



We are Committed to Work with Elected Government in J&K : Amit Shah

"No one Shall be allowed to Spread Terror in J&K Anymore"



■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APR10: Union Home Minister Amit Shah has said that no one will be allowed to conspire to spread terror in Jammu and Kashmir.

In a conversation with a national news channel, Shah, according to the news agency—said, “We will not let anyone conspire to spread terror in J&K.

If anyone tries such things, they will be punished.”The Union Home Minister maintained that national security is a top priority for the Centre and its stand on security and separatism is firm. “We will not compromise, nor will we allow anyone else to do it,” he added.Refering to his recent visit to Jammu and Kashmir, Shah said, “Meeting with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah was cordial and focused on development and governance. We have

always supported regional governments equally, without any bias.”He reiterated that the Centre is committed to working with J&K’s elected leadership.

Asked whether a recent terror incident in Kathua was caused by Pakistan-backed infiltration, Shah said, “Infiltration is, of course, backed by Pakistan and not someone else like Russia. And this has been happening for years. But our soldiers and the

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NIA arrests Mumbai terror attacks accused, Rana after extradition from US

ICJ Prez welcomes Trump Govt’s decision to facilitate extradition

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI/SRINAGAR, Apr 10: The National Investigation Agency on Thursday said it has “successfully secured the extradition” of Tahawwur Hussain Rana, a key accused in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, and has arrested him.

In a statement to the news agency—NIA spokesman said that Rana was arrested formally immediately after his arrival at Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi, following his successful extradition from the United States.

“NIA secured Rana’s extradition following years of sustained and concerted efforts, and after the terror mas-



termind’s last-ditch efforts to get a stay on his extradition from the US failed,” the statement added.

It said that Rana was escorted to New Delhi by teams of NSG and NIA,

comprising senior officials, on a special plane from Los Angeles, US. The NIA investigation team at the airport arrested Rana, a Canadian national of Pakistani origin living primarily in Chicago (US), soon after he emerged from the airplane, after completing all the necessary legal formalities.

“With the coordinated efforts of India’s Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Home Affairs, along with the relevant authorities in the United States, NIA has worked closely with other Indian intelligence agencies through the entire extradition process, which marked a major step in India’s efforts to bring individuals involved in terrorism to justice, irrespective of

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PM Modi led Govt crushing drug cartels: Amit Shah

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, Apr 10: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said that the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is mowing down drug cartels with full might.

In a post on X Shah, according to the news agency—wrote: “In our vision to build a drug-free Bharat, our agencies launched massive operations strangling



drug cartels and seized 30.4kg of methamphetamine tablets worth Rs 24.32 crore while arresting three people in Assam.”

“Our offensives against drugs will continue with ruthless force. Congratulations to the NCB, Assam Police, and the CRPF on this major breakthrough,” he added—

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UAPA Case: Searches conducted in houses of jailed Teh

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APR10: In its relentless efforts to dismantle the remnants of secessionist and terrorist ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir, Srinagar Police on Thursday said to have conducted searches as part of the ongoing investigations into cases registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).A police spokesman said in a statement issued to the news agency—that the search has been carried out in a case under FIR number 01/2024 under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, pertaining to banned organizations after obtaining search warrant from the designated NIA Court Srinagar.

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Public cooperation must to streamline traffic: DIG Zaman

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APR 10:: In a major development for the traffic management system of Sopore, Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police North Kashmir, Maqsood-ul-Zaman Thursday assured the deployment of dedicated traffic police personnel in the town.

DIG Zaman, as per the news agency—made the assurance during his address at an event held at Dak Bungalow Sopore.While acknowledging the pressing need for better traffic regulation in the region, the DIG stated, “Sopore will soon have

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8 members of separatist groups arrested from Bandipora: Police

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, APR 10: Police in Bandipora on Thursday said to have arrested eight members of various proscribed organisations in connection with an investigation of cases registered against these banned separatist outfits.”The crackdown, part of a concerted effort to curb terrorist activities and dismantle their networks

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Lieutenant dismisses employees for anti-national activities

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL9: JAMMU, APRIL 10, ANB: The Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha dismissed two employees, belonging one each to Police Department (Assistant Wireless Operator) and Public Works (R&B) Department (Senior Assistant) in terms of Article 311 of the Constitution of India for their deep involvement in anti-national activities.



The activities of these below mentioned employees had come to the adverse notice of law enforcement

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Govt Focussed On Resolving Issues Of Retired Employees: Jitendra Singh

■ HT News Network

GUWAHATI, APR 10: Union Minister Jitendra Singh said on Thursday that resolving problems faced by retired employees and utilising their experience for nation-building are priority areas for the government.

He said that new rules have been framed with regard to pension disbursement, including for families of deceased employees, in tune with contemporary times.

“The employees contribute their peak years to the country, to nation building. There is an increasing population of retired



people now and we have to address their issues,” the Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievance and Pension said.

He was addressing a press conference after attending a pre-retirement counselling workshop held for central gov

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Govt won't allow mining at cost of environment: Deputy CM

Asks executing agencies to clear penalties first to get incessant material supply

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, APR 10: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, today chaired a high level meeting to review the mining issues related to NHAI projects besides assessing progress on National Highway projects being executed across J&K.

The meeting was attended by senior officers including Commissioner Secretary Mining Vikramjit Singh, Secretary, Public Works



(R&B), Bhupinder Kumar besides like the National Highways Author representatives from key agencies

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NC leaders trying to revive separatist narrative in J&K: LoP Sharma

Says Legislative Assembly not Jamia Masjid where separatist slogans can be raised

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APR 10: : Alleging that National Conference leaders are trying to revive “separatist narrative “ in Jammu and Kashmir, Leader of Opposition in J&K Assembly and senior BJP leader, Sunil Sharma on Thursday said that NC’s vision advocates for a divisive atmosphere in the Union Territory.

Addressing a news conference here, LoP



Sharma, according to the news agency—said, “NC leaders seem nostalgic for the past, trying to revive separatist narratives. NC’s vision advocates for a divi-

sive atmosphere with slogans like ‘Naara-e-Takbeer, Allahu Akbar’, reminiscent of the 1989 exodus of Kashmiri Pandits. It feels strange when National Conference MLAs support separatists like Masarat Alam.”

“National Conference openly demands in the Legislative Assembly to hold talks with Pakistan, slogans of ‘Takbeer Allahu Akbar’ were raised . This is not a Jama Masjid where

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Indo-Pak Army officers hold flag meeting in Poonch

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, APR 10: The armies of India and Pakistan on Thursday held a brigade commander-level flag meeting along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir’s Poonch district to discuss issues related to border management. This is the second such meeting between the two sides this month.

The meeting was held at the Chakan-Da-Bagh cross-point, led by brigadier-level officers from both sides, officials said.

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HT - BOTTOM

Agriculture, allied sectors power over 78% of J&K’s GDP: Govt

Over 13 lakh families depend on sector; saffron revival gains pace with 2,598.75 hectares rejuvenated under Rs 400 cr mission

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APR 10: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Monday said that agriculture and allied sectors account for more than 78 percent of the Union Territory’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP), providing livelihood to over 13 lakh families.

According to the news agency—the statement was made in response to a question raised in the Legislative Assembly by MLA Ali Sagar, who sought information regarding the potential of the agriculture and horticulture sectors in Jammu and Kashmir.

In its reply, the government affirmed that agriculture and horticulture continue to be the backbone of the Union Territory’s economy. To unlock the full potential of these sectors, it said, multiple centrally sponsored schemes are currently being implemented across the region. These



include Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), the Soil Health Card Scheme, the Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM), Per Drop More Crop, Rainfed Area Development

(RAD), Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), and the Sub-Mission on Agroforestry (SMAF).

The government added that under the flagship Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), several transformative initiatives have been introduced to boost productivity, enhance infrastructure, and improve market linkages for farmers and growers.

One such initiative is the Production of Designer Plants, which aims to promote hybrid varieties and rejuvenate orchards across 5,500 hectares over a five-year period. This project is expected to reduce dependence on imported planting material and improve the quality and yield of horticultural produce.

Another significant component of HADP, the government said, is the Strengthening of the Agro-Marketing System, which focuses on developing key infrastructure like Controlled Atmosphere (CA) stores, modern grading lines,

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UPA

"The search related to investigation of case FIR 01/24 which have been registered under sections 10, 13 UAP Act of Police Station Rajbagh was carried out alongwith Executive Magistrate 1st Class in the houses of Tehreek-e-Hurriyat members namely Bashir Ahmed Bhat @ Peer Saifullah son of Ali Mohd Bhat resident of Zadoora Pulwama A/P Rawalpora presently in Tihar jail and Mohd Ashraf Laya son of Gh Rasool Laya resident of Jamia Qadeem Baramulla A/P Old Barzulla," the statement reads.

During the search, police said incriminating materials including books, letter heads, pamphlets and letters related to the investigation of instant case have been recovered from the house of Bashir Ahmed Bhat and they have accordingly been seized in the presence of the Magistrate and independent witness as per proper legal procedures.

"The investigation of the case is going on," it reads."J&K Police remains committed to maintaining peace and security in the city. Any individual found furthering the agenda of violence, disruption, or unlawful activities will face strict legal consequences under the law," the spokesman added—

BANDIPORA

, unfolded at the premises of various suspects at different locations across the district Bandipora," a police spokesman said in a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

In connection with the investigation of a case under FIR number 04/2024 under UAPA Act of PS Bandipora, the spokesman said the police arrested three persons identified as Nazir Ahmad Ahangar S/O Late Akhul Khaliq Ahangar of Shahgund Hajin, Sheikh Danish Mushtaq S/O Mushtaq Ahmad Sheikh of Aloosa Bandipora and Tahir Ahmad Mir S/O Late Habibullah Mir of Ward 2 Plan Bandipora—all members of Tehreek-e-Hurriyat JK.

In connection with a case under FIR number 07 & 62/2024 under UAPA Act of Ps Sumbal, three persons were arrested including Ghulam Din War S/o Habib Ullah War of Naidkhai, member of Jammu Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (JKDFP), Khurshed Ahmad Lone S/o Mohammad Jamal Lone of Naidkhai and Mohammad Shafi Dar S/o Sonallah Dar of Karnai Mohalla Shahgund, both members of Jammu and Kashmir Peoples League (JKPL).

Moreover, in connection with a case under FIR number 06/2024 under UAPA Act of PS Hajin, two persons were arrested, who have been identified as Ab Majeed Gojri S/o Gh Mohd Gojri of R/o Vigarra and Ab Majeed lone S/o Mohd Maqbool Lone of Vigarra Hajin, both members of Tehreek-e-Hurriyat JK.

Some objectionable material, pamphlets and electronic devices including mobile phones were seized from the arrested persons, the spokesman said, adding that the investigations have revealed that the members have continued to promote terrorist and secessionist activities in J&K even after the outfits of which they had affiliation were banned under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

The arrested members were engaged in motivating impressionable youth and recruiting new members (Rukuns) in J&K to further their nefarious and secessionist activities.

"The arrests serve as a stark reminder of police in its ongoing crackdown against extremism and the imperative of collective vigilance in J&K. Bandipora police remain committed to maintaining peace and security in the district. Any individual found furthering the agenda of violence, disruption, or unlawful activities will face strict legal consequences under the law also persons promoting secessionist or separatist ideology will face strict legal action as warranted under law," the statement reads—

DIG

its own dedicated traffic cops." However, he added that effective traffic management is not solely the responsibility of law enforcement. "It's ultimately a self-realisation—only challans by enforcement agencies won't work," he stated.

DIG Zaman stressed that without public cooperation, even a robust police presence would fall short of ensuring smooth vehicular movement.

He appealed to the residents of Sopore to actively participate in maintaining traffic discipline by adhering to rules and regulations. "The police can't single-handedly achieve success. It's a collective responsibility, and everyone must contribute to restoring order on the roads," he added.

Pertinently, Sopore town, considered as the second largest town and a business hub is without traffic cops, with the daily commuters, particularly employees and students facing hard time due to frequent traffic jams during peak hours.

Locals while speaking over the issue alleged that despite strict orders from the administration to ensure no traffic jamming during peak hours in the town, authorities have failed to regulate traffic mess—

HM

government are both alert. We will punish them if they try."Pertinently, the Union Home Minister visited J&K for 3-days earlier this week. He met top government officials, political leaders, and security brass during his visit.

He assessed the current security situation in the Union Territory and devised the future course of action—

RANA

which part of the world they had fled to," the statement added.

"Rana was being held in judicial custody in the US pursuant to proceedings initiated by NIA under the India-US Extradition Treaty. The extradition finally came through after Rana's various litigations and appeals, including an emergency application before the U.S. Supreme Court, were rejected with the active assistance of U.S. Department of Justice's Office of International Affairs, U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of California, U.S. Marshals Service, FBI's Legal Attaché Office in New Delhi, and U.S. Department of State's Office of the Legal Adviser for Law Enforcement. The diligent and persistent efforts of India's Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Home Affairs culminated in securing the surrender warrant for the fugitive, leading to his eventual extradition," the statement said, as per KNO.

Rana is accused of conspiring with David Coleman Headley @ Daood Gilani, and operatives of designated terrorist organisations Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Harkat-ul-Jihadi Islami (HUJI) along with other Pakistan-based co-conspirators, to carry out the devastating terror attacks in Mumbai in 2008. A total of 166 persons were killed and over 238 injured in the deadly attacks.

Both LeT and HUJI have been declared as terrorist organisations by the Government of India under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, the statement said.

ICJ PREZ WELCOMES TRUMP GOVT'S DECISION TO ALLOW EXTRADITION

Meanwhile, International Council of Jurists (ICJ) President, Senior Advocate Dr Adish C Aggarwal on Thursday welcomed the decision of Donald Trump administration to extradite 26/11 Mumbai attacks accused Tahawwur Rana to India.

Aggarwal while talking to the reporters in Srinagar, according to KNO said, "Trump government took special interest and allowed Tahawwur Rana's extradition to India. Donald Trump himself making a statement on this as soon as his government came into power shows that he is against terrorism."

Asked would this move pave the way for extradition of the Mumbai attacks mastermind Hafiz Sayed also, Aggarwal said, "Everything will happen. Our forces are doing a good job. I assure you that whether economic offender or terrorist offender, everyone will have to come here."

Pertinently, soon after taking over as the President of United States for second time, Donald Trump in February this year had confirmed 26/11 Mumbai terror attack accused Tahawwur Rana's extradition to India and said that he was pleased to announce that Rana is "going back to India to face justice".

During the joint press meet with Prime Minister Narendra Modi after their bilateral meeting, Trump had said, "I am pleased to announce that my administration has approved the extradition of one of the plotters (Tahawwur Rana) and one of the very evil people of the world, having to do with the horrific 2008 Mumbai terrorist attack to face justice in India."

"He is going back to India to face justice," he had said—

LG

intelligence agencies, as they found them thickly involved in activities prejudicial to the interests of the State evidencing their involvement in terror related activities.

Basharat Ahmad Mir, Assistant Wireless Operator in Jammu and Kashmir Police Department S/o Ghulam Mohammad Mir R/o Upper Brein District Srinagar, was under intelligence radar on the basis of highly credible inputs from agencies that he was in continuous touch with Pakistan Intelligence Operatives. He was sharing critical and vital information to Adversary about security installations and deployment with the enemies.

He, being a trained police official, posted at a sensitive place, had access to the vital information concerning National Security but instead of choosing to shoulder the responsibility of a responsible police official, chose otherwise to be an active conduit playing in the hands of the adversary. His actions posed a significant threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India having potential to comprise broader National Security Interest of India.

Ishtiyak Ahmed Malik, Senior Assistant in Public Works (R&B) Department S/o Late Ghulam Rasool Malik Ahmad R/o Shitroo Larnoo, District Anantnag, is listed as an active member of the proscribed unlawful association (Jel-JK) and terror associate of proscribed terrorist organization Hizbul-Mujahideen. He, as a key functionary of Jel, played a crucial role in strengthening the organization with-

in his sphere of influence.

He also facilitated creation of network of sympathizers who later became Overground workers and foot soldiers of Hizbul Mujahideen terror outfit, which has been involved in series of terrorist attacks on Indian Security Forces, Politicians, Government Functionaries, Civilians, Military Establishments and Critical Infrastructure.

He covertly facilitated terrorist activities of Hizbul Muzahideen by providing food, shelter and other logistics to the terrorists and played a significant role in aiding, facilitating, guiding and abetting terrorist activities especially in South Kashmir.

He used to provide crucial intelligence to the terrorists regarding movement of security forces, helping them to evade capture and launch counter attacks often resulting in casualties among security forces.

A Zero tolerance policy has been adopted towards the anti-national elements who have been taking advantage of being in the Government service. ANB

DYCM

ity of India (NHAI), National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL), Border Roads Organisation (BRO), MoRTH, Project Directors while other officers participated online including RO NHAI, RS Yadav.

The review encompassed critical infrastructure projects especially Delhi-Amritsar-Katra (DAK) Expressway, Srinagar Ring Road, Chenani-Patnitop-Nashri, Jammu-Rajouri and other crucial projects.

Emphasising the critical importance of these projects, he issued firm directives to ensure their timely completion while minimising public inconvenience.

Earlier, the representative from NHAI apprised of the issues regarding delay in permissions related to mining, pending permissions at various levels, STPs for ordinary soil and RBM, and supply of material.

The Deputy Chief Minister assured that all their concerns are under consideration and shall be dealt prominently to avoid any kind of hindrance to development works.

Meanwhile, raising serious concern over illegal mining, the Deputy Chief Minister exhorted that mining will not be allowed at the cost of environment of J&K. "Saving environment is government's responsibility and we will not allow illegal mining at any cost," he reaffirmed.

The Dy CM directed the concerned officials to initiate strict measures as per law against those involved in illegal mining across J&K.

Surinder Choudhary impressed upon the concerned to go tough against the illegal miners. He told them to use the provisions of enforcement measures quite rigorously for putting total end to this illicit practice.

Th Dy CM also asked the executive agencies working on various packages to deposit the penalties first imposed on them by the department to get the incessant supply of material. He assured full cooperation to NHAI from the Government prior to clearance of penalties imposed on executive agencies.

