



# PoJK belongs to India, our legal case also strong; Pak should find solution to its problems: Amit Shah

## ‘Infiltration backed by Pak but our soldiers are alert’

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

**NEW DELHI, APRIL 11:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah said today that Pakistan occupied Jammu Kashmir (PoJK) belongs to India and that our legal case is also strong. He charged Pakistan with being unable to handle separatism in Balochistan and militancy in their own country.

Speaking at the Summit of a national news channel in New Delhi, Shah said India's claim on PoJK is not a mere claim but a firm belief backed by historic documents and evidence. Asserting that India's stand on PoJK has been very clear, he said our legal case is also strong.

It may be mentioned here that the Indian Parliament



**Amit Shah welcomes JKMM saying goodbye to Hurriyat, declaring commitment to Bharat's unity**

■ HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, APR 11:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah has welcomed Hurriyat affiliate organization Jammu and Kashmir Mass Movement's decision to reject separatism and declare its complete commitment to the unity of Bharat.

## Ayodhya Had A Massive Impact On Shaping Ideas And Culture In Asia: LG Sinha

■ HT News Network



**JAMMU, APR 11:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha addressed 'Ayodhya Parv-2025', organised by Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGN-CA), Shri Ayodhya Nyas and Pragya Sansthan, at New Delhi, today.

Mahant Shri Kamal Nayan Das Ji of Maniram-das Chhawani; Geeta Manishi Mahamandaleshwar Shri Gyananand Ji Maharaj; Padma Shri Vasudev Kamath; Shri Ram Bahadur Rai, Chairman, IGNC; Lallu Singh, former Member of Parliament and heads of various religious and cultural organisations graced the occasion.

The Lieutenant Governor extended his felicitations to everyone associated with the three-day cultural celebration dedicated to the glory of Ayodhya.

"Ayodhya is not just a geographical spot but

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## Army committed to make J&K terror free: Lt General Kumar

■ HT News Network

**JAMMU, APR 11 :** Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General M V

Suchindra Kumar on Friday said that Army is committed to make Jammu and Kashmir terror free. He, according to the news agency— complimented the soldiers for their swift action in killing a terrorist in Kishtwar. "Lt Gen M V Suchindra Kumar, Army Commander, Northern Command, commends the White Knight Corps for their swift action and precise execution in neutralising one terrorist in the ongoing operation in Kishtwar," the Northern Command said in a post on X. "The Indian Army



## Three Militnts Killed in Kishtwar: Operation Underway

■ HT News Network

**KISHTWAR, APR 11, :** A top command-er is believed to be among three terrorists killed in an ongoing gunfight in the for

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## J&K will never become Pakistan's part, it should stop abetting terror: Dr Farooq

■ HT NEWS NETWORK / AGENCIES



**SRINAGAR, APR 11:** Asking the neighboring country to stop abetting terror and maintain cordial relations with India, National Conference (NC) President, Dr Farooq Abdullah on Friday said that J&K would never become a part of Pakistan. Talking to reporters, Dr Farooq, as per the news agency— Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said that the government cannot bring Kashmir Pandits to their homes until they feel secure and safe here in the Valley. "We have to prepare the conditions for it, which cannot be done through speeches as the ground work needs to be done in this regard," he said, adding, "If we want to bring them back, we need to tell the neighbouring country to stop the terrorism. Enough

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## ECI rejects suggestions on EVMs' vulnerability to hacking

■ HT News Network

**JAMMU, APRIL 11:** The Election Commission on Friday rejected the suggestions that Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) used in the country are vulnerable to hacking, asserting that the machines work like simple calculators which are not connected to the internet or infrared.

Referring to the reported remarks of United States Director of National Intelligence, Tulsi Gabbard, that her office has obtained evidence of vulnerabilities to the hacking of electronic voting systems for manipulating votes, the sources point

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## Govt focuses on boosting entrepreneurship, employment: Dy CM Reviews functioning of Labour and Employment department

■ HT News Network

**JAMMU, APRIL 11:** Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, convened a comprehensive meeting to review the functioning of Labour and Employment department, here today.

