years since Mahatma Gandhi became the president of the Congress. In December 1924, the Father of the Nation took on the role during the Belagavi Congress session held in Karnataka. The party commemorated this historic occasion in Karnataka on December 26.

Alleging that attempts were being made to "divide the country on the basis of religion", Kharge said, "Today, communal division is being used to deflect attention from the nation's fundamental problems. Oligarchic monopoly, on the other hand, is on the path of controlling the government by capturing the resources of the country."

Kharge also hailed the three former Congress presidents who were born in Gujarat -- Dadabhai Naoroji, Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel for giving the party the "weapon of truth and non-violence against injustice".

Kharge said the party will celebrate Sardar Patel's 150th birth anniversary on October 31 this year with great enthusiasm.

A Delhi Court grants one year probation to Medha Patkar

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, APR 08 (UNI)

A Delhi Court after hearing on Tuesday granted one year probation to Medha Patkar in a defamation case filed by Delhi's LG Vinay Kumar Saxena with the condition to furnishing a bond of good conduct.

Additional Sessions Judge (ASJ) Vishal Singh after considering the age of Patkar also reduced the amount of fine from Rs 10 lakh to Rs one lakh.

On the last date of hearing, the court said, "The evidence led by respondent during trial proved beyond reasonable doubt that Medha Patkar published the Press Note dated 24/11/2000 carrying imputations on his charac-



ter with intent to harm or having reason to believe that the imputations will harm his reputation. The appellant was rightly convicted for offence U/s. 500 IPC. There is no substance in appeal so far as it impugns the judgment of conviction and it is dismissed."

The court also directed Patkar to appear in person before the court

on April, 08 for filing her submissions on point of sentence and order on sentence.

The Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) convicted Patkar in May 2024 and pronounce a sentence and fine on July 1, 2024 for defaming V K Saxena (current LG Delhi).

The Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) pronounced the imprison-

ment of five-month and fine of Rs. 10 lakh on Namada Bachao Andolan activist Medha Patkar as compensation to Complainant V K Saxena. In default of payment of fine, the Patkar was ordered to undergo further sentence of Simple Imprisonment of 03 months.

The JMFC's court rejected her request for release on probation of good conduct.

Patkar had filed an appeal under section 415(3) of Bhartiya Naagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNS), 2023 by challenging the judgment dated 24.05.2024 and order on sentence dated 01.07.2024 passed by Judicial Magistrate First Class, in case titled as V. K. Saxena versus Medha Patkar.

Centre will consider additional assistance if affected farmers need more money: Chouhan

AGENCIES

NASHIK, APR 8 (UNI)

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has asserted that the Centre will consider additional assistance if farmers affected by unseasonal rains in the state need more money and if there is a demand from the state.

If farmers get proper guidance and training for quality food production, every village in the country will become self-reliant and poverty-free.

He also said that the Centre and the state government are supporting the farmers for natural farming.

Chouhan inaugurated the Krishi Vigyan Mandapam Auditorium and Women's Technology Park at the Krishi Vigyan



Kendra here on Monday.

While giving guidance on this occasion, Chouhan highlighted the need to promote natural farming in some villages of the district.

The Government of India is always encouraging farmers for natural farming and the Central Government is providing

Rs. 4,000 per acre for the experiments and tools required for it.

"The available water of the Tapi river should be used for agriculture. Drought irrigation experiments can be carried out in the fields through the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchan Yojana. Through the Krishi Vigyan Kendra,

women here have made biscuits from bhagar, developed machines for processing pulses. Today, about one crore 48 lakh women in the country have become millionaires through such small experiments," said Chauhan.

On this occasion, State Agriculture Minister Manikrao Kokate said, "Agriculture is a very complicated subject and farmers do not enjoy it without sustainable agriculture. While there is a large mentality of migrating from the agricultural business, he expressed the hope that the efforts being made for the development of agriculture and farmers through the Krishi Vigyan Kendra will definitely not remain without transforming this area through sustainable agriculture."