The Deputy CM also reviewed various National Highway projects, examining the individual packages, scheduled completion dates and current progress. He specifically instructed the NHAI to expedite project completion while ensuring that public inconvenience is minimised.

Surinder Choudhary emphasized that projects must not be delayed and completed on time to avoid public inconvenience to general public.

In a move to prevent resource-related delays, the Dy CM asked the departmental officials to conduct field visits along with officers from NHAI and ensure that no illegal mining activities are held and hinder the project progress. He asked all the concerned departments and stakeholders to work in tandem and convene regular meetings to resolve issues, if any.

LOP

you can raise slogans like 'Takbeer Allahu Akbar' or of 'Risalat'. This is the Vidhan Sabha. Here, people's issues are discussed. Here, solutions to people's problems are found. Here, the hopes of the people, based on promises, are fulfilled."

He said, "Jammu and Kashmir is experiencing peace and progress, free from the Hurriyat calendar and strikes because law & order is in purview of the Modi government."

The LOP said, "Today no fear prevails in J&K, any tourist can easily travel to any district without apprehension. Today, an ordinary person can move around safely. Situation has changed for the good."

Referring to the demand of the National Conference to restore J&K's statehood, Sharma said, "BJP would want the statehood restoration only after the terrorism is fully eradicated from the Union Territory. We wanted to have a debate on statehood restoration in the Assembly so that we could expose the conduct of the National Conference (NC) government—which is now demanding the return of statehood—has been like."

"When NC had the police, when they had full state, how did they treat the people here? I believe there is no harm in saying this—how

were the people oppressed here? You must have seen it yourself—many massacres, many targeted killings happened. That happened when the National Conference was in power," the LOP said, as per KNO.

He said that now peace has been established in Jammu and Kashmir. "Today, separatism has declined, stone-pelting and terrorism have ended. So, if there are still any remnants of this, we want to uproot them completely. After that, there will be statehood restoration. But we will never, at any cost, accept the National Conference's version of separatist statehood," Sharma said, adding, "BJP wants the state where a common citizen of Jammu and Kashmir prospers, where he lives in peace. This is the vision the Bharatiya Janata Party holds, and the BJP government is committed to it."—

INDO-PAK

"The flag meetings are routine LoC and border management process in accordance with DGMO's understanding between both sides," a defence spokesperson said.

He said Thursday's meeting was conducted to discuss routine issues along the LoC.

Indian Army officials also raised the issue of infiltration attempts, ceasefire violations, and IED blasts with their counterparts and lodged a protest with them, official sources said.

On April 2, a brigade commander-level flag meeting, lasting 75 minutes, had taken place at the Chakan-Da-Bagh crossing point area, with both sides highlighting the need to maintain peace along the borders.

On April 1, Pakistani troops violated the ceasefire by resorting to unprovoked firing after a mine exploded along the LoC in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, a defence spokesperson said on Wednesday.

On February 13, Pakistani troops violated the ceasefire by resorting to unprovoked firing on Indian posts along the LoC in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, prompting a befitting response by the Indian Army, security officials said.

The ceasefire violation by Pakistan in the Krishna Ghati sector came a day after two Indian Army personnel, including a captain, were killed in an improvised explosive device (IED) explosion triggered by suspected terrorists near the LoC in the Akhnoor sector of Jammu district on February 11.

Ceasefire violations along the LoC have been very rare ever since India and Pakistan renewed the ceasefire agreement on February 25, 2021. (Agencies)

DR JINTENDRA

ernment employees here.

Singh said the focus of the government is on how best to utilise the expertise and experience of retired employees, and also address the problems faced by them.

The Union minister maintained that the government has done away with obsolete guidelines and framed new rules which are compatible with contemporary times to help retired employees and their families.

Holding such workshops in different cities and not being confined to the national capital alone is testimony of the Centre's commitment to equal attention to all parts, he claimed.

Singh said the use of technology by his ministry, like face-recognition technology for issuance of digital life certificates, has eased post-retirement problems and also drawn global attention.

Regarding the performance of Assam, the minister said it has been among the better-performing states in terms of implementation and execution of Central schemes and initiatives.

"I must praise the chief minister and the chief secretary in this regard," Singh added.

More than 300 central government officials set for retirement by March 31, 2026, attended the workshop, aimed at providing comprehensive support and guidance for a smooth transition into retirement, an official statement said.

Banks' exhibition for showcasing various services provided by the banks to pensions was also organised simultaneously, it added.

AGRICULTURE

refrigerated vans, and new mandis to minimize post-harvest losses and improve the market value of produce.

In parallel, the Food Processing Clusters project is developing seven product-specific clusters across the UT, providing end-to-end solutions in food processing—from production and processing to packaging and marketing. These initiatives are aimed at expanding the reach of J&K's produce in domestic and international markets.

The government also highlighted the provision of a top-up subsidy to encourage investment in CA storage, crucial for preserving produce and regulating market supply. Presently, the UT has a CA storage capacity of 2.11 lakh metric tonnes, and an additional 37,250 metric tonnes is expected to be added during the financial year 2024–25.

Efforts under the High-Density Plantation Scheme have already brought 836 hectares

under cultivation by January 2025, out of the targeted 5,500 hectares. The government also noted ongoing upgrades to fruits and vegetable markets across the Union Territory, with support from NABARD. A total of 17 mandis have been integrated with the National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) platform. As of January 2025, 3,816 farmers and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) had registered on the platform, trading approximately 9.37 lakh quintals of produce worth around Rs 592 crore. Since 2020–21, e-NAM has facilitated the trade of 16.87 lakh quintals, with a cumulative transaction value of Rs 1,041.96 crore.

The government also reported progress on the Mission for Economic Revival of Saffron, which was launched in 2010–11 to rejuvenate saffron cultivation across the region. Developed by the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Kashmir (SKUAST-K), and implemented under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, the mission set a target to revive saffron farming across 3,715 hectares.

To date, 2,598.75 hectares have been successfully rejuvenated. The project is being implemented in the key saffron-growing districts of Pulwama, Budgam, Srinagar, and Kishtwar.

Pulwama district, with the highest target area of 3,200 hectares, has seen rejuvenation on 2,055.75 hectares. Budgam exceeded its target of 300 hectares by achieving 328 hectares of revival, while Srinagar and Kishtwar achieved their respective targets of 165 and 50 hectares.

The total cost of the project stands at Rs 400.11 crore, with Rs 315.99 crore contributed by the Government of India and Rs 84.12 crore as the farmers' share. Out of Rs 269.91 crore released so far, Rs 259.68 crore has already been utilized across various components of the project.

The government concluded by reaffirming its commitment to transforming Jammu and Kashmir's agricultural economy into a sustainable and resilient model. "These reforms are designed not only to modernize the sector but also to improve the livelihoods of farming communities across the Union Territory," it said—

DC Shopian visits Mughal Road; reviews traffic worthiness post snow clearance

SHOPIAN, APRIL 10: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta today visited historical Mughal Road up to Pir Ki Gali to take stock of the traffic worthiness of the road, post completion of snow clearance from Shopian side.

DC took stock of snow/ rock debris removal at vulnerable spots that remain affected due to continuous slide.

DC also met DC Poonch, Vikas Kunal at Pir ki Gali and discussed its re-opening.

The Mughal Road, a strategic link between the Pir Panjal area and Shopian district in South Kashmir is a critical route for transport and public movement and the administration is eager to throw it open for traffic subject to the good weather conditions and traffic worthiness.

The decision to re-open the road shall be taken in consultation with district administration Poonch.

DC directed the concerned departments to expedite the clearance work of slide and rockfall completely so that safety protocols are in place for smooth and safe travel.

The administration shall be closely monitoring the situation of Mughal Road on a daily basis, said DC on the occasion and assured that the road will be opened for traffic soon.

DC Ganderbal inspects key development projects

GANDERBAL, APRIL 10: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today conducted an extensive tour of the district to inspect the progress of various developmental projects under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) as well as works of Rural Development Department (RDD).

During the day-long visit, DC reviewed ongoing works at several sites including the Model Floriculture Farm at Nuner, Kisan Khidmat Ghar (KKG) at Wayil, Soil Testing Laboratory at Manigam, under-construction Children Park Haripora and Library at Manigam and Chinar Bagh Dub.

At the Model Floriculture Farm Nuner, DC assessed operations involving lavender and rose cultivation, distillation plant, seedling production of aromatic plants like rosemary, and the packaging unit.

He directed the management to explore the extension of the farm and enhance the marketing strategies for the organic products being manufactured.

While inspecting the Kisan Khidmat Ghar at Wayil, DC evaluated the services being offered to farmers and emphasized doorstep delivery of agricultural support facilities.



Govt committed to provide quality education in every corner of Jammu and Kashmir.Sakeena Itoo.

551 masters assigned the look after charge of the posts of head masters or equivalent in J&K.

HT News Network

SRINAGAR APRIL 10: Government of Jammu and Kashmir is committed to provide quality education in the every corner of Jammu and Kashmir. This was stated by the Minister of School Education, J&K Sakeena Masood Itoo while quoting the government order issued today in favour of 551 masters, who have been assigned the look after charge of the posts of head masters or equivalent in Jammu and Kashmir. This major drive will boost quality education in these institutions and will also ensure effective monitoring system at the gross level. As per the order issued by the Administrative Department of School Education, 269 masters have been assigned look after charge of Headmasters and equivalent in the Kashmir division, while as



282 masters have been ordered to look after the charge of posts of High schools in Jammu division. Director School Education Kashmir, Dr.G.N Itoo has conveyed the gratitude to the government for timely intervention and redressal of the issue on priority basis. The masters have been assigned the look after charge of the posts

of head masters in every corner of Jammu and Kashmir. The areas in Jammu division includes Poonch, Rajouri, Reasi, Samba, Kathia and Doda etc. The far flung areas in Kashmir division includes Chitregam Shopian, Pulwama, Salamabad Dachina Baramulla and other areas of Kupwara, Bandipora and Kulgam.

DC Srinagar reviews progress on implementation of PMAY-U

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APRIL 10: In order to review the progress in implementation of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY-U 2.0) and saturate the process in District, a meeting of the Officers of line departments was today held under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat at DC Office Complex, here. At the outset, DC took a detailed appraisal about the implementation of the PMAY-U scheme in the District. He also assessed the status of registration made under the PMAY-U scheme. DC directed the concerned authorities to organize special awareness camps across the district so that all eligible beneficiaries are covered under the scheme. He asked the concerned Officers to undertake a proper demand survey



and ensure that not a single genuine beneficiary is left out from the scheme. He also stressed on maintaining utmost transparency and accountability ensuring timely approval of cases. Dr Bilal further impressed upon the Officers to follow the robust mechanism already put in place to ensure immediate verification of the application as per scheme guidelines. DC asked the SMC and

other Departments to maximize the reach of the scheme through mass awareness campaign so that eligible beneficiaries are informed about the scheme and the eligibility criteria to get registered under PMAY-Urban scheme. The meeting was informed that as many as 325 verified cases stands already forwarded to concerned authorities for release of financial assistance under BLC component of

PMAY Urban in favour of the beneficiaries to minimize the physical and financial gap under the scheme, as the target has been already fixed upto 31st of December 2025. With regard to the physical progress as on March 2025, the meeting was informed that over 3000 houses sanctioned in the District so far under the scheme have been Geo tagged. The construction of as many as 2008 houses stands completed, while 1017 are in the under construction phase. DC was also apprised that an expenditure of Rs 38.03 crores has been disbursed till date under the scheme in the district after following due procedure and multilevel verification. Besides Additional District Development Commissioner, Rifat Aftab Qureshi, Joint Commissioner SMC, Syed Abul Qasim; the meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Development.

Girdawar, Lambardar Caught Red-Handed in ₹50,000 Bribery Case in Srinagar: ACB

HT News Network

Srinagar: Anti Corruption Bureau received a written complaint alleging therein that Ayaz Ahmad Hurra, Girdawar, Chatabal, Srinagar who is holding additional charge of Patwari Halqa Habakadal and Halqa Shivpora is demanding 50,000 as bribe in lieu of issuance of revenue extracts required for sale deed of an old house located at Mandir Bagh, Srinagar. As per the complaint, the complainant was forced to pay 30,000 a few days ago and remaining 20,000 was asked to be paid today in order to receive the requisite documents. The bribe demand was communicated through Lamberdar (tout) Rafiq Ahmad who was acting in connivance with the Girdawar. Unwilling to pay the bribe, the complainant approached ACB Srinagar and submitted a written complaint, requesting legal action against the accused public servants. Upon receipt of the complaint, a pre-trap verification was conducted, which established the demand of bribe, accordingly a Case FIR No.06/2025 U/S 7 PC Act 1988 and 61(2) BNS was registered Police Station ACB Srinagar and investigation was taken up. During the course of investigation, a trap team was constituted which laid a successful trap and caught the accused public servant Ayaz Ahmad Hurra, Girdawar Chatabal (holding additional charge of Patwari Halaqa Habakadal and Halqa Shivpora Srinagar) red-handed while demanding and accepting 20,000 as bribe from the complainant through Mohammad Rafiq Sheikh, Lumberdar. After completing all Legal formalities.

DC Srinagar reviews status of public grievances on JK-Samadhan Portal

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APRIL 10: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today chaired a meeting to review the status of public grievances on JK-Samadhan Portal and progress of the registrations on the platform. At the outset, DC took a detailed assessment of the JK-Samadhan Portal and resolution mechanism put in place by each line department in the district. He also reviewed the status of all pending grievances and analyzed the resolution of already addressed citizen complaints. DC directed all departments to expedite the resolution process of each grievance with quality disposal to the best satisfaction of the citizens. He stressed the importance of citizen engagement and awareness regarding the JK-Samadhan Portal. He instructed officers to



actively assist citizens in registering on the platform, ensuring wider participation and better grievance redressal. While highlighting the significance of citizens registrations on the JK Samadhan Portal, the DC said the Government has launched the initiative to streamline and simplify

the grievance redressal mechanism and ensure transparent, efficient and quality redressal of public complaints. On the occasion, Dr Bilal stressed the Officers to sensitize the masses about the JK Samadhan Portal and prioritize registering citizens on the platform. He emphasized the impor-

ance of timely and efficient registration of grievances, which can be accessed and resolved through the portal. He underscored the importance of the portal in facilitating citizen's access to Government services and resolving grievances. DC directed all the line departments to ensure maximum outreach and participation in the portal's registration process and enjoined upon them to achieve set targets at the earliest. He asked the departments to share progress of grievances disposed-off and citizens registration on the portal on a daily basis so that progress is monitored and supervised in an efficient manner. During the meeting, DC was informed that out of total 7232 grievances registered on JK Samadhan Portal as many 5078 public grievances have been resolved till date.

On-Cabin Ticketing Suspended at Gulmarg Gondola from April 11 to 14

HT News Network

Gulmarg, April 10 : The On-Cabin Ticket Facility at the Gulmarg Gondola Project will remain suspended from April 11 to April 14, or until further orders. The announcement was made by the Management of Cable Car, Visitors are advised to book tickets online in advance during this period.(KNS)

Apni Party moves Supreme Court against controversial Waqf Act with intervention plea

HT News Network

Srinagar, April 10: Apni Party on Thursday submitted an intervention application in the case challenging the recently passed and controversial Waqf (Amendment) Act. The application, filed on behalf of party president Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari, questions the constitutional validity of the amendments made to the Waqf Act. According to a statement issued by the party, "The Apni Party has submitted an intervention application under Order 1 Rule 8A of the Supreme Court Rules, 2013, before the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India and the companion Justices of the Hon'ble Supreme Court." "The application challenged the constitutional validity of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, which substantially alters the framework of Waqf administration in India, including redefining core concepts, dismantling institutional autonomy, and shifting adjudicatory powers to executive authorities," the statement reads.

Arrangements for annual Urs of Sakhi Zain-ud-Din Wali (RA) Aishmuqam reviewed at Anantnag

HT News Network

ANANTNAG, APRIL 10: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Syeed Fakhruddin Hamid in a review meeting held today took stock of the arrangements for the upcoming Annual Urs Sharief celebrations at Ziarat Sharief Sakhi Zain-ud-Din Wali (RA) in Aishmuqam Anantnag. DC emphasized the need for meticulous planning to ensure the smooth conduct of the religious observance, which attracts a large number of devotees from across the region. The Annual Urs Sharief, particularly the Shab-e-Doum (Chiragaan) event holds deep spiritual significance for the local community. DC passed specific instructions to the concerned District and Sectoral Officers, directing ARTO to formulate a detailed plan for traffic management. Health Department was instructed to set up medical camps near the Ziarat Sharief, with a team of doctors, nurses, and ambulances on standby to handle any emergencies. The Municipal Committee was tasked with maintaining cleanliness around the shrine and ensuring necessary amenities such as water supply and sanitation facilities to ensure the comfort of the devotees. Assistant Director FCS&CA was directed to ensure that extra food grains are available in the village to meet the demand during the event.

J&K Startup Policy 2024-27: Renowned experts from TISS mentor J&K startups at JKEDI

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APRIL 10: Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) in collaboration with the Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS) organized an exclusive mentorship programme for the startups of Jammu and Kashmir here. The mentorship cum interaction session involving renowned experts from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Prof. Satyajit Majumdar, Managing Director TISS Incube Foundation and Sujay Dixit, CEO TISS Incube Foundation, was aimed to provide guidance and insight to the J&K startups, thereby handhold them to navigate the challenge of building and sustaining their ventures. The session offered a unique opportunity for startups of Jammu and Kashmir to benefit from the knowledge and expertise of these distinguished professionals, who have made a mark in academia, social entrepreneurship and startup incubation. The mentoring session provided the participating startups valuable insights into



business growth, scalability, innovation, and entrepreneurial best practices guiding them through the challenges and opportunities in their journey. The session brought together a diverse group of participants including budding entrepreneurs, startup founders and innovators from across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and facilitated a direct interaction between the startups and

seasoned professionals in social entrepreneurship and incubation, thus inspiring and equipping them to address challenges and seize opportunities in their ventures. Interacting with the participants, Prof. Majumdar, MD TISS Incube Foundation highlighted the importance of such collaborative initiatives in fostering a robust entrepreneurial ecosystem in the Union

Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Sujay Dixit, CEO TISS Incube Foundation stressed that mentorship session in collaboration with JKEDI is a part of ongoing efforts of TISS to empower local startups with knowledge, skills and network for their growth. The session also featured one on one mentoring opportunities where participants submitted their problem statement and experts provided customized solutions to their business needs. The participants expressed enthusiasm about the insights gained in the mentoring session and appreciated the opportunity to engage with the experts from one of the country's premier institutes. The mentoring session was coordinated by Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Business Modeling (CIIBM), a program vertical of JKEDI, under the overall supervision of Director JKEDI, Khalid Jahangir. The mentoring session was part of JKEDI's continued approach towards building the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the U.T of Jammu and Kashmir, under the auspices of J&K Startup Policy 2024-27.