HC grants protection to Kunal Kamra till April 17

AGENCIES

MUMBAI APR 8 (UNI)

Bombay High Court on Tuesday granted protection (not to arrest or any corrective action) till April 17 to stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra, currently facing backlash for his controversial comments about Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

During the hearing of a plea moved by Kamra seeking quashing of multiple FIRs against him following his satirical video and "gaddar" comment purportedly made against Shinde, the division bench of Justice Sarang Kotwal and Justice Shriram Modak directed the state government to file a reply to the petition.

In his plea Kamra



sought a stay on the proceedings arising out of the said FIR. The court was informed that Madras High Court has extended interim protection from arrest to Kamra till April 17. The next hearing is on April 16.

Senior advocate Navroz Seervai who appeared on behalf of Kamra told the court that Madras HC order has not been uploaded. However, his client was granted interim protection till April 17.

He also said he is really concerned about the quashing and if court is inclined to grant some time, only one thing, his client has not once, twice or thrice but in writing offered to get a statement recorded virtually through video conferencing.

"The court must consider the death threats received by my client. The authorities aren't keen to record his statements but they want him here to be present physically. His physical presence must not be insisted till the present petition is heard," Seervai argued.

In the 146-page petition Kamra challenged the legality, correctness, and propriety of FIR registered at Khar Police Station on March 24, 2025, under sections 353(1)(B), 353(2)

and 356(2) of Bharatiya Naagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) by Shiv Sena MLA Muraji Patel.

The FIR was later transferred to Khar police station in Mumbai.

Though Kamra had not directly taken Shinde's name, the party workers alleged that he had called Shinde a traitor while referencing to his split from the Shiv Sena.

Offended by Kamra's remarks, a group of Shiv Sena workers had also vandalised Mumbai's Habitat studio, where the comedian had performed the show. Twelve people were arrested in connection with the violence that had erupted and were subsequently granted bail.

Kamra claimed he has been receiving death threats since the show.

Trump announces direct talks with Iran amid nuclear tensions

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON, APR 8 (UNI)

US President Donald Trump surprised many on Monday by announcing direct, high-level talks between the United States and Iran over the latter's nuclear program.

The announcement came during a meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the White House.

"We're having direct talks with Iran," Trump said. "It's getting to be very dangerous territory, and hopefully, those talks will be successful."

He also disclosed that a "very big meeting" involving "very high-level" officials would be taking place this Saturday.

Trump's announced came after months of increasing pressure on Iran,

including tougher sanctions on oil exports and threats of military action, while Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei has ruled out direct talks with the United States so long as Trump kept his "maximum pressure" policy in place.

"I think everyone agrees that doing a deal would be preferable to doing the obvious. And the obvious is not something that I want

to be involved with, or frankly, that Israel wants to be involved with, if they can avoid it," Trump said, speaking in the Oval Office alongside Netanyahu.

"So we're going to see if we can avoid it. But it's getting to be very dangerous territory, and hopefully those talks will be successful. And I think it would be in Iran's best interest if they are successful."

Rahul seeks Prez Murmu's intervention in West Bengal teacher job row

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, APR 8 (UNI)

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday sought President Droupadi Murmu's intervention on cancellation of appointment of thousands of teachers of West Bengal, stating that it needs human approach as entire recruitment is "not tainted".

In his letter to the President, Gandhi mentioned that he had met a group of affected teachers representing the Shikshak Shikshika Adhikar Mancha, who urged him to raise their concerns with her.

He said, "Calcutta High Court found serious irregularities in teacher recruitment and



declared the entire process null and void. On April 3rd, the Supreme Court upheld the High Court judgment. Since the verdict, the teachers, as well as staff who stand to be terminated have almost given up hope of

any redressal".