EDITORIAL

Omar-Rijiju meeting creates ripples in political circles in J&K

The Jammu & Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah might have given the explanation that his meeting with the union minority affairs minister Kiren Rijiju few days back at the tulip garden in Srinagar was just a chance encounter but there are very few people who are ready to buy this statement from Omar. The issue has snowballed into a major controversy with the Kashmir based politicians aiming barbs at the chief minister and the National Conference.

Most of the people including the political analysts believe that the visit of a high profile personality to any garden or any place in Srinagar is not a normal thing and the administration especially the security brass is aware about any such visit. Given this situation the visit of the union minister and the chief minister was not wrapped and the people were aware about the same. In this scenario, since Rijiju went to the tulip garden first the chief minister would have been informed by the security agencies about the visit of the union minister.

Since the Waqf bill was introduced by the minority affairs in both houses of the parliament he came in for sharp criticism from the politicians belonging to the different political parties including the National Conference. As such the meeting of Omar with Rijiju was bound to create ripples among the political circles of the union territory. Peoples Conference legislator from Handwara Sajad Lone was seen yelling tulip tulip at the NC legislators while they were holding a protest in the legislative assembly while demanding a discussion on the Waqf bill.

The Omar-Rijiju meeting gave ammunition to the Kashmir based law-makers and they accused the National Conference of deceiving the people of Jammu & Kashmir especially, the Kashmir valley. These legislators said that the NC law-makers are resorting to theatrics by demanding discussion on Waqf one side while hobnobbing with the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) government at the centre on the contentious issue of Waqf bill. Some events that unfolded after the meeting gave more firepower to the opposition legislators.

Along with the explanation given by Omar some of the photos and a video released on the occasion gave an impression that the meeting was not a chance encounter but the same was fixed in advance. The union minister also came out with an explanation and asked the people not to attach political connotation with his meeting with the Jammu & Kashmir chief minister. This too made the situation somewhat precarious for Omar Abdullah.

Jabir Ibn Hayyan: An Intellectual Odyssey From Baghdad To Europe

RAYEESULISLAM

What if the genesis of modern chemistry—the periodic table, laboratory apparatus, and scientific methodology—originated not in Europe but in the intellect of an 8th-century polymath in Baghdad? Abu Musa Jabir Ibn Hayyan Al-Azdi, an innovative alchemist, philosopher, and scientist, transmuted alchemy into a structured empirical discipline, his legacy permeating laboratories, industries, and academia worldwide. Yet, his name remains obscured within dominant historical narratives, an unacknowledged architect of scientific progress.

There was an era when Muslim scholars, driven by epistemic rigor, forged an intellectual framework that became the substratum of scientific inquiry. Meticulously interwoven with empirical precision, systematic reasoning, and scholastic depth, this legacy transcended doctrinal and cultural boundaries, flourishing through institutions like the House of Wisdom and vast madrasa networks. Even today, its universality commands recognition, with scholars across disciplines and geographies affirming its enduring imprint.

Jabir ibn Hayyan, an erudite polymath, remains profoundly integral to modern chemistry, his seminal contributions serving as a critical juncture between arcane alchemical traditions and empirically grounded scientific inquiry. Through methodical experimentation and the discovery of fundamental chemical compounds—many of which retain contemporary utility—he engendered a paradigm shift in the discipline.

His scrupulous systematization of experimental methodologies and fastidious documentation established the epistemological substratum upon which the edifice of modern experimental chemistry was meticulously constructed.

Laboratory Innovations

He designed and refined apparatuses such as the alembic for distillation, which remains a prototype for modern distillation equipment. His development of techniques like crystallization, calcination, sublimation, purification, amalgamation, oxidation, evaporation, and filtration processes, significantly impacted the development of chemistry all over the world. are still integral to chemical processes.

Discovery and Use of Acids

Jabir is credited with preparing hydrochloric acid nitric acid, and aqua regia acids critical in industrial and laboratory applications today. His work with these substances advanced early chemical synthesis and metallurgy.

Classification of Substances

He categorized materials into “spirits” (volatile substances), metals, and non-malleable compounds, foreshadowing modern chemical taxonomy. This organizational approach influenced later systematic classifications, including the periodic table.

Emphasis on Experimentation and Documentation

Jabir's insistence on systematic experimentation, reproducibility, and record-keeping established principles later formalized as the scientific method.

Empirical approach

He shifted focus from alchemical mysticism to evidence-based inquiry, paving the way for modern chemistry.

Jabir engineered an exceptionally precise scale capable of measuring weights up to 6,480 times smaller than a ratl 2.2 lbs. (no textual proof)

Applied Chemistry

He developed early pharmaceuticals and chemical remedies, linking chemistry to healthcare—a precursor to modern pharmacology.

Industrial applications

Techniques like dye-making, glass production, and metal extraction were refined



in his work, influencing early industrial chemistry.

In an age of clay crucibles and flickering flames, Jabir ibn Hayyan forged the tools of modern chemistry—distilling truth from mystery with crude alembics, scarce resources, and relentless curiosity. His legacy? Proof that genius thrives not in ease, but in the alchemy of perseverance. Jabir turned medieval limits into chemical revolutions. Imagine what you could transform.?

A Literary Corpus Blending Empirical Science with Philosophical Inquiry

Jabir ibn Hayyan's intellectual corpus, an intricate amalgamation of practical experimentation and philosophical reflection, profoundly shaped the trajectory of scientific thought. His seminal works—Kitab al-Kimya (The Book of Chemistry/Alchemy), Kitab al-Sab'een (The Book of Seventy), Kitab al-Mawazin (The Book of Balances), Kitab al-Asrar (The Book of Secrets), and Kitab al-Rahma (The Book of Mercy)—laid the epistemological foundations of chemistry, pioneering an empirical methodology that would resonate across centuries.

Enduring Scholarly Recognition in Medieval and Modern Perspectives

Jabir's profound influence has been acknowledged by both medieval and modern scholars, transcending geographical and cultural boundaries.

Medieval Acknowledgment

Albertus Magnus, the eminent medieval scholar, extolled Jabir's contributions, asserting that alchemists such as Jabir had uncovered knowledge of immense practical utility.

tical utility.

Roger Bacon, a pivotal advocate of experimental science in the 13th century, directly attributed the advancement of the sciences, inherited from the Arabs, with Jabir as a central figure.

Paracelsus, the 16th-century Swiss physician-alchemist and progenitor of modern medicine, revered Jabir's medicinal chemistry, affirming that “the true secrets of chemistry were first taught by the Arabs,” with Jabir as its preeminent luminary.

Modern Historical Recognition

E.J. Holmyard, in Alchemy (1957), underscored Jabir's revolutionary contributions to chemical sciences.

George Sarton, in Introduction to the History of Science (1927), hailed Jabir as an unparalleled genius whose work underpinned the evolution of experimental chemistry.

William Newman, in The Summa Perfectionis of Pseudo-Geber (1991), elucidated the extensive European assimilation of Jabir's methodologies, particularly his emphasis on quantification and laboratory precision.

Eric John Holmyard, in Makers of Chemistry (1931), contended that without Jabir's foundational discoveries, the chemical revolution spearheaded by Lavoisier and Boyle might never have materialized.

Lawrence Principe, in The Secrets of Alchemy (2013), accentuated Jabir's practical ingenuity, noting that his work on distillation and acids was not merely theoretical but applied science, with his alembic serving as the precursor to modern distillation apparatus.

Jim Al-Khalili, in The Golden Age of Arabic Science (2010), highlighted the enduring relevance of Jabir's discoveries, particularly his synthesis of nitric and hydrochloric acids, which remain indispensable to contemporary chemical laboratories.

Nobel Laureate Ahmed Zewail lauded Jabir's visionary integration of theoretical and experimental science, asserting that his method-

ologies laid the foundational bedrock for modern experimental chemistry.

Syed Nomanul Haq, in Names, Natures, and Things (1994), repositioned Jabir as a polymath whose intellectual breadth extended beyond chemistry into philosophy and epistemology.

Bill Bryson, in A Short History of Nearly Everything (2003), contrasted Europe's intellectual stagnation during the Dark Ages with the scientific advancements of figures like Jabir ibn Hayyan, whose work in Baghdad ignited the embers of the Renaissance.

A Legacy Etched in Scientific History

Jabir ibn Hayyan, venerated by historians and scientists alike, stands as an indelible figure in the annals of chemistry. His profound impact was recognized by Ibn Khaldun, who positioned him as a seminal architect, and polymath, and his stature remains unequivocal in contemporary discourse, as attested by The Enduring Legacy of Muslim Civilization (4th Edition, UK, 2017).

Be next jabir who interrogate phenomena with ontological audacity, experiment through dauntless empiricism, and architect an epistemic future where scientific praxis synthesizes rather than bifurcates. Let the hermeneutic alembic of cognition catalyze chaos into epistemic lucidity—interrogate the occluded noumenal, metricize stochastic uncertainties, and transmute heuristic postulates into positivist certitude. Let your sanctums of inquiry resound with the staccato percussion of catalytic vessels counterpointed by the hush of noetic reflection, for revelatory epiphanies emerge from the conjugal nexus of Baconian observation and Blakean vision. Synchronize theorems to cosmic frequencies. Know this: the supreme transmutation is not of lead to gold, but of consciousness—science.

The writer works in the J&K education department
Rayeesulislam
rayeesulislam7@gmail.com

Chains of Caste: Mental Slavery Even After Independence

PRIYANKA SAURABHIH

India, which is called a country of spirituality and diversity, hides within itself a world of contradictions that sometimes surprises. On the one hand, we talk of science, technology, space,, and artificial intelligence, while on the other hand, medieval thinking is still deeply rooted in the social and cultural layers. In the same society, such scenes are seen where people drink the charanamrit of some Baba,, considering it as 'amrit,' and and even consume cow urine and cow dung,, calling it medicine; and in the same society, drinking water from the hands of a Dalit person is considered a 'sin.' This is the irony that has been exposed with full force by this sharp sentence: "Aastha tak pee paani pila deti hai, caste tak paani nahi peena deti." This line is not just a satire ut is the identification of two major diseases deeply rooted in Indian society—e is faith drowned in superstition,, and the other is caste discrimination. Both challenge the basic principles of humanity, reasoning,, and equality to some extent.

Faith: The thin line between belief and stupidity

Faith is the spiritual and cultural backbone of any society. It gives a purpose to a person, gives him morality and self-confidence. But when this faith crosses the limits of logic, science,, and human rights and turns into blind faith, it takes a dangerous form. There are many examples in India where religious leaders made their followers do acts like drinking cow urine, consuming feces or declaring themselves as 'God,,' and people followed them blindly. News of a baba making people drink his urine in the name of 'miraculous water' has also been coming out from time to time. Devotees drink it,, considering ia 'blessing,,' and when the media raises questions on these incidents, it is accused of insulting religion. What kind of faith is this that forces a person to completely abandon his thinking and conscience? What kind of faith is this that turns those who raise questions into criminals?

Caste: Medieval Thinking in a Modern Society

Now let us talk about the

second big social disease—casteism. In India, caste is a structure that determines a person's social status, occupation, rights,, and even life-death chances on the basis of birth. The Indian Constitution may have outlawed casteism, but its roots are still as deep in the social psyche. Even today, in many parts of the country, Dalits are not allowed to enter temples, there are separate wells or taps for them, their children are made to sit separately in schools, and objects are considered 'impure' by their mere touch. Inhuman practices like manual scavenging have not ended even today. There are daily instances when a Dalit youth is killed for loving an upper-caste girl r when their houses are set on fire in a village just because they crossed the 'limit.' How tragic it is that the same society that can consider cow urine as medicine considers water impure by the mere touch of a human being.

The roots of the paradox

The roots of this contradiction are hidden nowhere else but in our social, religious, and political structure. In the name

of religion, people's thinking was controlled by using faith as a weapon. Through arbitrary interpretations of religious texts, one class was proved to be 'superior' and the other 'lowly.' Those who raised questions were declared 'anti-religion.'

Politics also nourished this system a lot. Castes were converted into vote banks. Hatred was spread in the name of reservation, but no concrete efforts were made to end caste atrocities, nor was any willpower shown. The public was emotionally bound in the name of faith, and scientific thinking was rejected by calling it 'Western ideology.'

Lack of education and wisdom

Education is the tool that makes society rational and just. But in India's education system, the education of logic and human rights is very limited. We teach science to children but do not inculcate a scientific approach in their thinking. We give them moral education but remain silent on questions of casteism and social justice. When a child sees in school that his classmate is being called 'Chamar' or 'Bhangi,' when the

teacher himself asks the caste of the students, then this thinking gets deeply embedded in his consciousness. This same child grows up and discriminates in the same way, and once again the vicious cycle begins.

The hypocrisy of media and society

Media is called the fourth pillar of democracy, but when it comes to casteism or superstition, its attitude is either very superficial or it remains completely silent. It shows the miracles of babas in the name of 'entertainment' but ends the matter by running a two-minute report on the murder of a Dalit. It deliberately avoids issues that may anger any 'particular class.'

The society also chooses sensitivity as per its convenience. The seller of cow urine is called a 'modern sage,' but no voice is raised on the death of a laborer cleaning a manhole.

What is the solution?

Expansion of rational education: Schools should include a curriculum based on scientific outlook and social justice. It is important to teach children from childhood that faith does

not mean blind faith, and every human being is equal. Strict laws and their implementation: Laws made against caste-based discrimination have to be implemented not just on paper, but also on the ground. Change in society is possible only when the culprits are punished. Responsibility of the media: The media should start honest discussions on this subject. Strong reporting is necessary against Dalit issues, caste injustice, and superstition. Reforms in religious institutions: Religious leaders should give the message of science and social equality to their followers. If there is no change in religion, then there will be no change in society either. Participation of civil society and youth: Social organizations, students, and aware citizens will have to raise their voices together against this system. A movement can be started against casteism and superstition by making social media a powerful medium.

Have we really become modern?

While India is celebrating its achievement of reaching the moon, a Dalit is beaten to death in a village for entering a

temple. While on one hand the government campaign gives the slogan of 'Clean India,' on the other hand thousands of sanitation workers die by entering the gutter without protection. And while on one hand people drink Baba's urine, considering it as 'prasad,' at the same time water touched by a Dalit is considered 'dirty.' This contradiction forces us to think whether development is limited only to buildings, mmetros and mobile networks, or does it also include thinking, equality, and humanity? The place of faith is important, but if it crushes humanity, then it is of no use. If the caste structure does not give anyone his human rights, then it must be broken. Therefore, the biggest need today is that we recognize this hypocrisy and speak against it. If faith can even make someone drink urine, then the society will have to be made so sensitive and rational that water is not denied in the name of caste. A person should be identified not by his caste but by his deeds and character—this is the real religion, this is the true faith.

Research Scholar in Political Science.

Key Urban Projects For Revitalising Srinagar City

ER MOHAMMAD ASHRAF FAZILI
shahishaharyar2@gmail.com

The city of Srinagar stands at a crucial crossroads, with numerous projects and initiatives poised to enhance its infrastructure and quality of life. There is a need to address several key issues that have been sidelined over the years. From the revitalisation of water transport on the Jhelum River to the completion of vital infrastructure like the New Ganderbal Hydroelectric Project, these initiatives hold the potential to transform Srinagar into a more efficient, sustainable and vibrant city.

The current government must revive these proposals and prioritise citizen-centric solutions that not only preserve the city’s rich heritage but also enhance the overall well-being of its residents. This article outlines eight pressing projects and initiatives that require immediate attention:

Inland Water Transport Project from Pampore to Chattabal

This project was conceived by the Srinagar Development Authority (SDA) during 1997-99 under my tenure as Project Director. A comprehensive Detailed Project Report (DPR) was prepared by internationally acclaimed consultants, M/s RITES. The project was aimed at decongesting Srinagar’s roads and reviving water-based transport that historically thrived on the Jhelum river.

The plan envisaged 50-seater motorboats for passengers and 25-seater boats for tourists, offering scenic rides past Srinagar’s

heritage sites. It was also expected to boost riverside tourism and rejuvenate the arts and crafts market along the riverbanks. Unfortunately, despite initial enthusiasm, the project was reduced to symbolic efforts – a few signboards and a couple of expensive boats at Zero Bridge.

The DPR continues to gather dust in the I&FC Department. Reviving this project could serve as a signature initiative for the current administration, combining heritage conservation, tourism, and urban mobility.

Skew Bridge near Presentation Convent School

A motorable skew bridge on the Jhelum near the Presentation Convent was constructed up to the deck level in 2017 at a cost of Rs 12 crore. Strangely, despite the original design, a pedestrian footbridge was constructed on flimsy grounds using steel girders, nullifying the investment and the objective of decongesting city roads.

A PIL filed in the Hon’ble High Court supported the restoration of the motorable bridge, but the case file was reportedly misplaced. There is still an opportunity to replace the footbridge decking with the originally designed RCC deck, thereby restoring the utility of the project and easing central Srinagar’s traffic woes.

New Ganderbal Hydroelectric Project (NGHEP)

Initiated in 1992 with a DPR prepared by M/s Thapar Consultants, NGHEP is strategically located near Srinagar, offering minimal transmission losses. Infrastructure and



land acquisition were largely completed early on, and the project was expected to augment not only power supply but also water availability through the Rangil Water Supply portal.

Despite its technical viability and infrastructural readiness, the project remains stalled—likely due to past political disturbances. The current government, known for decisive action, must prioritize this ready-to-execute project for energy sufficiency and public utility enhancement.

Solid Waste Disposal Scheme - Greater Srinagar

In the 1980s, the Urban Environmental Engineering Department

(UEED), with M/s Universal Enviro-science as consultants, prepared a DPR proposing a mechanical compost plant near Noorbagh, with an interim sanitary landfill at Achen Saidpora.

Instead, unscientific landfilling consumed wetland areas, creating severe environmental and health hazards, with odour extending to SKIMS. The original composting-based waste management plan needs urgent revival to mitigate pollution and ensure sustainable urban sanitation.

Chrar-i-Sharif Development Project

Following the devastating 1995 fire that razed the historic shrine and surrounding town, a dedicated

development project was initiated. With sustained efforts and ministerial support, a Rs 25 crore HUDCO loan was secured, and restoration works began. However, due to political transition, funding and momentum were lost.

The Charar-i-Sharif shrine holds immense spiritual, cultural, and historical value, and the project must be revived and completed to honour the legacy of Hazrat Shaikh Noor-ud-Din (RA) and support the local economy.

Urban Renewal & Circular Road System

Key internal roads of Srinagar, including the KZP road under the Circular Road Plan, remain incom-

plete or stalled without justification. These roads are crucial to decongesting the inner city and improving mobility. Immediate attention to resume work on these projects is warranted.

Parking Infrastructure

Unregulated roadside parking across Srinagar results in frequent traffic jams. There is an urgent need to develop designated parking spaces and multi-level facilities in commercial zones to ensure a smooth flow of traffic and ease of access.

Fixed Bus Stops with Bus Bays

In the absence of designated bus stops, passenger vehicles halt mid-road, obstructing traffic and increasing accident risk. The government must identify and build bus bays at fixed locations to streamline public transport and enhance commuter safety.

Conclusion

The projects and concerns highlighted above are feasible, impactful, and citizen-centric. Most were conceptualised with foresight but derailed due to administrative inertia or political shifts. The present administration has demonstrated resolve in executing large-scale reforms and development initiatives. It is urged to revisit and revive these proposals for sustainable urban planning, heritage preservation, and civic well-being.

The writer is a former Chief Engineer, PWD and former Chairman, Institution of Engineers (India), J&K State Centre

A wedding without a Mother

SHAHID HUSSAIN DAR
shahiddar643@gmail.com

In the hustle of wedding preparations, the fragrance of flowers fills our home. Laughter echoes through newly painted walls. Family and friends gather, clothes are being stitched, and invitations are being sent. But amidst all this joy, there is a silence only I can hear – a silence so loud it drowns the drums and songs.

Because my mother, Zainab Aziz, is not here.

On the 4th of May, I am getting married – a day she once dreamed of, longed for and prayed for. But the woman who waited for it the most won’t be here to witness it.

She left us on a Friday, right after the sacred Jum’ah prayer, on the 9th of December, 2022. She breathed her last in PGI Chandigarh – in my arms. In that one moment, life split in two: before and after. Since then, every joy has worn a shade of sorrow.

My mother was not just my world – she was its soul. A woman of such generosity that no beggar ever left our gate empty-handed. Some families came daily for milk, oil, or clothes – she never turned them away. She fed the hungry, clothed the poor, and treated every guest like royalty. She was the embodiment of warmth, sincerity, and silent sacrifice.

To her children, she was a fortress of love. She would often say, “One day, you will succeed.”

That one day is almost here – but her eyes won’t see it.

She was so fond of my marriage, always praying for it, dreaming of the day her son would step into a new life. She longed to see us move into our newly built home – what she called her dream mansion. Today, we live in it, but it feels hollow without her warmth.



Recently, my only sister, Shazia Zainab, achieved what every daughter dreams of – a government job in the health sector. My mother always prayed for it day and night. I still remember how her face lit up at the thought, her eyes glowing with dua. That prayer has been fulfilled – but she isn’t here to embrace my sister with pride.

We are trying our best to live by her values – to be honest, to be kind, to stay close to the Qur’an, to pray regularly, and to serve the poor. She always reminded us: “Never let pride touch your heart, and never let a needy hand return empty.”

After she passed, I was lost – emotionally shattered. But then came a ray of mercy: my Murshid, Mr. Abdul Salam Dar – a man as pure as a flowing spring. He embraced me with compassion, consoled

my aching soul, and guided me back to the light of true Islam. His love and support became a shelter in the storm. My mother always wanted to meet him, and although that meeting never happened, I believe their souls are connected through purity.

There are nights I wake up yearning for her scent. There are days I walk into rooms expecting her to call my name. And every day, I feel the ache of not being able to hug her – to hear her soothing voice, just one more time. But this world has its limits. What I can’t have here, I pray for in the hereafter.

Oh Lord of the universe – Ya Rabb, I have only one request:

Let me meet her in Jannah. Make me a noble soul whose deeds benefit her even there.

Allow me to serve her in the gardens of eternity, Just as she served us in this fleeting world.

As I take the most important step of my life, I carry a void inside me. While others will dance and celebrate, I will hold back my tears behind a smile. And in that moment, I will whisper to the sky:

Ammi, your son did it. But without you... it hurts.

May Allah elevate her to the highest ranks of Jannatul-Firdous. Aameen.

The writer, hailing from Bijbehara, is a “seeker of truth” and a “student of love and spirituality” under the guidance of Mr Abdul Salam Dar. This heartfelt piece is a tribute to his late mother, Zainab Aziz, whose absence has left a permanent void in his life.

Is it Assembly or Akhada in JK?

AHMAD AYAZ
ahmadayaz08@gmail.com

Assemblies and Parliament are not about muscle power. They are meant to represent the will of the people, frame laws, and hold the government accountable. These institutions are platforms for open debate, discussion, and informed decision-making on issues that shape our collective future.

They uphold democratic governance by checking executive overreach, allocating public resources, and safeguarding the rights and interests of the people. The strength of these institutions lies not in noise or aggression, but in the calibre, vision, and knowledge of those who occupy them.

Yet, over the last three days, what the people have witnessed in the J&K Assembly is nothing short of a dangal. Physical assaults by legislators, verbal chaos, and disorderly conduct have taken center stage. From the scuffle between rival party members to the storming of the Well of the House and even an attempted manhandling of marshals, the events have shaken public confidence in legislative propriety. Time that should have been used to address critical public issues has been squandered. Precious hours and taxpayer money have been wasted in theatrics rather than in thoughtful legislation.

When shouting matches, personal barbs, and physical scuffles take over, the sanctity of these institutions is eroded. The Assembly begins to resemble an akhada—a wrestling pit—where the goal seems to be domination, not deliberation.

People don’t vote to send gladiators. They elect representatives to solve problems, ask tough questions, and drive meaningful change. When legislatures descend into drama, the real casualty is public trust—and ultimately, the common citizen.

This recent spectacle in J&K should raise serious concerns about the quality of political culture and legislative behavior. It reflects a worrying trend where substance is being replaced with showmanship, and governance is becoming a stage for personal vendettas and ego battles. Such behavior not only weakens the legislative process but also diverts attention from the real issues facing the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The region has its share of challenges: unemployment, infrastructural deficiencies, rising cost of living, an uncertain busi-

ness climate, and long-standing political grievances. The Assembly must function as a forum to find solutions to these problems, not to deepen divisions or distract from duties.

A mature democracy requires mature leadership. Lawmakers must rise above petty politics and personal rivalries. They must set an example of civility, reason, and responsibility. It is only through focused deliberation and policy-making that the aspirations of the people can be fulfilled.

In this context, the role of political parties is equally critical. They must ensure that their members understand the gravity of their responsibilities. Internal party discipline, regular training on legislative norms, and mechanisms to curb unruly behavior are essential. Moreover, party leaderships must not glorify aggression as strength. Instead, they should reward constructive debate and sincere representation.

The Speaker of the Assembly, too, has a pivotal role in maintaining order and decorum. The chair must act impartially and firmly to ensure proceedings do not devolve into chaos. Suspension or penalties for unruly members may sometimes be necessary to uphold institutional dignity.

Media also plays a significant role in this dynamic. While reporting such incidents is necessary, sensationalism must be avoided. The focus should be on accountability, not just entertainment. Civic discourse must evolve, and the electorate should be made aware of their representatives’ behavior within the Assembly.

This episode is a moment of reckoning. It calls for introspection among politicians, political parties, institutions, and the public. Governance is serious business, and the Assembly must reflect that seriousness.

Ultimately, democracy is not just about elections alone; it’s about daily conduct, choices, and the spirit of service. If our legislative spaces turn into akhadas, we risk losing the very essence of representative governance. The real dangal is not fought in the well of the House, but in the arena of ideas, accountability, and public service.

As voters, people expect more—not just flashy speeches and tall promises, but dignified conduct, clarity of purpose, and competence. The real dangal isn’t between political opponents—it’s between governance and gimmickry. And it’s a contest where we, the people, must always be the referees.

Dhanuka Agritech to Host Landmark Scientific Horticulture Management Program in Kashmir Launch of Cutting-Edge Solutions to Empower Apple Growers

HT News Network

Srinagar, April 10, 2025 – In a landmark initiative to revolutionize horticulture and apple farming in the Kashmir Valley, Dhanuka Agritech Limited, one of India's leading agro-chemical companies, hosted a high-impact program on "Scientific Management of Apple" in Srinagar. It was honoured by the presence of Dr. M.K. Verma, Director of Agriculture, ICAR-CITH chief guest

The event spearheaded by Dr. R.G. Agarwal, Chairman Emeritus, Dhanuka Agritech Limited, and reflects the company's unwavering commitment to empowering Indian farmers through knowledge, cutting-edge technologies, and sustainable practices. It brings together leading scientists, policymakers, agribusiness leaders, and progressive farmers for

a full-day immersion into the future of apple cultivation—focusing on sustainable, disease-resilient, and high-yield farming powered by scientific innovation and farmer-centric technologies.

As part of this initiative, Dhanuka Agritech unveiled a specially designed product portfolio for the comprehensive management of apple orchards. Tailored to the specific needs of apple growers, the "Portfolio Launch for Apple Growers" introduces innovative solutions to combat prevalent challenges such as Apple Scab, red mite infestations, and premature leaf fall.

At the event, a blockbuster product, "MIYAKO", for the control of the spider mite was launched a revolutionary miticide from Nissan Chemicals, Japan. Other highlighted products were "DELIGHT" (Dodine 65% WP), and "CURSOR" (Flusilazole).



This robust portfolio not only ensures effective pest and disease management but also enhances fruit quality and profitability, reflecting Dhanuka's commitment to empowering farmers with world-class crop protection technologies and sustainable orchard solutions.

"India's food security must go hand-in-hand with nutritional security—and horticulture, especially in

regions like Kashmir, holds the key. With high-density apple plantations, our farmers can triple their productivity. At Dhanuka, we've always championed quality, innovation, and farmer-first solutions—from launching Omite in Kashmir to introducing greener, safer chemistries like DECIDE. Indian agriculture has a bright future, and our youth are its greatest asset. It's time we erase the

word 'poor' from 'poor farmer' by ensuring rural prosperity through science, technology, and strong industry-academia partnerships. The four wheels of agriculture—scientists, farmers, industry, and channel partners—must move in unison to drive India forward." – Dr. R.G. Agarwal, Chairman Emeritus, Dhanuka Agritech

"Kashmir has the ideal blend of talent, discipline, and climate to lead the way in apple cultivation. With high-density planting transforming traditional orchards—from 12–16 feet spacing to just 3–4 feet—we can boost productivity from 11 to over 60 tons per hectare. Apple is truly a golden fruit with global demand, and making it export-oriented is the need of the hour. As intensification grows, so will pest challenges—hence, the role of research, responsible pesticide use, and technology

transfer becomes even more critical. At CITH, we remain committed to empowering farmers with the right knowledge and practices to ensure quality and sustainability." – Dr. M.K. Verma, Director, ICAR-CITH

"Apple is a vital cash crop for Jammu & Kashmir, and the shift towards high-density planting offers immense potential. However, climate change is altering pest dynamics—spider mite infestations are a clear example. We must emphasize integrated pest management with tools like pheromone traps for leaf miners and sticky traps for fruit borers, alongside modern methods like drone spraying. Most importantly, pesticide use should always be judicious and based on economic threshold levels, with utmost attention to safety during application." – Dr. Manzoor A. Parry, Head, Entomology, SKUAST-K

THE ADMINISTRATION OF UNION TERRITORY OF LADAKH
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT
OFFICER LAHDC-KARGIL

Where an application has been received from Shri/ Smt. MOHD JAVED S/O MOHD IBRAIM R/O PASHKUM HPA Cancellation with P.N.B Handwara Srinagar . Now therefore, it notified for general information that objection, it any the proposed HPA cancellation of vehicle NO. JK07 -5221 Shall be filled in writing in the office of the ARTO Kargil with in a period of 07 days from date of publication of this notice in the Daily NewsPaper.
NO ARTO/ K /2020/
Date:- 10-04-25

CS pushes for tourism promotion of Reasi's iconic rail bridges

HT News Network

REASI, APRIL 10: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today conducted an exhaustive visit to two of the region's most iconic engineering landmarks; the Anji Khad Bridge and the world's highest railway bridge over the Chenab River in Reasi district.

Recognizing the immense potential of these architectural marvels, the Chief Secretary called for their immediate promotion as key tourist destinations. He emphasized that both sites, due to their engineering brilliance and scenic location, deserve to be integrated into the broader tourism circuit of the region. Highlighting the proximity of these sites to the holy shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, the Chief Secretary advised that the pilgrims visiting the cave shrine should be encouraged to also visit Anji Khad and the Chenab Rail Bridge.

This, he observed, would not only diversify the tourism offerings of the region but also serve as a catalyst for local economic development, generating employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for the local youth. In his interaction with the district administration, the Chief Secretary directed the officials to explore development of supporting infrastructure and visitor amenities around both the locations. This included provision for rest areas, guided tours, food stalls and other facilities aimed at enhancing the overall experience for the tourists and pilgrims alike. He also stressed the need for installing informative signage and display boards at the sites. These boards, he said, should highlight the unique technological and structural features of these bridges. By doing so, visitors would not only gain insights into the engineering prowess behind these projects but would also develop a sense of national pride and appreciation for the infrastructural advancements being made across the country, he added. The Chief Secretary was accompanied by Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; DC, Reasi; SSP, Reasi; senior officers from the Northern Railways and other local officers from civil administration and police department.

Shree Machail Mata Yatra 2025: Service providers asked to maintain high standards of hygiene, cleanliness during annual pilgrimage:SDM

HT News Network

KISHTWAR, APRIL 10: In line with the directions of Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan, the Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Padder Dr. Amit Kuma on Thursday convened a crucial meeting with hoteliers, paying guest operators, dhaba and restaurant operators and other business stakeholders to review preparedness for the upcoming Shree Machail Mata Yatra 2025. Speaking at the meeting, the SDM Padder emphasized the need for maintaining high standards of



cleanliness and hygiene in all accommodations and food establishments. The Business owners were directed to ensure clean bedsheets, blankets, and bathrooms for visiting pilgrims. The SDM informed attendees that dedicated sanitation teams would conduct regular inspec-

tions to monitor and maintain hygiene standards in and around lodging facilities throughout the Yatra period. Furthermore, owners of dhabs, restaurants, and retail shops were instructed to strictly adhere to approved rate lists for all items, which must be prominently dis-

played for customer transparency. The importance of offering courteous service, maintaining proper sanitation, and extending warm hospitality to the devotees was highlighted as key to ensuring a smooth and spiritually fulfilling experience for all pilgrims. The SDM reiterated that the collective efforts of the local business community will play a vital role in the success of the Shree Machail Mata Yatra 2025 and urged all stakeholders to cooperate fully with the administration in making the Yatra a safe, clean, and memorable journey for all participants.

DC inspects beautification, upkeep measures at historic Chowgan Ground Kishtwar

HT News Network

KISHTWAR, APRIL 10: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rajesh Kumar Shavan today conducted a detailed inspection of the historic Chowgan Ground. During the visit, the DC issued a string of directives aimed at enhance the aesthetic and cultural value of the place. The DC gave on-spot directions for expediting the ongoing works,

including the development of flower beds along the periphery of the ground, construction of entry gates, and other beautification measures to preserve and promote the heritage significance of Chowgan Ground. He directed for regulation of entry and grazing of cattle and restricting entrance of those with no grazing permit. In addition, the DC emphasized

the importance of cleanliness and directed the Chief Executive Officer Kishtwar Development Authority and the Executive Officer, Municipal Council to ensure comprehensive sanitation and maintenance of the area. The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by CEO KDA Rishi Kumar Sharma; EO Municipal Council, Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal and other concerned officers and officials.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that my cast and DOB has been incorrectly mentioned on my Adhar card 680539063089 as Mohammad Azan Mir C/o : Javaid Ahmad Mir DOB 05/02/2009 R/o: Jaggerpora Tehsil Handwara the correct name and DOB is Mohammad Azan Mir S/O: Javaid Ahmad Mir DOB 07/02/2009 R/o: Jaggerpora now I have applied for the correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection at UIDAI office/concerned authority/Tehsil Handwara within a period of 07 days after that no objection will be accepted.