While mentioning that both "tainted and untainted teachers lost their jobs", Gandhi said, "Any crime committed during recruitment should be condemned and the perpetrators must be brought

to justice. However, treating teachers selected through fair means on par with tainted teachers is a serious injustice."

"Most untainted teachers have served for nearly a decade. Terminating them will force lakhs of students into classrooms without adequate teachers. Their arbitrary termination will destroy their morale and motivation to serve, and deprive their families of what is often the sole source of income," he said.

While requesting the President to "favourably consider their request", Gandhi also urged the "government to intervene in the matter to ensure that candidates selected through fair means are allowed to continue".

Heart failure may dent attention span and problem-solving skills early: Study

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

People with heart failure are likely to experience a significant decrease in cognitive abilities like attention and problem-solving, according to a study on Thursday.

Researchers from the University of Michigan, US examined the cognitive abilities of nearly 30,000 adults over time, comparing those who did and did not develop heart failure.

The researchers found heart failure is associated with a significant decrease in cognition at the time of diagnosis.

Global cognition and executive functioning also declined more rapidly over the years after heart failure diagnosis.

The team found that people with the condition mentally aged the equivalent of 10 years within just seven years of a heart failure diagnosis.



“Heart failure is a disease that never goes away and treating it relies heavily on a patient’s ability to follow specific instructions, monitor their symptoms, and keep up with many different medications,” said Supriya Shore, first author and clinical assistant professor of internal medicine-cardiology at University of Michigan Medical School. “Seeing this cognitive decline among patients, and how it worsens over time after a diagnosis of

heart failure, should be a warning for providers to assess a patient’s cognitive ability early and factor it into the care plan,” she added.

Notably, the study, published in the journal *Circulation: Heart Failure*, showed that the typical risk factors for cognitive impairment, such as high blood pressure and heart attack, did not explain the accelerated decline observed in the participants with heart failure.

The largest decrease in

global cognition -- a composite of several features of cognitive ability, including attention and problem-solving -- occurred among older adults, women, and white participants.

Adults with heart failure reached the threshold for meaningful decline in global cognition nearly six years earlier than people without it. Executive functioning would diminish around four-and-a-half years earlier.

Globally, an estimated 64 million people suffer heart failure. Monitoring these people, although complex, may prevent cognitive decline in adults, said the team.

“Regular cognitive monitoring of older adults with heart failure would help identify individuals with the earliest signs of cognitive decline who require supportive care,” said Deborah A. Levine, Professor of internal medicine and neurology at the varsity.

Ultrasound-activated CAR T-cell therapy to enable long-lasting tumour destruction

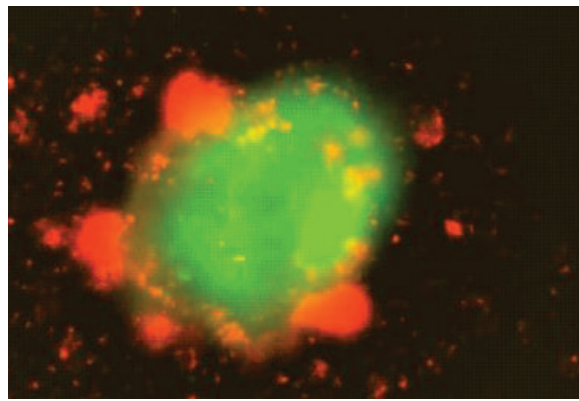
AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

US researchers have engineered a new ‘smart’ immune cell that when activated by ultrasound can continuously sense and destroy cancer cells for extended periods.

The “EchoBack CAR T-cell,” developed by biomedical engineers at the University of Southern California (USC), could soon be a game changer in the field of cancer immunotherapy.

The study, published in the scientific journal *Cell*, demonstrates that the powerful new EchoBack-CAR T-cells can attack tumour cells five times longer than regular CAR T-cells, in technology ready for medical applications.

The cells can be remotely controlled to target tumours using focused ultrasound, potentially making treatments safer yet more effective.