Name: Mohammad Azan Mir
DOB: 07/02/2009
S/o: Javaid Ahmad Mir
R/o: Jaggerpora Tehsil Handwara Dist: Kupwara

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 ZAHEEN AHMAD MIR S/O KHURSHED AHMAD MIR R/O PUSNAG Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 31/08/2018 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 entertaine

Executive Magistrate
1st Class KREERI

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is inform to all general public through the medium of notice that i DILSHADA AKHTER W/O: NAZIR AHMAD DAR R/O CHAINABAL that my son Kamran ali dar is born on 5/03/2016 now i want to obtain dob certificate if any body have any objection regarding issuance of Dob certificate he she the context of bdo singpora with in period of seven days

Yours faith fully
Dilshada akhter
W/o: Nazir Ahmad dar
R/o. CHAINABAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is being notified that my name in my Aadhar Card having Aadhar card number this 880778217731 has been wrongly mentioned as Peer Raafiq Mushtaq my actual name as per school record is Raafiq Mushtaq Shah DOB 05/03/2015C/o Mushtaq Ahmad Shah Address : HARDUTOORU, achabal anantanag , j&k 192201

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on the name of ABDUL RASHID KHANDAY S/O SONAULLAH KHANADAY R/O LOOKWA BUDOO MOHALLAH . Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040014509 wants to be registered on the name MOHAMMAD SHAFI KHANDAY S/O SONAULLAH KHANDAY R/O KHISIPORA KREERI . 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 SHAFI KHANDAY
S/O ...SONAULLAH KHANADAY
R/O KHISIPORA KREERI
DISTT..... BARAMULLA

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 BHAT ZEHRAN S/O KHURSHED AHMAD BHAT R/O KHESIPORA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 22/05/2021 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 entertaine

Executive Magistrate
1st Class KREERI

اطلاع عام

میں کی نہر لطیف ڈار ولد لطیف احمد ڈار ساکن منوچ ڈہا ہندواڑہ ڈسٹرکٹ کیواڑہ ہرغاس و ماہ کو پذر یعدا اختیار کے آگاہ کرتا ہوں کہ مجھے سکول کاڈ میں تاریخ پیدائش 01/07/2010 کے کے ہے مجھے 20/08/2013 درج ہوئی ہے اب مجھے اسکی تصحیح کرانی مطلوب ہے اس ضمن میں اگر کسی بھی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی نذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر گزین لائٹ سنڈری سکول ہندواڑہ میں اپنا اعتراض درج کریں مبعاد ختم ہونے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

المشتر

ندیم لطیف ڈار

ولد لطیف احمد ڈار

ساکن واسکورہ ہندواڑہ ڈسٹرکٹ کیواڑہ

ازعدالت ایگزیکٹو

مجسٹریٹ درج اول ویلگام

درخواست بشیر احمد خان ولد محمد گراخان ساکن منوچ ڈہا ہندواڑہ ڈسٹرکٹ تاریخ پیدائش 07/02/1982

اشتہار بمراد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں سائل نے عدالت حد میں ایک درخواست بشمول بیان ملکی بغرض اندراج تاریخ پیدائش سرٹیفکیٹ مطابق کاڈ 07/02/1982 بشیر احمد خان ولد محمد گراخان ساکن ڈہا ہندواڑہ ڈسٹرکٹ کیواڑہ خاص و ماہ کو پذر یعدا اختیار مطلع میا جاسے کہ نسبت اندراج تاریخ پیدائش مذکورہ اگر کسی کو بھی نذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر دفتر حد میں پیش کریں مبعاد ختم ہونے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ درج اول ویلگام

ازعدالت ایگزیکٹو

مجسٹریٹ درج اول ویلگام

درخواست انجاء احمد ڈار ولد غلام محمد ڈار ساکن منوچ ڈہا ہندواڑہ ڈسٹرکٹ تاریخ پیدائش 19/12/2022

اشتہار بمراد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں سائل نے عدالت حد میں ایک درخواست بشمول بیان ملکی بغرض اندراج تاریخ پیدائش سرٹیفکیٹ مطابق کاڈ عائشہ جان 03/08/2021 اولاد دان انجاء احمد ڈار ساکن منوچ پیش کی ہے لہذا ہر خاص و عام کو پذر یعدا اختیار مطلع میا جاسے کہ نسبت اندراج تاریخ پیدائش مذکورہ اگر کسی کو بھی نذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر دفتر حد میں پیش کریں مبعاد ختم ہونے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ درج اول ویلگام

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, JAL SHAKTI (PHE) MECHANICAL DIVISION SOUTH AWANTIPORA

CANCELLATION NOTICE

Subject: Hiring of Light Motor Passenger Commercial vehicle on monthly basis along with Driver for official purpose in the office of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (South) Awantipora (Toyota Innova/Crysta).
Reference: This Office ENIT No.: 02 of 2025-26 of 04/04/2025 vide No.-: MDSA/77-80 Dated: 04/04/2025. Due to no response of the above subjected work advertised vide this office eNIT under reference, the date of downloading/uploading of the bids of this work are hereby extended upto 14/04/2025 (06:00 PM) and the opening date of the Technical Bids is 15/04/2025 (01:00 PM).
Other terms and conditions of the ENIT shall remain same..

DIPK-287/25
Date: Apr 10 2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Division
South Awantipora

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR Office Of the Executive Engineer JS-PHE Deptt. Rural Water Supply Division, Ganderbal/Srinagar H.Q: Duderhama Ganderbal.

Reference: This Office e-NIT No: 49/JS-PHE/RWSD/ Civil of 2024-25, issued Under No: JS-PHE/RWSD/Corrs/13250-74 , dated: 29.03.2025, Works figuring at S No. 03 bearing Tender id. 2025_PHE_275022_3.

CANCELLATION

Due to poor response, the work advertised / published vide above quoted reference bearing tender id mentioned above is hereby cancelled and shall be re-tendered very soon.

DIPK-286/25
Date: Apr 10 2025

Sd/-
Er. Samiullah Beigh
Executive Engineer JS-PHE,
RWS Division Ganderbal/Sgr.



DDC Pulwama chairs DLRC meeting Focus on financial inclusion and infrastructure expansion

■ HT News Network

PULWAMA, APRIL 10: To assess the performance of banks and line departments under various financial and developmental parameters, a District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting for the third quarter of the financial year 2024-25 was held today at Circuit House Pulwama under the chairmanship of District Development Commissioner (DDC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom. At the outset, the Lead District Manager Pulwama presented a detailed report through a PowerPoint presentation, highlighting the district's banking performance.

The chair was apprised that Pulwama has recorded a year-on-year growth of 6.32% in deposits, while advances and CD ratio grew by 9.49% and 2.98% respectively. The district's CD ratio stands at 110.65%, ranking among the highest in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. During the review, Dr. Basharat examined the sector-wise performance of banks against allocated targets and directed all concerned banking institutions to identify existing gaps across sectors and prepare a comprehensive strategy to address them during the current financial year. Emphasizing the importance of



financial inclusion, the DDC instructed the officers of line departments and banking institutions to ensure saturation of all Government Sponsored Schemes, with a particular

focus on extending benefits to the marginalised and underprivileged sections of society. Banks were also directed to augment the ATM infrastructure across the

district to ensure equitable access to financial services for the entire population. On the issue of NPA management, banks, particularly the ED Bank were directed to take prompt corrective measures and prioritize efforts to reduce the burden of Non-Performing Assets in the district. The progress under Smart Card distribution under Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme was also reviewed. The DDC instructed the banking institutions to expedite the distribution of smart cards and achieve full saturation on priority. As part of the proceedings, the Potential Linked Credit Plan for the financial year 2025-26 was formally

launched, outlining sectoral credit potential and investment opportunities. The meeting concluded with an emphasis on collaborative efforts between banks and government departments to drive inclusive growth, improve financial service delivery and enhance credit outreach in the district of Pulwama. The meeting was attended by representatives from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Lead District Manager (J&K Bank), other banks operational in district and Director RSETI and officers from various line departments, forming part of the committee framework.

DC Kupwara reviews progress under PM Surya Ghar- Muft Bijli Yojana

■ HT News Network

KUPWARA, APRIL 10: In order to review the latest progress achieved under PM Surya Ghar - Muft Bijli Yojana in the district, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today convened a meeting of concerned officers and other stakeholders at D.C Office, here. Addressing the meeting, the DC stressed upon all stakeholders to work with added zeal and close coordination to ensure timely disposal of the applications received under the Muft Bijli Yojana so that the people are benefitted under the scheme. She directed the concerned officers to hold joint camps consisting of KPDC, Vendors, Bankers & other stakeholders to facilitate and guide the consumers about



the scheme so that they do not face any inconvenience. It was informed that 787 applications have been received for installation of the solar systems; of which 312 are under process and 18 solar roof top systems stand installed. Ayushi stressed upon the concerned officers to ensure disposal of all 312 pending

cases within the period of 10 days positively. She impressed upon the KPDC officers to intensify the efforts to ensure the scheme reaches maximum number of households so that they are benefitted with the renewable energy solutions which will both reduce their electricity bills and ease power woes.

Nasha Mukt J&K Abhiyan: DC presides over IEC campaign at GDC Bandipora

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, APRIL 10: As part of IEC campaign against drug abuse under Nasha Mukt Jammu and Kashmir, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri today presided over an awareness programme at Government Degree College (GDC) Bandipora.

Speaking on the occasion, DC highlighted the pivotal role of parents in identifying early symptoms of drug abuse and emphasized the importance of vigilant monitoring in combating the menace.

He stressed on promoting strong social values and bonding among youth to prevent them from falling prey to substance abuse.

"Children are the

future of our society and it is imperative for them to uphold moral and social values to secure a healthy and progressive future," DC added.

Qadri said that the district administration is conducting a series of IEC campaigns at the panchayat level on every Monday and in municipalities and educational institutions on every Thursday, focused on vulnerable age groups to raise awareness at the grassroots level and ensure effective rehabilitation of individuals affected by drug addiction.

DC encouraged students to actively participate in awareness initiatives and act as ambassadors in spreading the message against drug abuse among their peers, families and localities.

On the occasion, resource persons from various departments deliberated on the social, economic, and medical impacts of drug addiction, highlighting the collective responsibility in eradicating this social evil.

The programme witnessed the participation of the Principal GDC Bandipora Prof. (Dr.) Gazala Firdous, college faculty, students, and other concerned.

It is worth mentioning that, under the Nasha Mukt Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan, district administration Bandipora on Thursday organised similar IEC campaigns across municipalities and educational institutions throughout the district to strengthen the fight against drug abuse.

One-day technical seminar on 'Sustainable Solutions in Animal Husbandry' held at Budgam

■ HT News Network

BUDGAM, APRIL 10: A successful one-day Technical Seminar titled 'Sustainable Solutions in Animal Husbandry' was today held at the Conference Hall of Chief Animal Husbandry office in Budgam.

The Director of the Animal Husbandry Department Kashmir, Dr. Parvinder Singh Sudan graced the event as the chief guest. The seminar aimed to connect cutting-edge research with practical application in the livestock and poultry industries, bringing together leading experts from academic institutions and the poultry sector to discuss sustainable and science-based approaches to animal rearing.

The Director commended the seminar for promoting collaboration and the adoption of innovative, research-backed methods to ensure the long-term sustainability, productivity, and welfare of animals in the region. Dr. Asif Bashir Shikari from SKUAST-Kashmir discussed the potential of hydroponics for increasing fodder availability in Kashmir, emphasizing its resource efficiency. Dr. Basharat Maqbool Wani of Maharashtra Feeds addressed the challenges and disease management in Kashmir's poultry industry, stressing the need for better disease control and farmer education. Additionally, Dr. Ghulam Rasool Bhat from FVSc provided strategies for diagnosing and managing repeat breeding in cattle to improve reproductive health.

GDC Ganderbal Organizes Seminar on "Role of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in Nation Building and Constitutional Development"

■ HT News Network



Srinagar: The NSS Unit of Government Degree College (GDC), Ganderbal, on Thursday organized a one-day seminar on the theme "Role of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in Nation Building and Constitutional Development" to commemorate the birth anniversary of the architect of the Indian Constitution, Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar. The event was held under the patronage of Prof. (Dr.) Fouzia Fatima, Principal of the college, who also graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. In her presidential address, Prof. Fatima highlighted the immense contributions of Dr. Ambedkar towards the upliftment of the downtrodden sections of society. She praised his visionary leadership in laying the foundations of a democratic, inclusive, and just India through the Constitution. The seminar commenced with a warm welcome and opening remarks by Dr. Jamsheeda Akhter, Head of the Department of Urdu and NSS Programme Officer-I, who served as the moderator of the event. In her address, she paid rich tributes to Dr. Ambedkar and highlighted his invaluable contributions as a social reformer, jurist, and principal architect of the Indian Constitution. She emphasized how Dr. Ambedkar's vision laid the foundation for an inclusive, democratic, and just society. The highlight of the seminar was the thought-provoking and insightful lecture delivered by Prof. (Dr.) Gull Mohammad Wani, renowned academician and guest speaker. Dr. Wani engaged the audience with a detailed exposition of Dr. Ambedkar's enduring legacy in constitutionalism, democratic governance, and social reform. He urged the students and faculty to draw inspiration from Dr. Ambedkar's life and work in their pursuit of academic excellence and civic responsibility. The seminar served as a meaningful platform to revisit the enduring relevance of Dr. Ambedkar's ideas and to inspire young minds to carry forward his legacy of justice, equality, and constitutional morality.

DC Kulgam Inspects Ongoing Works at JNV Site and Transit Accommodations in Mirhama,

■ Farooq Rather.

KULGAM APRIL 10: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Athar Aamir Khan (IAS) Kulgam today conducted an extensive inspection of ongoing developmental work projects at the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) construction site in Mirhama, Kulgam.

It was informed that the project titled, Construction of Phase A and B works at JNV Kulgam, is being developed at a cost of Rs. 35.30 crore. The school is coming up on 143 kanals of land allotted specifically for the purpose in Mirhama. During the visit, the DC took detailed stock of the physical progress of the project and issued directions to expedite the pace of work while ensuring quality standards are maintained. The Deputy Commissioner also visited the transit accommodation which is under the execution of R&B Department at Mirhama. The project comprises 12 blocks housing a



total of 192 flats. Out of these, 3 blocks have been completed so far. The transit accommodation project is being developed at an estimated cost of Rs. 28.40 crore. Accompanying the DC were ADC, Viqar Ahmad Giri, ACR, Riyaz Ahmad Shah, Executive Engineers, Tehsildar Kulgam and other officers.

Dr Darakhshan launches Mobile Heart Clinic at Pulwama

■ HT News Network

Srinagar April 10 Chairperson of Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board Dr. Syed Darakhshan Andrabi today inaugurated the 'Indian-Oil Heart-Clinic on Wheels' in Hall Pulwama. This unique initiative has the collaboration of Gauri Koul Foundation with the Indian Oil Corporation Limited under Corporate Social Responsibility. The prominent persons present on the occasion included Member Parliament Mian Altaf Ahmad, eminent cardiologist of the country & the head of Gauri Koul Foundation Dr. Upendra Koul, Arif Akhtar (GM-HR, CSRI OCL), M A Pathan (Formerly CEO IOCL), Dr Zubair Saleem & Businessman Mushtaq Chaya. This launching

event was held at an impressive function at Hall hamlet of Pulwama. A large number of local personalities, medicos, civil society representatives were also present. Speaking on the occasion Dr. Andrabi congratulated Dr. U. Kaul & IOC for this noble initiatives. "Such CSR projects play important role in helping people at the grassroots.

On wheels cardiology clinic will be a great boon for the ailing people. We have to think out of box to upgrade and enhance the medical facilities for the people", said Dr. Andrabi. She hailed the efforts of Dr. Kaul in helping the patients from his home place out of turn and also for his extensive awareness and rehabilitation initiatives.

Handwara Police Strengthens Community Ties Through Lok Darbar Initiative

■ DR. AB QAYOOM

Handwara, Apr. 10: In a significant move to enhance public outreach and foster stronger police-community relations, Handwara Police, under the leadership of SSP Handwara Shri Mushtaq Ahmad Chowdhury (JKPS), on Thursday organised Thana Diwas/Lok Darbar events across the police district. The central event was held at Police Station Qalamabad, where SSP Chowdhury personally interacted with members of the public, reaffirming the police's commitment to transparency, accountability, and citizen-centric policing. Similar events were simultaneously conducted at other police stations across the district. The Lok Darbar provided a platform for citizens to express their grievances, share concerns, and seek resolution of issues related to law and order, civic safety, and policing. SSP Chowdhury assured the attendees of timely and impartial action on all genuine complaints and stressed the



importance of active community par-

ticipation in maintaining peace and har-

mony. Senior officers including SDPO Handwara, DySP DAR, SHOs, DOs, and IOs were also present at various venues to listen to public issues and provide on-the-spot solutions. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from locals, who appreciated the initiative and welcomed the police's proactive approach. "Thana Diwas is our way of connecting directly with the people. It is our responsibility to ensure that every citizen is heard, and their issues are addressed fairly and swiftly," SSP Chowdhury said, highlighting the department's focus on inclusive and responsive policing. The police also used the occasion to raise awareness on vital issues such as women's safety, drug abuse prevention, and traffic regulations, urging the public to support ongoing efforts for a peaceful and crime-free society. The initiative concluded on a positive note, with a vote of thanks to the participants and a renewed pledge by Handwara Police to uphold the principles of service, integrity, and public trust.





Rajouri Day celebrations District admin hosts Trekking Expedition to promote adventure tourism

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, APRIL 10: As part of the ongoing Rajouri Day celebrations, Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma today flagged off a trekking expedition from Chenani Bagla aimed at promoting adventure tourism and highlighting the scenic splendor of the district.

The trekking event was organized by the Chief Executive Officer Rajouri Development Authority Mohammad Fareed Kohli and witnessed enthusiastic participation from officials and nature enthusiasts alike. The route charted out for the expedition took the trekkers from the serene Chenani Bagla to the culturally rich village of Mankote and the revered Shiv Cave, culminating at the picturesque Thandikassi Park.

Additional District Development Commissioner Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa, along with other district and sectoral officers, also participated in the trek, showcasing their commitment to promoting eco-tourism and healthy lifestyles.

Speaking on the occasion, the DDC emphasized the potential of Rajouri as a hub for adventure tourism and stated that such initiatives not only foster community engagement but also bring attention to the natural and cultural treasures of the region.

The event formed a vital part of the Rajouri Day festivities, celebrating the spirit, heritage, and natural beauty of the district.

Government Degree college Frisal Organised an Awareness Program.

■ Farooq Rather

Kulgam:10, April Government Degree College Frisal organized an Awareness program for 6th Sem and pass out students of the College for the registration in PM Internship Scheme 2025 today on 10th of April 2025. In the program Dr. Ishtiyak Ahmad Shah, Principal of the College deliberated on the process of Registration for the same and emphasized the students to avail the benefits of such schemes from the Govt of India so that they will become the skilled human resource for the society which is good for their own future and for the betterment of nation. Dr. Shah said that Gan-hiji was in favour of such schemes as he was in favour of that the education must be an insurance against the unemployment which can become true by such schemes. In the program Dr. Muzifar Yousuf (H.O.D.English) said that such schemes of the govt. are the need of time. The students and the faculty members of the college attended the program and was concluded with the vote of thanks presented by Miss Mehnaza jan (A.P.Economics)

Food Safety team conducts market checking in Kulgam to ensure consumer safety.

■ Farooq Rather.



Kulgam, Apr 10 : In an endeavor to uphold consumer safety and quality standards of food products, the Food Safety Department in Kulgam has intensify market checking operations in various areas of Kulgam district. An official told that "Today market checking efforts were intensified in the Nehama, Manzgam, and Aharabal areas of district Kulgam, led by the Intelligence cum Legal Cell of the Kashmir Division in collaboration with the Food Safety team of district Kulgam. During the inspection, 11 Food Business Operators (FBOs) were found to be in violation of Section 69 of the Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSA), 2006, which pertains to penalties for contravening food safety regulations", he said. "Additionally, 5 samples were collected for further analysis, likely to verify compliance with safety standards. This operation reflects a concerted effort to ensure food safety and regulatory adherence in the region", he added.

Police seeks help in ascertaining whereabouts of suspect involved in theft case

■ Farooq Rather.

Srinagar April 10: Srinagar police seeks help of general public in ascertaining the whereabouts of a suspect involved in case FIR No 13/2025 registered under sections 331(3), 305 BNS of Police Station Rajbagh. The suspect is wanted in connection with theft at hotel Sterling Rajbagh, and we seek your support in locating him and assisting in any identification processes that may be required for further legal actions. Your prompt cooperation will be highly appreciated.

Deputy Commissioner inspects Waste Management Site at Katra

■ HT News Network

REASI, APRIL 10: Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik today inspected the Municipal waste management site at Village Kundrorian near Tan Talab in Katra to address the concerns of residents living in the vicinity regarding ongoing waste management operations being conducted by Municipal Committee Katra.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner engaged directly with the affected residents to understand their grievances and assure them of the administration's commitment to environmental safety. She also conducted a detailed inspection of the ongoing bio-mining project, which is focused on processing legacy waste at the site.

Emphasizing the importance of adhering to the timelines set in the project's contractual framework, the Deputy Commis-



sioner sought detailed information about each phase of the bio-mining process. She stressed the need for efficiency, transparency, and accountability throughout the operation.

The Deputy Commissioner discussed

comprehensive waste management strategies with officials and outlined the importance of adhering to scheduled implementation timelines. She reaffirmed that scientific waste management and timely disposal are among the district adminis-

tration's highest priorities.

The district administration remains committed to developing a sustainable, long-term waste management framework that prioritizes public health, environmental protection, and community well-being. EO MC Katra and other municipality officials accompanied the Deputy Commissioner. Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik today inspected the Municipal waste management site at Village Kundrorian near Tan Talab in Katra to address the concerns of residents living in the vicinity regarding ongoing waste management operations being conducted by Municipal Committee Katra.

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ADDC reviews arrangements for Rajouri Day Celebration

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, APRIL 10: To ensure smooth and grand celebration of the Rajouri Day, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa today chaired a meeting of officers to review the preparations and arrangements for the event and the series of activities preceding the main function.

The meeting held detailed discussions on various aspects including installation of stalls, organization of cultural programmes, law and order management, seating arrangements, barricading, fire emergency preparedness, traffic regulation, and overall security measures.

ADDC Dr. Thapa directed the concerned departments to work in close coordination to ensure that all



arrangements are put in place well in time. He emphasized the importance of showcasing local art and culture through the cultural programs and directed for proper planning and rehearsals.

The layout and proper installation of stalls representing different departments, schemes and local

crafts was also reviewed. The ADDC instructed the officers to maintain the aesthetics and ensure visitor-friendly arrangements. With regard to law and order, traffic, and fire safety, the concerned departments were directed to deploy adequate personnel and make all necessary arrangements to deal with

any eventuality. Special instructions were given for ensuring smooth vehicular movement and crowd management.

The ADDC urged all stakeholders to work with dedication and in a coordinated manner to make Rajouri Day celebrations a grand success.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, CP Kotwal; Programme Officer ICDS, Mohd Fareed Kohli and other district and sectoral officers. The meeting held detailed discussions on various aspects including installation of stalls, organization of cultural programmes, law and order management, seating arrangements, barricading, fire emergency preparedness, traffic regulation, and overall security measures.

Department of Floriculture holds Interaction, Awareness programme with Floriculture growers, entrepreneurs

■ HT News Network

Srinagar April 10: In a significant step towards strengthening the Floriculture sector and promoting sustainable livelihoods in the Kashmir Valley, Mr. Shakeel ur Rehman (IAS), Director Floriculture, Kashmir, convened an interactive session with Floriculture growers and entrepreneurs today 09-04-2025 at the Malis Training School, Rajbagh, Srinagar. The event saw enthusiastic participation from a large number of growers and entrepreneurs representing all ten districts of the Kashmir division, offering them a vital platform to exchange experiences, discuss challenges, and propose innovative ideas for advancing the sector. Highlighting the potential of Floriculture in transforming the economic landscape of

Kashmir, Mr. Shakeel ur Rehman emphasized the department's unwavering commitment to fostering growth in this vibrant industry. "Our vision is to position Floriculture as an employment generation and livelihood enhancement enterprise across the Kashmir division. By empowering growers and entrepreneurs with modern techniques and robust support systems, we aim to unlock new avenues of prosperity while showcasing the Valley's floral potential on a commercial scale," he remarked. To realize this vision, the department has finalized an ambitious Rs. 8 crore action plan under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) for the year 2025-26. This initiative is designed to bolster commercial floriculture by enhancing infrastructure for protected cultivation.

Police facilitates interactive meeting with retired police personnel in Kulgam

■ Farooq Rather.

Kulgam April 10: Police in Kulgam facilitated an interaction meeting with the retired Police officers & officials at District Police Lines Kulgam. The meeting was chaired by SSP Kulgam Shri Sahil Sarangal-IPS. Besides, Addl SP NHW Qazigund Shri Mumtaz Ali Bhatti-JKPS, DySP DAR Kulgam Shri Mohd Ayoub Rather were also present on the occasion. At the outset of the meeting, retired police officers appreciated Kulgam Police for organizing such meetings to review the progress of welfare measures being taken by Police. During the meeting various issues were raised which were patiently heard by the SSP Kulgam. SSP Kulgam assured them that their genuine problems will be resolved on priority. He further added that J&K Police is always keen for the welfare of retired police personnel and their family members.



At conclusion, officers present expressed gratitude for their participation in the meeting and added that Jammu and Kashmir Police will never forget their sacrifices while discharging the duties. Officers appreciated the role played by them by spending their golden years in the service of this department & emphasised on them to consider police department as a family and feel free to contact in case of any exigency.

Scuffle In J&K Assembly Complex: AAP Protests Against PDP, BJP

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, Apr 10: AAP on Thursday held demonstrations against the PDP and the BJP over a scuffle involving its MLA Mehraj Malik with legislators of the saffron party in the assembly complex in Jammu.

Led by Malik and carrying placards against the BJP and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), AAP activists demanded action against those who perpetrated the scuffle. A scuffle broke out between BJP members and AAP MLA Malik on the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly premises on Wednesday after he allegedly made some objectionable remarks.

The lone AAP legislator was also involved in a heated exchange with PDP members led by Arif Amin, who were present outside the House, after they objected to his remarks against former chief minister Mufti Mohammed Sayeed, prompting the security personnel to intervene.

"I was raising issues concerning the people of Jammu and Kashmir. While the House



was not allowed to function, thereby failing to represent the wishes of the people, the chief minister, despite the House being in session, was in Srinagar with them (Union Home Minister Amit Shah and others)," Malik told reporters.

He vowed to represent the people and their aspirations, even if the House was disrupted. "I speak for all — Hindus, Muslims. If Prime Minister Narendra Modi can talk about Muslims, why can't I talk about

Hindus?" Hitting out at the BJP, he questioned why the saffron party did not remove liquor shops near temples if they truly supported the causes of Hindus. "If I raise such issues, am I hurting Hindu sentiments? The BJP is playing the religious card to win elections." Malik also slammed Sayeed as "culpable" for bringing the BJP to power in Jammu and Kashmir.

"I stand by my statements on Mufti Mohammad Sayeed... They cannot scare

me... He has betrayed the Muslim community. It is because of Mufti Sayeed that I am in this condition and the BJP is resorting to hooliganism. If my voice is being suppressed in the House and I am being attacked outside the House, it is because of him," the AAP lawmaker said.

On the other hand, BJP MLA Vikram Randhawa lashed out at Malik and demanded action, even calling for invoking the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) against him. "He used derogatory words. He is always abusing Hindus. We will not tolerate this..." Randhawa told reporters.

Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma said the AAP MLA had "lowered parliamentary standards by behaving like a ruffian".

"I moved a breach of privilege against him in the House regarding his remarks on Hindus but nothing was done," he said.

"If you hurt the feelings of Hindus now, you will not only be taken to task in the Assembly but confronted on the streets, too. No one will tolerate this nonsense," Sharma said. (AGENCIES)





DDC Poonch inspects Snow Clearance Operations on Historical Mughal Road

Meets with DDC Shopian at Pir ki Gali to discuss reopening of Vital Link between Pir Panjal Region and Kashmir Valley

HT News Network

POONCH, APRIL 10: District Development Commissioner Vikas Kundal today conducted an on-site inspection of the snow clearance operations along the historical Mughal Road, assessing the progress made up to Pir ki Gali. During this crucial visit, DDC Kundal met with Deputy Commissioner Shopian Shishir Gupta to discuss the feasibility of reopening this vital link that connects the Pir Panjal region with the Kashmir Valley. The reopening is essential for local communities, facilitating access and promoting economic activity. Accompanied by SSP Poonch, SDM Surankote, and officers from BRO, Traffic Police, DC Kundal and his team traveled approximately 43.6 kilometers along the Mughal Road from the Poonch side. He emphasized the urgency of expediting



snow clearance efforts to restore access following fresh snowfall today. Highlighting the historical significance of the road, DC Kundal directed the executing agency to ensure that the road is made traffic-worthy at the earliest. He also stressed the importance of maintaining safety protocols on slippery and sliding spots prior to the opening of traffic. "We understand the importance of this road for the residents and businesses in the region," said DC Kundal. "We are committed to ensuring that the snow clearance operations are completed promptly to facilitate safe travel." The Mughal Road is not only a historical route but also serves as a strategic lifeline for the region. Early access to the Kashmir Valley will benefit farmers, traders, and tourists alike, fostering economic growth and enhancing the quality of life for residents of Poonch.

Awareness, registration drive launched for Platform Workers in Ramban

HT News Network

RAMBAN, APRIL 10: The Labour Department Ramban, in line with the directives of Deputy Commissioner Bas-eer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary and under the guidance of the Office of the Labour Commissioner J&K, has launched a 10 day comprehensive awareness and registration drive to enroll platform workers on the e-Shram portal.

The initiative is aimed at bringing workers from the unorganized sector under the ambit of social security benefits.

As part of this ongoing campaign, a dedicated registration camp was organized at Maitra. The camp was coordinated by DEO Tanveer Ahmed and it facilitated on-spot registration of 12 platform workers including parcel delivery workers and Commission based Workers on the e-Shram portal here at Bus Stand. The enrollment will enable the workers to access various welfare schemes.

Meanwhile, the Labour Department conducted awareness drives across the Ramban Municipal area, with a particular focus on hotels and restaurants to identify and educate platform workers associated with these establishments.

Assistant Labour Commissioner Amit Kumar urged the eligible platform workers and members of the general public to register themselves on the e-Shram portal to avail the social security benefits provided by the government.

"The e-Shram portal, launched by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, is a national database of unorganized workers. It offers a range of benefits including access to social security schemes, employment opportunities, and financial inclusion," he stated.

The portal features a Universal Account Number (UAN) linked to Aadhaar, ensuring seamless access to different benefits.

SBI opens new branch at Neeli Nallah DDC Chairperson welcomes initiative

HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, APRIL 10: District Development Council Chairperson Udhampur Lal Chand today attended the inaugural ceremony of the State Bank of India branch at Neeli Nallah that was officially inaugurated by Krishan Sharma, Chief General Manager, SBI Chandigarh Circle, in the presence of Vimal Kishore, General Manager, SBI Chandigarh Circle, accompanied by Ravindra Kumar Gupta, Deputy General Manager, SBI Administrative Office Jammu; and Rajeev Kumar Chhabra, Regional Manager, SBI Regional Business Office - 5 Jammu.

During the event, the bank authorities encouraged attendees to open saving accounts with the branch and explore various deposit accounts, such as fixed deposits, savings accounts, and government deposit schemes. The bank officials also promoted loan products, including Kisan Credit



Card, home loans, car loans, and personal loans. Government-Driven Social Security Schemes: The focus was on government-driven social security schemes, including Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana and Atal

Pension Yojana.

The inauguration marks a significant milestone in the region's banking landscape, providing residents with convenient access to banking services and promoting financial inclusion. With this new branch, SBI aims to enhance

its presence in the area and cater to the growing banking needs of the community.

At the conclusion of the event, the chairman of DDC Udhampur, Lal Chand, congratulated the local inhabitants of the area for the development and urged them to maintain their accounts in the nearby branch, which will provide a boost to the economy of the area. The chairman directed the staff of the bank to make the rural public aware of all the government and banking schemes from time to time. District Development Council Chairperson Udhampur Lal Chand today attended the inaugural ceremony of the State Bank of India branch at Neeli Nallah that was officially inaugurated by Krishan Sharma, Chief General Manager, SBI Chandigarh Circle, in the presence of Vimal Kishore, General Manager, SBI Chandigarh Circle, accompanied by Ravindra Kumar Gupta, Deputy General Manager, SBI Administrative Office.

GDC Vijaypur organises series of contests for students

HT News Network

SAMBA, APRIL 10: Government Degree College Vijaypur Organised today organised a series of contests to assess students' perception on a wide range of subjects.

An essay writing competition was hosted on the theme 'The Consequences of Drug Abuse' under the aegis of Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan.

The Participants were encouraged to express their views on the detrimental impact of drug abuse on individuals, families and civil society, also suggesting effective strategies for prevention and control. The first position was secured by Palak Panotra of B. A Sem-IV, the second position was secured by Amit Kumar of B. A Sem VI and third was secured by Shravan Jamwal of B. A Sem II.

As part of the series of activities being organized to celebrate B. R. Ambedkar Jayanti, Department of History, in collaboration with NSS Unit (KHIDMAT) organized slogan

writing on the theme "Constitutionalism and Rule of Law". The event was organized to make students aware of the contribution of B. R. Ambedkar in the Indian Constitution. NSS volunteers participated in the event with great enthusiasm and zeal.

The students wrote meaningful slogans, conveying information regarding life, works and contribution of B. R. Ambedkar towards constitution making and social causes.

Meanwhile, in continuation to the series of activities being organized under Poshan Pakhwada 2025, Department of English in collaboration with NSS unit (KHIDMAT) of Government Degree College, Vijaypur organized slogan writing competition on the theme "Management of Nutrition for Healthy Lifestyle".

The 1st position was bagged by Sharavan Jamwal of B.A. sem. II, second position was secured by Bhawani Singh Slathia of B.A. sem. II while third position was held by Risha of B.A. sem. II.

Social Welfare Department organises Divyang Registration Camp at Reasi town

HT News Network

REASI, APRIL 10: Social Welfare Department, in collaboration with ALIMCO, a central agency, organized an assessment camp for Divyangs and Senior Citizens at Tehsil Social Welfare Office, Reasi.

The aim of the camp was to assess and register the targeted Divyangs with 40% or more benchmark disability and Senior Citizens with age of 60 years and above under ADIP and RYV schemes respectively. Such beneficiaries in turn shall be provided free of cost equipment and appliances which includes hearing aids, wheelchairs, tricycles, artificial limbs, walking sticks, motorised tricycles etc. by ALIMCO.

Speaking about the camp, District Social Welfare Officer, Sachin Sharma addressed that this scheme is for disabled citizens of BPL category. He was told that by taking Aadhaar card, ration card, UDID Card and photographs from the divyangs, the eligible beneficiaries are being registered on the concerned portal. He further informed that such camps shall be continued till 11th April across various locations of district Reasi which were started on 05th April with an aim to register maximum number of eligible citizens for such government schemes to make an inclusive society.

It should be noted that 112 disabled and senior citizens were registered in this assessment camp.

GDC Ramgarh celebrates birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

HT News Network

SAMBA, APRIL 10: NSS unit "Prabha" of Government Degree College, Ramgarh solemnly observed the birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, by organizing a pledge ceremony dedicated to upholding the values enshrined in the Constitution.

The event was held under the overall guidance of the College Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Meeru Abrol and coordination of Prof. Brham Dutt, Programme Officer of the NSS Unit of the college. The event aimed to honor Dr. Ambedkar's legacy and reaffirm the commitment of students and staff to constitutional values such as justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity. The pledge emphasized the significance of safeguarding the democratic principles that form the foundation of the nation.

In her address, Prof. (Dr.) Meeru Abrol reflected on the enduring relevance of Dr. Ambedkar's vision and his pivotal role in shaping a just and inclusive India. She encouraged students to not only understand their rights as citizens but also to carry forward their responsibilities in building a better society.

Faculty members present at the event included Dr. Snobar, Prof. Sandeep Kumari, Ashok Kumar, Dr. Shivali Panigotra, Dr. Neeraj Bargotra, Dr. Sush-eel Kumar, Darpan Malhotra, Priya Sharma, Anjali Devi and Sayema, along with the students.