The novel approach could overcome major obstacles in treating tumours that are not usually candidates for immunotherapy, while keeping healthy tissue safe, said the team.

Unlike the first-generation, ultrasound-controllable CAR T-cells which usually only attack cancer cells for up to 24 hours before expiring, lead author Longwei Liu, Assistant Professor at the USC Viterbi School of Engineering, said that the EchoBack CAR T-cells

function by being activated by ultrasound in the tumour location.

From there, the CAR T-cells continue to seek and destroy cancer cells for at least five days without fatiguing.

“You can imagine that when patients come to the hospital using the first-generation cells, the patient may need to come in every day for treatment. But using the new generation, the treatment now requires far fewer visits, such as once every two weeks, or even less frequently,” Liu said.

The team focused on ultrasound technology, which works as an “on switch” for the CAR T-cells -- engineered to respond to a short 10-minute pulse of ultrasound. That then triggers the cells to sense cancer cells in their surroundings.

The new CAR T-cells were analysed, in lab-based experiments in mouse models, on a selection of tumour cells including prostate cancer and glioblastoma.

“We can clearly see that the ultrasound controllable CAR plus two rounds of ultrasound stimulation outperformed the standard CAR T-cells,” Liu said. “Also, when we kept challenging our CAR T-cells with tumour cells, the standard CAR was already exhausted and in a dysfunctional state, but our ultrasound controllable CAR has a better function, less exhaustion, and more enhanced killing.”

Molecular stool test shows promise for TB diagnosis in adults with HIV: Study

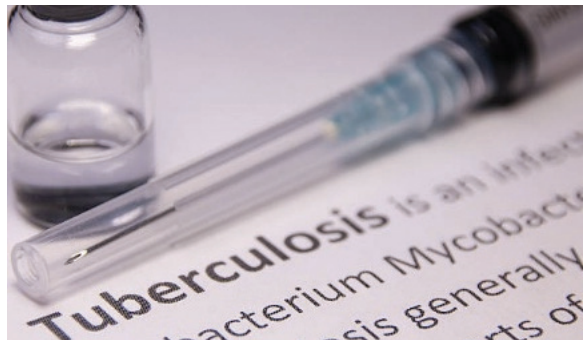
AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Moving beyond the traditional sputum tests, a new study on Friday showed that a molecular stool test may increase detection of tuberculosis (TB) in people living with HIV.

The research, published in the journal *The Lancet Microbe*, showed that using a molecular test (called Xpert MTB/RIF Ultra), currently used on respiratory samples, on stool samples -- until now recommended only for children -- could be established as an additional test for diagnosing TB in adults living with HIV.

It could represent a paradigm shift in the diagnosis of the disease in this population, said the team of researchers led by Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal), Spain.

“People living with HIV are at higher risk of developing pulmonary TB, but diagnosis in these cases is



particularly challenging due to the low sensitivity of conventional tests,” explains George William Kasule, a doctoral student at ISGlobal and the University of Barcelona, and the first author of the study.

TB, caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, was responsible for 1.25 million deaths in 2023. Of these, 13 per cent were among people living with HIV.

Currently, the main diagnostic strategy for TB focuses on sputum samples -- obtained by deep coughing and expecto-

ration of secretions produced in the lungs. For people living with HIV, a molecular sputum test is recommended in addition to urine antigen detection (TB-LAM).

However, these diagnostics are not effective for all people living with HIV, as they often struggle to produce sputum, and more than half of those in advanced stages of the disease are unable to do so.

Moreover, the concentration of bacteria in the sputum is often so low that it is undetectable.

To tackle this, the new research focused on

stool samples. The team recruited 677 patients over 15 years old with HIV and suspected TB in medical centres in three African countries -Eswatini, Mozambique, and Uganda between December 2021 and August 2024.

Participants provided sputum, urine, stool, and blood samples.

The results showed that the stool test had a sensitivity of 23.7 per cent and a specificity of 94.0 per cent, compared with the reference standard.

“The results of our study support the use of the Stool Ultra test as a complementary tool for diagnosing tuberculosis in people living with HIV, especially in those with advanced AIDS, where the risk of tuberculosis is higher,” said Alberto L. Garcia-Basteiro, a researcher at ISGlobal and head of the Vaccine and Immune Response to Infections Unit at Hospital Clínic de Barcelona.

Study finds common blood fat linked to rheumatoid arthritis in women

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Triglycerides -- the most common type of fat in blood -- could be a potential modifiable risk factor for rheumatoid arthritis in women, according to a study.

Rheumatoid arthritis is a chronic autoimmune disease with a higher prevalence in women. It is characterised by joint inflammation, pain, and swelling, which can lead to joint deformities and functional disabilities in severe cases.

Triglycerides, key indicators of lipid metabolism, are linked to inflammation and metabolic disorders, both contributing to the pathogenesis of rheumatoid arthritis.

However, the association between triglyceride levels and the prevalence of rheumatoid arthritis in women remains unclear.

To probe, a team of researchers from Suining Municipal Hospital of Tra-



ditional Chinese Medicine in China’s Sichuan, analysed the association on data from 10,728 female participants between 1999 and 2018.

Of these women, 639 were diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis.

The results, published in the journal *BMC Women’s Health*, showed that among the 639 patients, higher triglyceride levels were significantly positively associated with rheuma-

toid arthritis prevalence.

The study not only demonstrated a significant positive association between elevated triglyceride levels and the prevalence of rheumatoid arthritis in women but found that the link remains significant even after adjusting for multiple confounding factors.

“Our findings suggest that monitoring triglyceride levels in women with rheumatoid arthritis could

be valuable. Elevated triglycerides may serve as a modifiable risk factor for the disease,” Chang-Mei Zeng from the varsity.

“Targeting triglyceride levels through lifestyle changes or pharmacological treatments may help reduce inflammation and improve patient outcomes,” said Zeng.

The researchers noted that the disease course in female rheumatoid arthritis patients is often more complex, potentially involving hormonal fluctuations, immune response differences, and metabolic dysregulation, highlighting the importance of understanding sex-specific risk factors to improve disease management and prevention strategies.

The team called for future research to further investigate the role of triglyceride levels in the pathogenesis of rheumatoid arthritis and explore potential intervention pathways.

Over Rs. 230 cr allocated for National Tele Mental Health Programme since 2022: Centre

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Friday informed the Parliament that it has allocated more than Rs 230 crore for the National Tele Mental Health Programme (NTMHP) in the last three years.

Launched on October 10, 2022, NTMHP functions as the digital arm of the District Mental Health Programme to provide universal access to equitable, accessible, affordable, and quality mental health care.

The Tele-MANAS Cells, under NTMHP, which provides 24x7 tele-mental health counselling services via a toll-free number (14416) set up across the country, have so far handled more than 20,05,000 calls, said Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Prataprao Jadhav.

Till April 1, “36 States/UTs have set up 53 Tele-



MANAS Cells. Tele-MANAS services are available in 20 languages based on language opted by States. More than 20,05,000 calls have been handled on the helpline number,” said Jadhav in a written reply in the Lok Sabha.

“Over Rs. 230 crore have been allocated by the government for NTMHP in last three years,” he

added.

The MoS noted that NTMHP aims to exponentially scale up the reach of mental health services across India by setting up a 24x7 tele-mental health facility in each State and UT.

The programme also aims to implement a full-fledged mental health service network that, in

addition to counselling, provides integrated medical and psychosocial interventions to vulnerable groups.

Towards this, a dedicated Tele-MANAS Cell has been established at the Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC), Pune to extend tele-mental health assistance and support to all Armed Forces service personnel and their dependents.