Together, they took a collective pledge to uphold the dignity of the Constitution and promote unity, harmony, and respect for the democratic framework of the country.

Two-day mega Flower Show concludes at Udhampur

HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, APRIL 10: The two-day Flower Show organized under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai here at the scenic Jakhani Park, concluded today amid an overwhelming response from the public.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from people from across the district, who turned up in large numbers to admire the vibrant display of blooming flowers and enjoy a host of cultural activities.

On the concluding day, Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh graced the occasion as the chief Guest. He lauded the efforts of the different departments for successful completion of the event. He said that such a colorful and meaningful event not only celebrates nature but also promotes social awareness through creative expression.

The second day of the Flower Show came alive with captivating cultural performances presented by local and Information department artists and students.

The major highlight of the day was a powerful Nukkad Natak focusing on the ill effects of drug abuse, which left a lasting impact on the audience and emphasized the importance of a drug-free society.

The event concluded on a high note, leaving the visitors with beautiful memories and a renewed appreciation for nature and community-driven awareness initiatives.

The event was attended by Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Dr Umesh Shan and district heads of other departments besides local people, Students of various educational institutions.

Director Agriculture Jammu takes stock of farming activities in District Doda

HT News Network

DODA, APRIL 10: Director Agriculture Jammu Arvinder Singh Reen conducted a comprehensive tour of District Doda to assess field-level functioning and engage directly with the farming community. During the visit, the Director Agriculture interacted with progressive farmers in the Assar area, gaining firsthand insights into their experiences, challenges, and innovations. He appreciated their efforts and encouraged them to adopt modern, sustainable agricultural practices to boost productivity and income. The Director Agriculture also held a detailed review meeting with the field functionaries at the Agriculture Complex Doda. Emphasizing the need for dedication, punctuality, and zeal in service delivery, he assured the field staff of full support from the Directorate. He further directed the officials to ensure timely completion of all assigned tasks as per government guidelines and timelines. The Director Agriculture was accompanied by Chief Agriculture Officer Doda, Anil Gupta, along with district officers, sub-divisional officers and field-level staff.

Artificial Lake, Forest Guest House inaugurated at Jai Valley amid completion of Electrification project

HT News Network

BHADERWAH, APRIL 10: In a significant step towards the development of eco-tourism infrastructure, District Doda's famous tourism destination Jai Valley added new dimensions to its charm with a newly built Artificial Lake, a Forest Guest House and completion of electrification project. The amenities were inaugurated by District Development Council Chairman Dhananther Singh Kotwal in

the presence of Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh, the other day.

The electrification project executed by electric Division Doda marks a major milestone in improving basic amenities in this picturesque tourist destination of the Chenab Valley.

The construction of the artificial Lake project is expected to enhance the aesthetic appeal of the valley and boost the local economy through increased footfall of nature



lovers and adventure seekers. The artificial lake is part of the district administration's

broader efforts to transform Jai Valley into a premier eco-tourism hotspot in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

Adding to the green initiatives, DDC Chairman Dhananther Singh Kotwal and District Development Commissioner Harvinder Singh also planted lavender saplings at the newly developed lavender nursery in the serene Valley. The nursery will not only promote aromatic plant cultivation but also generate livelihood opportunities for the local popu-

lation. Lavender farming has been identified as a key component of the Aroma Mission, and the initiative aims to make Doda a leading hub for lavender-based agro-economy. The event was also attended by DDC Vice Chairperson Sangeeta Rani, Additional Deputy Commissioner Bhaderwah Sunil Bhutyal and other officials and stakeholders. The collective efforts of the administration and public representatives reflect a strong commitment to sustainable development.





UK, India look to boost economic ties, secure FTA

AGENCIES

LONDON/NEW DELHI, APR 10 (UNI)

The UK Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves held talks with Indian Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman as part of the 13th UK-India Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD) in London on Wednesday, as the two countries look to strengthen economic ties and secure a Free Trade Agreement and Bilateral Investment Treaty.

Rachel Reeves, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said: "In a changing world, it is imperative we go further and faster to kickstart economic growth. We have listened to British businesses, which is why we're negotiating trade deals with countries across the world, including India.

"Our relationship with India is longstanding and broad and I am delighted with the progress made throughout this dialogue to develop it further."

The EFD saw the signing of a joint statement unlocking cooperation across a range of business sectors, including defence, financial services, education and development, and strengthened governmental collaboration across growth, economic resilience and international financial issues.

At the London Stock Exchange today, the Chancellor and her Indian counterpart set out plans to generate growth, improve Financial Services ties and deepen policy cooperation on the UK Industrial Strategy, tax, sustainable finance and illicit finance, a UK High Commission statement said.

The total commercial package from this dialogue is made up of new announcements worth pounds 128 million in export deals and investments, as well as recent deals worth pounds 271 million.

This includes:

Paytm, India's largest digital payment app, announced plans to invest



in the UK to accelerate access to affordable digital payments and credit for small businesses.

Barclays Bank PLC India announced on 18 March a further capital injection of over pounds 210 million into its Indian operations, affirming its long-term commitment to India. This capital investment will grow its businesses across the Investment and Private Banking in India.

HSBC Bank will expand its presence from the current 14 cities to 34 cities in India. This significant expansion will enable the bank to cover approximately 95% of India's wealth market, reinforcing their commitment to India.

Standard Chartered Bank today announced that it has shifted to larger office premises at GIFT City, reinforcing its long-term commitment to India's premier international financial services hub.

Mphasis, an Indian tech business, are setting up a quantum centre of excellence in London and exploring an office in Nottingham which will support 100 jobs.

British International Investment Plc (BII) is committing \$10 mn to the agritech start up, Grow Indigo, to pilot an innovative carbon credit programme to promote regenerative agricultural practices in India.

WNS, a global digital-led business transformation services company founded in India with a \$2.7 billion market cap, will expand

their London HQ presence with a new office and open a state-of-the-art AI design hub to expand the UK's AI and digital talent pool to drive growth and create jobs.

Revolut announced that they are gearing up for launch in India later this year, following authorisation this week from Reserve Bank of India.

UK firm Wise announced plans to open a new office in Hyderabad, India as part of broader mission to transform the trillion-pound international money movement market. Prudential's announcement of launching their first fully owned global services hub in Bengaluru and third joint venture in India establishing a stand-alone health insurance business.

British International Investment invest \$15 mn investment in vehicle dedicated to investing in India based on inclusion-focused early-stage companies.

The UK welcomes India paving the way to allow Indian companies to list internationally and exploring listing at the London Stock Exchange. The India-UK Financial Partnership published its report 'Catalysing Bilateral Growth: Connecting India and the UK's Equity Capital Markets report'.

Coventry University announced that it is set to become the first English university to be granted a licence to open a campus in India, as UK universities are being granted licences to open a campus in

India's new GIFT city.

The London School of Economics announced that Tata Trusts is continuing its enduring partnership with LSE by awarding a Corpus Grant to support scholarships for Indian students at the School.

Agreement for both sides to continue excellent collaboration as co-chairs of the G20's Framework Working Group and to work closely together to promote discussion and build consensus around responses to risks to the global macroeconomic outlook.

New ambitions set for joint investments in green enterprises, tech start-ups and climate adaptation building on the success of the UK-India Green Growth Equity Fund (GGEF).

Secretary of State for Business and Trade Jonathan Reynolds and Minister Sitharaman also hosted a business roundtable, bringing together key leaders from the financial and professional business services sectors including Tide, HSBC, Aviva, Vodafone, WNS, and Mizuho International. Attendees recognised the strength of the economic relationship between the UK and India, as well as the opportunity for closer collaboration - including through an ambitious trade deal.

Areas for collaboration on defence were also identified, as both sides looked forward to the finalisation of the India-UK Defence Industrial Roadmap, set to strengthen ties between industrial sectors and integrate supply chains.

Secretary of State for Business and Trade Jonathan Reynolds said: "I was delighted to meet with Minister Sitharaman, hear from businesses, and discuss how we can strengthen the strong economic bonds between our two nations.

"Both the UK and India are committed to delivering economic growth and giving businesses the confidence and stability they need to expand."

Bengal Raj Bhawan defends Governor's actions on pending Bills, cites constitutional compliance

AGENCIES

KOLKATA, APR 10 (UNI)

A day after West Bengal Assembly Speaker Biman Banerjee reminded Governor C V Ananda Bose of the 22 pending bills awaiting his assent, the Raj Bhawan here said the governor has been "particular in abiding by Constitutional proprieties in dealing with all matters, including those concerning passage of Bills".

Biman Banerjee had made the remarks following a Supreme Court ruling on Tuesday that governors cannot indefinitely withhold approval of bills passed by the state legislature,

Giving a detailed account of the 22 bills that are pending with the governor. The Raj Bhawan said in a release that it had been informed that there were 22 Bills "supposedly 'pending'" with Bose.

"On being reported thus HG (the honourable governor) immediately had the matter assessed. Out of those Bills, HG assented to five, while two are pending with the state government for want of information sought."

"HG has reserved for the consideration of Hon'ble President 11 Bills during 2024 and 2025. Ten of these relate to university matters and one



is the 'Aparajit Bill' which was reserved as recommended by the State Government," Raj Bhawan said in its release.

The Raj Bhawan was referring to The Aparajita Woman and Child Bill (West Bengal Criminal Laws and Amendment), 2024, which was introduced by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee following the rape and murder case at R.G. Kar Medical College in August last year.

The Trinamool Congress has frequently raised concerns that the bill - aimed at strengthening justice through harsher punishments, swift investigations, and expedited trials in sexual assault cases - was unanimously passed in the Assembly in September 2024 but could not be implemented as the Governor's assent remained pending.

However, Raj Bhawan clarified that the bill had been forwarded to the

President of India for approval and is currently pending at the Rashtrapati Bhawan. The President of India has withheld consent on bills like The West Bengal Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Bill, 2013, Dunlop India Ltd (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertaking) Bill, 2016 and Jessop & Company Ltd (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertaking) Bill, 2016.

In a similar vein, the Raj Bhawan clarified that at least five other bills are still pending with the state government. These include the West Bengal Estate Acquisition (Amendment) Bill, 2017; The West Bengal Commission for Backward Classes (Amendment) Bill, 2018; The Code of Criminal Procedure (West Bengal Amendment) Bill, 2018; The West Bengal (Prevention of Lynching) Bill, 2019; and The Howrah Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2021.

According to Raj Bhawan, clarifications were sought on these bills, but the state government has yet to respond.

The governor's response comes after the Speaker following the Supreme Court judgement said that it was a welcome one and believed it would put pressure on the governor.

He implied that important bills could not be kept pending indefinitely and emphasised that the state government, being an elected body, should not be denied by the governor. He mentioned that he had been voicing this concern for a long time and hoped that the governor would now grant consent to the bills.

The Supreme Court on Tuesday ruled that Governors cannot withhold assent to Bills passed or re-passed by a state Assembly and fixed a timeline of one to three months for their actions as per the Constitution.

The verdict was delivered by Justices J B Pardiwala and R Mahadevan after a year of intense constitutional standoff between the DMK-led Tamil Nadu government and Governor R N Ravi, who had withheld assent to 10 key Bills, some pending since 2020.

Security beefed up outside Patiala Courts, NIA HQ as Tahawwur Rana to land in India

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, APR 10 (UNI)

Security outside the NIA headquarters in Delhi has been beefed up and also outside the Patiala House Courts where 2008 Mumbai terror attacks mastermind Tahawwur Rana is likely to be produced after he lands in Delhi following his extradition from the US.

Some gates of the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium Metro Station that open to the NIA headquarters have been shut to the public as part of the heightened security arrangements.

Security is also tight around the Hindon Air Base in Ghaziabad where the special plane bringing Rana from the US, accompanied by Indian intelligence and other officials, is supposed to land.

Personnel from the paramilitary forces and the Delhi Police have been deployed outside the Patiala court and visitors are being thoroughly frisked, reports said.

An NIA judge is expected



to hear the matter.

Rana is expected to be lodged in a high-security ward at Tihar Jail following his court appearance.

On Wednesday night, the government appointed advocate Narender Mann as special public prosecutor for conducting trial and other matters related to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) case RC-04/2009/NIA/DLI (Mumbai attacks) for three years.

Rana, a Pakistan-born Canadian and a close associate of Pakistani-American terrorist David Coleman Headley, is one of the main conspirators of the 26/11 Mumbai attacks.

A multi-agency team

from India had gone to the US to bring him back to India.

The US Supreme Court on Monday rejected his plea against his extradition to India to face trial.

Earlier this year too, the US Supreme Court had rejected his plea against his extradition.

He was incarcerated in the US Metropolitan Detention Center in Los Angeles, for 14 years. His extradition to India was approved in 2023 by the US Supreme Court.

The extradition of Rana had also been announced by US President Donald Trump who had dubbed him "a very evil man", in a joint press conference

with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Washington, in February this year.

Rana, who had personally conducted reconnaissance and scouted Mumbai for picking the locations for the terror strikes, had also directly facilitated fellow jihadi David Coleman Headley - also known as Dawood Gilani - to travel to India using a Pakistani-American passport. The purpose was to identify potential targets for the Mumbai terror attacks being plotted by LeT in coordination with several officers of the Pakistan Army and Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence (ISI).

On November 26, 2008, a group of 10 Pakistan-sponsored Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists carried out a coordinated attack on Mumbai CST railway station, two luxury hotels and a Jewish centre. They had entered Mumbai using the sea route from the Arabian Sea.

As many as 166 people were killed, including some Americans, in the terror attack.

Former BJP MP favours Nitish as Deputy PM

AGENCIES

PATNA, APR 10 (UNI)

Former BJP MP Ashwini Kumar Chaubey on Thursday favoured Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar to become Deputy Prime Minister, saying it would be extreme pleasure for him if such an honour was given to Kumar, as only Jagjivan Ram from the state was given opportunity to become the Deputy PM so far since Independence.

Chaubey, also a former Union Minister, told media persons that Kumar had long experience of serving as Minister at the Centre. Kumar also had the experience of discharging his responsibility as Convenor of NDA, he added.

"It would be extreme pleasure for me if Kumar becomes Deputy Prime Minister, as it would also be a great honour for Bihar", the BJP leader said, adding that only veteran Congress leader Jagjivan Ram from Bihar had got the opportunity to become Deputy PM since independence. Kumar also had vast experience



in national politics, he noted.

The remark of Chaubey has created ripples in political circles as it is being assumed the possibility of the BJP deciding a new role for Kumar before the next Bihar assembly elections to be held in October-November this year.

Political analysts feel it would not be easy for the BJP to persuade Chief Minister Kumar to shift to national politics. Whether Kumar himself is interested in accepting any responsibility is a million-dollar question.

Kumar, on so many occasions, had earlier dismissed any such possibility to shift his political activity from Bihar when his name was doing rounds in the media for posts of President or Vice President, during the last elections for these posts.

Indian engineers team assessing quake-affected sites in Myanmar



AGENCIES

NAY PYI TAW/NEW DELHI, APR 10 (UNI)

After assessing six affected sites in quake-hit Mandalay, the safety and demolition engineers team from India assessed six quake affected sites in Naypyitaw today, as part of Operation Brahma, the MEA said.

An Orthopaedic surgeon from the Indian Army Medical team is assisting in the treatment of 70 patients at a Nay Pyi Taw Hospital.

The Indian Army Field Hospital at Mandalay has treated 281 patients, and conducted seven major and 38 minor surgeries.

A total of 1,651 patients

have been treated till April 9 evening at the Army Field Hospital, the MEA said.

The Indian Army Engineer team (19 ER) and one Ortho Specialist from Field Hospital moved from Mandalay to Nay Pyi Taw for meetings with the Myanmar Ministry of Construction on demolition assessment of select buildings, and Health Ministry on specialist prosthetics advice for 70 patients, respectively.

Myanmar was hit by a massive 7.9 magnitude earthquake on March 28, and several aftershocks on the following days. Over 3,000 people have died, and hundreds are injured and missing.

France could recognise Palestine state by June: President Macron

AGENCIES

PARIS, APR 10 (UNI)

French President Emmanuel Macron has said that his country could recognise a Palestinian state by June.

Macron, who recently travelled to Cairo to hold extensive talks with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah-El Sisi and Jordanian King Abdullah on the ongoing Gaza war, said,



"We must move towards the recognition of the Palestinian state and we will do so in the coming months. I am not doing it to please anyone, but I feel this is the right time to do so," he told France 5

Television in an interview.

"And because I also want to take part in a collective dynamic that should also enable those who defend Palestine to recognise Israel in their turn, something that many of them are not doing," he added.

"Our aim is to chair this conference with Saudi Arabia in June, where we could finalise this movement of mutual recog-

nition (of a Palestinian state) by several parties," he added.

Though Palestine has been recognised as a sovereign state by almost 150 countries, most major Western powers have not, including the United States, Britain, France, Germany and Japan. Among countries that do not recognise Israel are Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Syria and Yemen.

Young females at higher social anxiety risk due to excessive smartphone use: Study

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

A team of researchers on Sunday showed that young females are more likely to experience higher social anxiety due to excessive smartphone use than other genders.

The study, presented at the ‘European Psychiatric Association Congress 2025’ in Madrid, Spain, revealed that gender plays a significant role in excessive and problematic (psychological or behavioural dependence) smartphone use, with young females more likely to experience higher social anxiety than other genders.

In the study, it was also found that gender was significantly linked to the amount of time spent using smartphones and the fear of being judged negatively by others online.

“These results point to serious differences between genders in that females are much more



likely to suffer mental ill health at the hands of a smartphone,” said lead investigator Dr Csibi Sandor, George Emil Palade University of Medicine, Romania.

The study also revealed the influence of social interactivity, low emotional understanding and variations in perceived social support that could be caused by problematic smartphone use.

“It is important that these areas are further researched so we can work to build our understand-

ing of these behaviour differences between genders and what methods need to be put in place to support these individuals,” said Sandor.

The study involved 400 young adults (average age 25.9), 104 men, 293 women and three of another gender.

Study co-author Neha Pirwani from Eotvos Lorand University, Hungary, added that “our findings add to previous studies showing that females can face increased suffering and, therefore,

need additional attention, guidance and help compared with other genders, to identify problematic smartphone use and what this may lead to.