Further, Jadhav noted that the Government is also taking steps to strengthen mental healthcare services at the primary healthcare level.

“More than 1.75 lakh Sub Health Centres (SHCs) and Primary Health Centres (PHCs) have been upgraded to Ayushman Arogya Mandirs,” he said.

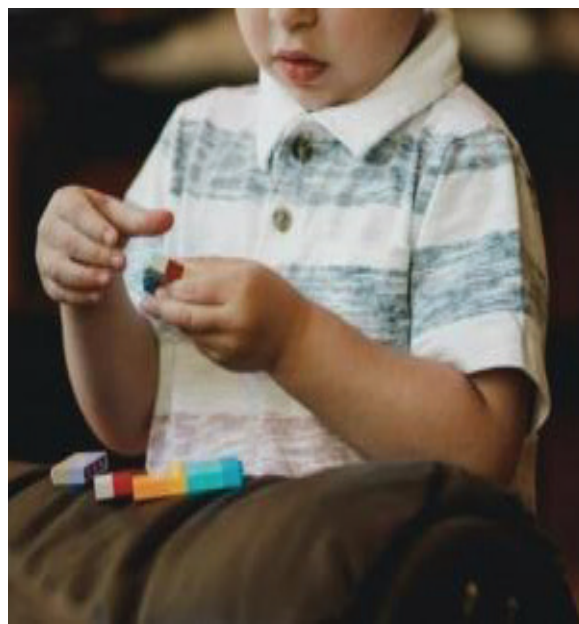
Mental health services have also been added to the package of services under Comprehensive Primary Health Care provided at these Ayushman Arogya Mandirs.

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Researchers from Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) have developed a new therapy that may help patients suffering from autism or intellectual disability to lead a life less dependent on others.

Current therapeutics prescribed to treat autism spectrum disorder (ASD) or intellectual disability are mostly related to alleviating the symptoms. These do not correct the phenotypes observed in neurodevelopmental disorders, especially after brain development.

In a study on mice, the team led by Tapas K Kundu and James Clement from JNCASR, found that a gene that gets repressed in the brain of patients with autism.



“In mice with mutated syngap gene -- which resembles humans with mutated syngap gene (present in autistic patients) -- the acetylation of DNA-associated proteins, histones, or proteins that provide structural support for chromosomes is repressed in the brain,”

said the team. The epigenetic enzyme behind this acetylation seems to be KAT3B or p300, they said. Kundu’s group had previously discovered an activator of this enzyme, TTK21.

Upon conjugating this activator with glucose-derived nanosphere (CSP-

TTK21) and feeding to the Syngap1 autistic mice, the researchers could induce acetylation in the brain.

In the research, published recently in the journal *Aging Cell*, the CSP-TTK21 was found to restore neuronal function, learning, and memory, and induce neuronal rearrangements in Syngap1 mice, mainly when administered after the brain is considered to be developed (adolescents in human beings).

This report not only directly connects histone acetylation with autism, for the first time, but also opens a very optimistic door for ASD therapy, said the researchers.

The study provides a new potential therapeutic option by targeting epigenetic modifications in Syngap1-related intellectual disability /ASD that can restore the deficits to an extent that will enable the patient to lead a life less dependent on others.



Gill nears IPL landmark as GT aim 4th win in a row

AGENCIES

AHMEDABAD, APR 8 (UND)

Gujarat Titans will aim to consolidate their position in the top two and extend their supremacy over Rajasthan Royals when the two sides clash at the Narendra Modi Stadium here on Wednesday in a high-stakes IPL 2025 encounter, with captain Shubman Gill eyeing a personal milestone at a venue where he has been near-invincible.

With five wins in six previous meetings between the sides, including a play-off triumph, Gujarat have established a psychological edge over Rajasthan. Adding to RR's concerns is the imperious form of Gill at this venue. The stylish right-hander has amassed 1024 runs in just 20 innings here, averaging 60.23 at a strike rate of 160.25, numbers that underscore his comfort at the world's largest cricket stadium.

Gujarat come into the fixture on the back of a three wins with Gill look-



ing in sublime touch, and with consistent support from Sai Sudharsan, Washington Sundar and aggressive batsmen like Sherfane Rutherford, Gujarat's batting looks balanced and potent.

In the bowling department, left-arm spinner Ravishrinivasan Sai Kishore has been a revelation with his accuracy and control, while Mohammed Siraj's pace has added an edge in the Powerplay. Gujarat's attack is expected to pose a stern test to a RR lineup that has blown hot and cold this season.

Rajasthan, meanwhile, arrested a two-match losing streak with a gritty win over Chennai

Super Kings and Punjab Kings. Yashasvi Jaiswal's return to form and the maturity of Riyan Parag in the middle order are positives, but the inconsistency of their bowling attack remains a concern. Maheesh Theekshana and Jofra Archer will be crucial if RR are to contain a free-flowing GT lineup.

The pitch at Ahmedabad is expected to be true and batting-friendly, but the evening dew may yet again tilt the balance towards the chasing side.

Gill, who is on the cusp of completing 3500 IPL runs, will be eager to mark the occasion with another authoritative knock at what has become his

fortress. For Sanju Samson's team, breaking the Ahmedabad jinx will be crucial to arrest Gujarat's dominance and revive their charge.

The stage is set for a clash rich in narrative of dominance, redemption, and the weight of expectations under the floodlights of Narendra Modi Stadium.

Gujarat Titans Predicted Playing XI: Sai Sudharsan, Shubman Gill (c), Jos Buttler (wk), Shahrukh Khan, Rahul Tewatia, Washington Sundar, Rashid Khan, Ravishrinivasan Sai Kishore, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Ishant Sharma/ Arshad Khan Impact Player: Sherfane Rutherford.

Gujarat Titans Predicted Playing XI: Sai Sudharsan, Shubman Gill (c), Jos Buttler (wk), Shahrukh Khan, Rahul Tewatia, Washington Sundar, Rashid Khan, Ravishrinivasan Sai Kishore, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Ishant Sharma/ Arshad Khan Impact Player: Sherfane Rutherford.

Umar Gul in discussions with BCB for pace bowling coach role

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, APRIL 8

Former Pakistan fast bowler Umar Gul is in talks with the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) regarding the possibility of becoming the national team's pace bowling coach.

The BCB is currently seeking a new pace bowling coach to replace Andre Adams, whose two-year contract runs until February 2026. However, a senior BCB official revealed that Adams, who will oversee the pacers during the upcoming two-match Test series against Zimbabwe, is unlikely to complete his contract due to growing dissatisfaction within the team regarding his performance. This has prompted the board to look for a replacement.

"We are in talks, but nothing is confirmed yet. The confirmation depends on mutual understanding and terms and conditions, and that is dependent on the board," Cricbuzz quoted Gul as saying.

Since retiring from international cricket in 2020, Gul has built a notable coaching career. He played 47 Tests, 130 ODIs, and 60 T20Is for Pakistan between 2003 and 2016. After retiring, he has held coaching roles with Quetta Gladiators in the Paki-



stan Super League (PSL), Afghanistan's national team and later served as Pakistan's fast-bowling coach. In addition to Gul, other names reportedly under consideration for the role include former Australian pacer Shaun Tait, as well as former Bangladesh bowling coaches Allan Donald and Ortis Gibson. Meanwhile, the BCB has extended the

coaching contract of Phil Simmons through to the 2027 ICC World Cup. The board has also finalised the reappointment of Mohammad Salahuddin as senior assistant coach.

"The verbal agreement with Salahuddin bhai has been finalised. The formalities might be completed during the board meeting. The announcement was supposed to be made then,

but due to unforeseen reasons, it got postponed," said a BCB official.