“Our continued work to further understand the causes and effects of this is key to addressing these issues amongst the younger generation,” she mentioned.

“Nearly 100 per cent of Generation Z own and use a smartphone.

“There is already evidence from a variety of cross-sectional, longitudinal and empirical studies implicating smartphone and social media use being factors in the increase in mental distress, self-injurious behaviour and suicidality among this age group,” said Professor Geert Dom, EPA President.

This is an area that must be given further attention so that any detrimental areas can be addressed quickly, Dom added.

Nanoparticles of toxic metal in MRI scans can infiltrate human tissues: Study

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Scientists have found that a toxic rare earth metal used in MRI scans can generate nanoparticles of the metal in human tissues.

Researchers from the University of New Mexico in the US, while studying the health risks posed by gadolinium, a toxic rare earth metal used in MRI scans, have found that oxalic acid, a molecule found in many foods, can generate nanoparticles of the metal in human tissues.

In a new paper published in the journal Magnetic Resonance Imaging, the team led by Brent Wagner, professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, sought to explain the formation of the nanoparticles, which have been associated with serious health problems in the kidneys and other organs.

“The worst disease caused by MRI contrast



agents is nephrogenic systemic fibrosis,” he said. “People have succumbed after just a single dose.”

The condition can cause a thickening and hardening of the skin, heart and lungs and cause painful contraction of the joints.

Gadolinium-based contrast agents are injected prior to MRI scans to help create sharper images, Wagner said.

The metal is usually tightly bound to other molecules and is excreted from the body, and most people experience no adverse effects.

However, previous research has shown that even in those with no symptoms, gadolinium particles have been found in the kidney and the brain and can be detected in the blood and urine years after exposure.

Scientists are left with intertwined puzzles: Why do some people get sick, when most don’t, and how do gadolinium particles become pried loose from the other molecules in the contrast agent?

“Almost half of the patients had been exposed only a single time, which

means that there’s something that is amplifying the disease signal,” Wagner said.

Wagner’s team focused on oxalic acid, which is found in many plant-based foods, including spinach, rhubarb, most nuts and berries and chocolate, because it binds with metal ions.

The process helps lead to the formation of kidney stones, which result when oxalate binds with calcium. Meanwhile, oxalic acid also forms in the body when people eat foods or supplements containing vitamin C.

In test tube experiments, the researchers found that oxalic acid caused minute amounts of gadolinium to precipitate out of the contrast agent and form nanoparticles, which then infiltrated the cells of various organs.

The finding points to a possible way to mitigate some of the risks associated with MRI scan.

Whooping cough vaccines get a booster by targeting 2 powerful antibodies

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

New research from The University of Texas (UT) at Austin in the US could aid in improving whooping cough vaccines, to push this disease toward eradication by targeting two key weaknesses in the infection.

Whooping cough, or pertussis, was once a leading cause of death for children in the US and worldwide before the introduction of vaccines in the 1940s.

But the disease has made a troubling comeback in recent years as vaccine coverage declined after the Covid-19 pandemic.

In 2024, several outbreaks left public health officials and hospitals scrambling to accommodate a sudden influx of patients, primarily infants, who are often too young to be vaccinated and suffer the most severe symptoms.



toms.

Now, a team of researchers, including members of UT’s McKetta Department of Chemical Engineering and Department of Molecular Biosciences, has made significant strides in understanding and enhancing pertussis immunity.

One of the things that makes pertussis infections dangerous is pertussis toxin (PT), a chemical weapon produced by

the bacteria that weakens a patient’s immune response and causes many of the severe symptoms associated with whooping cough.

The new research, described in a new study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, focuses on two powerful antibodies, hu1E6 and hu1B7, which neutralise the PT in different ways.

“There are currently

several promising new pertussis vaccines in the research and clinical trial phases,” said Jennifer Maynard, professor of chemical engineering at the Cockrell School of Engineering and corresponding author of the new study. “Our findings could be incorporated into future versions quite easily, improving overall effectiveness and longevity of protection.”

Training the immune system to target the most vulnerable sites on the toxin is expected to create more effective vaccines, and the more effective and longer-lasting a vaccine is, hopefully, the more people will take it, said Maynard.

In addition to helping guide future vaccine designs, the hu1B7 and hu1E6 antibodies themselves hold promise as therapeutic medicines for infected and high-risk infants.

Every 2 min a woman died from pregnancy and childbirth in 2023 globally: UN

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

A woman died almost every two minutes, or more than 700 women died daily from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth in 2023, according to data from the UN and World Health Organization on World Health Day on Monday.

World Health Day is celebrated on April 7 every year. The theme this year Healthy beginnings, hopeful futures, urges governments and the health community to ramp up efforts to end preventable maternal and newborn deaths and to prioritise women’s longer-term health and well-being.

The report titled Trends in maternal mortality shows a 40 per cent global decline in maternal mortality ratio (MMR, number of maternal deaths per 100 000 live births) between 2000 and 2023.



It showed that since 2016, the pace of improvement slowed down significantly, and that an estimated 260,000 women died in 2023 due to complications from pregnancy or childbirth.

More than 90 per cent of all maternal deaths occurred in low and lower-middle-income countries in 2023, said the report.

“While this report shows glimmers of hope,

the data also highlights how dangerous pregnancy still is in much of the world today despite the fact that solutions exist to prevent and treat the complications that cause the vast majority of maternal deaths,” said Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the WHO.

“In addition to ensuring access to quality maternity care, it will be critical to

strengthen the underlying health and reproductive rights of women and girls - factors that underpin their prospects of healthy outcomes during pregnancy and beyond.”

Further, the report also provides the first global account of the Covid-19 pandemic’s impact on maternal survival.

In 2021, an estimated 40,000 more women died due to pregnancy or childbirth - increasing to 322,000 from 282,000 in 2020.

Besides the direct complications caused by Covid infection, the deaths were also due to widespread interruptions to maternity services, the report said.

“This highlights the importance of ensuring such care during pandemics and other emergencies, noting that pregnant women need reliable access to routine services and checks as well as round-the-clock urgent care,” said the report.

Study shows severe obesity may raise risk of 16 common conditions

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

People who are obese, particularly severely obese, could be at an increased risk of experiencing 16 common health conditions including obstructive sleep apnoea, Type 2 diabetes, and metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease, according to a study.

Severe obesity, also known as Class III obesity or morbid obesity, is defined by a Body Mass Index (BMI) of 40 or higher, or a BMI of 35 or higher with obesity-related health conditions. It is known to pose significant health risks.

Obesity is a known risk factor for adverse health outcomes involving multiple organ systems.

However, previous studies have analysed conditions individually, limiting understanding of obesity’s total health burden. External validity has also been



limited by the underrepresentation of individuals with class III obesity and of diverse demographic groups, said the researchers from the Johns Hopkins University in the US.

In the new study, they examined data from 270,657 participants from the US.

They found that the prevalence and incidence rates increased progressively with higher obesity classes for all 16 health outcomes.

Class I, II, and III obesity

was observed in 21.2 per cent, 11.3 per cent, and 9.8 per cent of participants, respectively.

Obesity was strongly associated with all incident outcomes, with graded associations across higher classes of obesity.

The 16 conditions include hypertension, type 2 diabetes mellitus, hyperlipidemia/dyslipidemia, heart failure, atrial fibrillation, atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease, chronic kidney disease, pulmonary embolism,

deep vein thrombosis, gout, metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease, biliary calculus, obstructive sleep apnea, asthma, gastroesophageal reflux disease, and osteoarthritis.

“Observed associations with class III obesity were strongest for obstructive sleep apnoea, type 2 diabetes mellitus, and metabolic dysfunction-associated liver disease,” said the team, in the study, published in the journal NEJM Evidence.

On the other hand, obesity was less linked to asthma, osteoarthritis, and atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease.

Rising rates of severe obesity create an urgency around intervention. The study offers an updated estimate of obesity’s total health burden and may support future public health strategies, policy actions, and clinical use of antiobesity therapies, said the researchers.

Healthcare hiring in India grows 62 pc, creates over 7.5 mn jobs: Report

AGENCIES
BENGALURU

India’s healthcare sector is emerging as a major employer - with hiring in the industry growing 62 per cent year on year, and creating more than 7.5 million jobs, according to a report on Monday.

The report by jobs platform foundit (formerly Monster APAC & ME), showed that the healthcare sector has also seen a 7 per cent increase in hiring over the past three months, underscoring its rapid expansion and evolving workforce dynamics.

It showed that the sector is witnessing remarkable growth and transformation fuelled by technological advancements and rising demand for medical services. Further, the demand for AI/ML engineers, data analysts, and product managers is surging, reflecting the sector’s digital transformation.

“India’s healthcare



sector is entering a new era - where technology and talent are driving transformative change,” said V Suresh, CEO, foundit.

“Our latest data highlights a sharp rise in demand for roles across AI, digital health, and informatics, reflecting a sector-wide pivot toward

innovation and patient-centric care. What stands out is the dual momentum: strong job creation alongside a growing commitment to gender diversity and inclusion. As we observe World Health Day, this evolution is not just a headline - it’s a powerful story of how healthcare is creating meaningful,

future-ready careers that matter,” Suresh added.

In addition to metro cities, Pune, Kochi, and Kolkata are also showing strong growth in healthcare hiring, with Pune leading the charge with a 10 per cent month-on-month (MoM) growth rate.

Notably, the healthcare sector boasts high female representation (38 per cent of the workforce), yet leadership roles remain disproportionately male-dominated, with women holding only 4 per cent of these positions.

To address this disparity, healthcare organisations should implement targeted leadership development programs and diversity hiring policies with benchmarks to increase female representation at senior levels. These initiatives can help break down barriers and promote gender equity in leadership and specialised medical fields, the report said.



CSK seek turnaround as KKR threaten Chepauk dominance

AGENCIES

CHENNAI, APR 10 (UNI)

Chennai Super Kings, reeling from four consecutive defeats, will seek to revive their IPL 2025 campaign against Kolkata Knight Riders at Chepauk, where their traditional home advantage is under threat.

With just one win from five matches, the five-time champions find themselves in unfamiliar territory, languishing at ninth place on the points table. Their famed fortress at the MA Chidambaram Stadium has already been breached twice this season, and another slip-up could deepen the crisis in CSK's camp.

The side has been struggling to find the right balance, with the top order failing to fire in tandem and the bowling attack unable to apply pressure in key



moments. While Devon Conway and Rachin Ravindra have shown flashes of form, CSK's cautious powerplay approach has hurt their ability to set or chase competitive totals. Middle-order contributions from Shivam Dube and MS Dhoni have offered brief respite, but the lack of consistent firepower remains a concern.

On the bowling front, Khaleel Ahmed and Noor Ahmad have been standout

performers, picking up 10 and 11 wickets respectively, but experienced campaigners like Ravindra Jadeja and Ravichandran Ashwin are yet to stamp their authority on slow, turning tracks.

Kolkata, meanwhile, have been patchy themselves but come into the contest on the back of a spirited performance despite a narrow four-run loss to Rajasthan. Skipper Ajinkya Rahane's fluent 61, along with late-order fire-

works from Rinku Singh and the spin duo of Sunil Narine and Varun Chakravarthy, keep them in good stead for a surface like Chepauk's.

KKR have traditionally struggled in Chennai, with just three wins in 11 matches at the venue. However, the slow surface, combined with CSK's recent home losses, may present the visitors with their best opportunity in years to tilt the record.

A first-innings score around 170-180 is likely to be par, and the toss could once again prove crucial, with chasing becoming increasingly difficult under lights.

With both teams desperate for points and confidence, Friday's clash promises to be a high-stakes encounter, with much more than just two points on the line for the Super Kings.

IPL: Sanju Samson fined Rs 24 Lakh for maintaining slow over-rate

AGENCIES

AHMEDABAD, APR 10 (UND)

Rajasthan Royals Captain Sanju Samson has been fined after his team maintained a slow over-rate during Match No. 23 of the Indian Premier League (IPL) match against Gujarat Titans at the Narendra Modi Stadium, here on Wednesday night.

As this was his team's second offence of the season under Article 2.22 of the IPL's Code of Conduct, which pertains to minimum



over-rate offences, Samson was fined INR 24 lakhs, an IPL statement said.

The rest of the members

of the Playing XI, including the Impact Player, will be fined either Rs Six lakhs or 25 per cent of their respec-

tive match fees, whichever is lesser.

Earlier, Gujarat Titans (GT) earned the top spot on the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 points table with another statement performance to make it four victories on the trot.

An all-round batting effort, once again led by Sai Sudharsan, followed by another high-caliber outing in the field, gave the Shubman Gill-led team a 58-run victory over Rajasthan Royals (RR) in Match 23 here.

Handwara girl clinchs gold medal in Wushu Federation, held in Chhattisgarh

MALIK RASHID

KUPWARA, APR 10

Meet Young athlete Mahreen Bandy from Handwara continues to make her region proud with her exceptional achievements in martial arts. The promising Wushu player has so far secured an impressive tally of 12 gold medals and 3 silver medals in various championships across the country.

Most recently, Mahreen clinched a gold medal at the prestigious 8th Wushu



Federation Cup 2025, held in Chhattisgarh from March 25 to 27. She represented the Khelo India Centre, Handwara, showcasing remarkable skill and determination on a national platform.

Speaking to the media

following her victory, Mahreen expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the Indian Army's 21 Rashtriya Rifles (21 RR), who had sponsored her participation in last year's national championships. She further shared that the 21 RR

also visited the Khelo India Wushu Centre in Handwara to felicitate her for her recent success.

"I am thankful to the Indian Army's 21 RR for their continued support and encouragement. Their sponsorship last year played a key role in my journey, and I am honored by their visit today," said Mahreen.

Her dedication and performance continue to inspire young athletes in the region, with hopes high for her future on international platforms.

Indian Women's Hockey Team set to tour Australia for five-match series

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, APR 10 (UND)

The Indian Women's Hockey Team is all set to embark on an exciting tour of Australia for a five-match series scheduled from April 26 to May 4.

India will open the series with two matches against Australia A, followed by three encounters against the senior Australian team.

The tour will begin with back-to-back matches against Australia A on 26 and 27, followed by three high-intensity encounters against the world No.5 ranked Hockeyroos on 1st, 3rd, and 4th May. All fixtures will be held at the Perth Hockey Stadium.

Currently ranked ninth in the FIH World Rankings, the Indian team will look to build on their recent momentum and continue their strong performances on the international stage. The tour will serve as vital preparation ahead of their European leg of the FIH Pro League 2024-25, which



kicks off in June.

India enters the series on a high after a spirited performance against world No.1 Netherlands, securing a 2-2 draw and clinching the bonus point in a thrilling shootout in Bhuaneswar- marking a confident end to their home leg of the Pro League.

India also have recent success against Australia to draw confidence from. In their last encounter during the FIH Pro League 2023-24, India emerged 1-0 winners. Notably, they had scripted history at the Tokyo Olympics 2021, defeating the three-time Olympic champions 1-0 in

the Semi-Finals to reach the bronze medal match.

Despite a close battle in the 2022 Commonwealth Games Semi-Final that ended in a 1-1 draw during regulation time, Australia clinched the win in the shootout.

Historically, however, Australia holds the upper hand, having won 10 out of the 16 matches played between the two sides since 2013. India has registered three wins while three matches have ended in draws.

Speaking on the tour, Harendra Singh, Head Coach of the Indian Women's Hockey Team, said,

"This tour is an important step in our preparations for the European leg of the FIH Pro League. Playing against a strong side like Australia will test our players and give us valuable insights into where we stand. We've seen how this team can rise to the occasion, like we did against the Netherlands recently, and we want to build on that momentum."

"Our matches against Australia have always been competitive, and while they've had the edge historically, we've shown in recent years that we can go toe-to-toe with them. The team is motivated and working hard in camp to fine-tune key aspects of our game before we head to Perth," he added.

Ahead of the tour, the Indian players are undergoing intensive training at the ongoing Senior Women's National Coaching Camp at SAI, Bengaluru, working to sharpen strategies and enhance on-field synergy.

Djokovic exits Monte Carlo in horrible Tabilo defeat

AGENCIES

PARIS, APR 10 (UND)

Novak Djokovic's wait for a 100th ATP singles title continues after he exited the Monte Carlo Masters in a "horrible" straight-set opening loss to Alejandro Tabilo.

Djokovic, a two-time winner of the event, made 29 unforced errors compared to his 18 winners in a subdued start to the 37-year-old's clay-court season, resulting in a 6-3 6-4 defeat.

The record 24-time men's major champion had won the last 10 matches he had contested on clay - including his run to Olympic gold in July.

But Chilean Tabilo, who beat Djokovic on the surface at the Italian Open 11 months ago, replicated that surprise victory to reach the third round, the BBC reported.

"I expected myself at least to have put in a decent performance. Not like this,



it was horrible," Serbia's Djokovic said.

"I did not have high expectations. I knew I'm going to have a tough opponent and I knew I'm going to probably play pretty bad. But this bad, I didn't expect.

"I was hoping it was not going to happen, but it was

quite a high probability I'm going to play this way.

"A horrible feeling to play this way, just sorry for all the people that have to witness this."

Earlier on Wednesday, Carlos Alcaraz rallied to a comeback victory over Francisco Cerundolo in the

21-year-old's first clay match of the season.

Spanish world number three Alcaraz was unable to match Argentine Cerundolo in the first set but dominated thereafter, winning 12 of the last 13 games for a 3-6 6-0 6-1 victory.

Norwegian fourth seed Casper Ruud beat Spain's Roberto Bautista Agut 6-2 6-1 to reach the third round, while Russian seventh seed Andrey Rublev overcame Frenchman Gael Monfils 6-4 7-6 (7-2).

Australian eighth seed Alex de Minaur came from behind to defeat Czech Tomas Machac, while Russian ninth seed Daniil Medvedev beat Alexandre Muller of France, also in three sets.

Great Britain's Jack Draper is back in action on Thursday, when the Indian Wells champion faces Spain's Alejandro Davidovich Fokina for a quarter-final place.

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