Salahuddin, a highly regarded coach in Bangladesh cricket, previously held the role of senior assistant coach and later added the batting coach title. He is expected to play a crucial role in Bangladesh's preparations for their upcoming international assignments.

IPL 2025: RCB skipper fined for slow over-rate against MI

AGENCIES

MUMBAI, APRIL 8

Royal Challengers Bengaluru captain Rajat Patidar has been fined for maintaining a slow over-rate in their win against five-time winners Mumbai Indians in the IPL 2025 clash at Wankhede Stadium on Monday.

RCB edged out Mumbai Indians by 12 runs in a high-scoring thriller. In a contest that had the crowd on their feet, RCB, led by Patidar, held their nerve in the final over to seal a memorable win at the venue after 10 years.

"Royal Challengers Bengaluru captain Rajat Patidar has been fined after his team maintained a slow over-rate during



Match No. 21 of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 against Mumbai Indians at the Wankhede Stadium," the official statement read.

"As this was his team's first offence of the season under Article 2.2 of the IPL's Code of Conduct, which pertains to minimum over-rate offences,

Patidar was fined INR 12 lakhs," it added.

Earlier, Hardik Pandya of MI, Riyan Parag of Rajasthan Royals (RR) and Rishabh Pant of Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) were the other captains to be fined for slow over-rate.

Star batter Virat Kohli led the RCB charge with a

classy 67 off 42, his second half-century of the season, while skipper and Player of the Match Patidar's 64 off 32 and Jitesh Sharma's quickfire 40 off 21 powered the visitors to a commanding 221/5.

In reply, MI skipper Hardik Pandya (42 off 15) and Tilak Varma (56 off 29) launched a sensational counterattack after the top order collapse, threatening to pull off a stunning chase. But RCB's disciplined death bowling ensured they crossed the line in a pulsating finish.

RCB have won three of their four games so far and are sitting third in the table. They will next play Delhi Capitals (DC) at M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on Thursday.

Will Pucovski retires from professional cricket due to concussion

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, APRIL 8

Former Australia Test opener Will Pucovski has retired from all levels of cricket with immediate effect due to concussion.

Pucovski has been forced to retire from professional cricket following a recommendation from a panel of experts. The batter faced a series of incidents where he was hit on the head, causing him concussions, during his career. The latest episode of concussion happened in March 2024. Pucovski was forced to retire hurt when a delivery hit him on the helmet during a Sheffield Shield match. It sidelined him for the remainder of the Australian summer and led him to withdraw his contract with Leicestershire for the



English summer of 2024, ICC reports.

The 27-year-old exclusively revealed the news on SEN's Wheateley on Tuesday morning.

"I wish I was coming in under better circumstances. I'm not going to be playing cricket again. It's been a really difficult year to put it as simply as possible. The simple message is, I won't be playing at any level again," Pucovski said on SEN Wheateley.

"After that century in Sydney (in my second last game), I thought from a personal point of view things were starting to

click for me. I put a mountain of effort into getting things right off the field to be good on the field," he added.

Last year, a medical panel recommended the 27-year-old retire.

He featured 36 times at the First Class level, scoring seven tons and nine fifties across a promising stint for his state including a top score of 255 not out against South Australia in 2020.

In his sole Test appearance, against India at Sydney in the 2020/21 season, he made 62 and 10. Pucovski said he will

remain in cricket as the head coach of Premier Cricket side Melbourne, the same club where he made his First XI debut as a teenager in the 2014/15 summer.

"It's definitely something that I'm really passionate about. I'm going to be coaching the MCC (Melbourne Cricket Club) next year, which is really exciting. It's always felt like a second home to me and I've always felt the love and support from the MCC while playing at higher levels or playing for them.

"I've been around there since I was 11 or 12 with their junior academy and all the way through. Coaching is always something that I've always wanted to scratch that itch with. I'm really excited to give that a go and see where it takes me," Pucovski said.

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