Secretary Labour and Employment, Rajiv Ranjan, Labour Commissioner, Charan-



deep Singh, Deputy Labour Commissioner, Assistant Labour Commissioners of Jammu division and other officers were present during the meeting.

The Department gave a power point presentation highlighting its progress and achievements under various schemes. He apprised that the department intends to establish 1.5 lakh nano

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## SSR intensified in Budgam, Nagrota ACs Special camps to be held on April 12, 13

■ HT News Network

**JAMMU, APR 11:** The activities of Special Summary Revision 2025 for the twin Assembly Constituencies of 27 Budgam and 77 Nagrota have gained momentum following the guidelines of Election Commission of India.

The integrated draft electoral rolls for the two constituencies have already been published on 8th April 2025 with 1st April 2025 as the qualifying date. The period for filing claims and objections in that respect shall end on 24th April with the disposal of claims and objections

by 2nd May 2025 and final publication of Electoral Rolls on 5th May 2025.

It is pertinent to mention here that the eligible voters can register themselves by filling Form 6 for inclusion (Form 6A in case of overseas elector, Form 7 for objecting inclusion or deleting of name and Form 8 for correction of particulars in the electoral roll or replacement of photograph). Electors can also submit their claims in their respective polling stations on 12th and 13th April wherein Special Camps are to be organised.

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## Sharper probes, better prosecution to boost convictions in NDPS cases: Chief Secretary

■ HT News Network

**JAMMU, APRIL 11:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired the 13th UT Level NCORD (Narcotics Coordination) meeting to review progress on tackling drug trafficking and abuse across Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting highlighted key achievements, ongoing challenges and future strategies to curb the menace of narcotics in the region.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary gave



a set of comprehensive directions aimed at tightening the enforcement and judicial mechanisms under the NDPS (Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic

Substances) Act. He underscored the urgent need to adopt a multi-pronged strategy combining strict law

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## Police attach properties worth Rs 1.2 cr of drug peddlers in Anantnag

■ HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, APR 11:** Continuing its relentless drive against drug trafficking and in strict adherence to the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, Police in Anantnag on Friday said to have attached properties valued at approximately Rs 1.2 Crore belonging to drug peddlers in multiple cases across the district.

In a significant action carried out under Section 68-F of the NDPS Act, Police attached

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## J&K High Court Slams Magistrate Over 'Cryptic' Order in Property Case, Recommends Refresher Training

■ HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, APR 11, :** The Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court has strongly criticised a civil judge for passing an unreasoned and "cryptic" order in a property dispute case and recommended that he undergo refresher training at the J&K Judicial Academy.

Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul, while hearing a petition in Hakim Nazir v/s Commissioner, SMC Srinagar, observed that the trial court had dismissed the petitioner's plea without offering any rationale or engaging with



the facts and legal provisions involved.

"The order reflects total non-application of mind," Justice Koul remarked, directing the High Court Registry to place the matter before the Chief Justice for

necessary action.

The case concerned a plea seeking restoration of an iron gate allegedly removed by the Srinagar Municipal Corporation. The petitioners had filed the application under Section 151 of the Civil Pro-

cedure Code, but the Municipal Magistrate (1st Civil Subordinate Judge), Srinagar dismissed it without issuing notice to the opposite party or providing any justification.

The High Court noted that the trial court failed to explain the legal grounds under Section 151 CPC or address the petitioners' claims, calling the order an example of poor judicial reasoning. "An unreasoned order does not subserve the doctrine of fair play," the court said.

Setting aside the trial court's decision, the

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## NAAZIR ZAHOOR IS NO MORE Zahoor Ahmad Dar of Muradabad Kreeri Bereaved Team HT Expresses solidarity with the bereaved family

■ TAJAMUL BUKHARI  
HT CORRESPONDENT

**MURADABAD KREERI, APR, 11:** Pall of gloom prevailed today at Muradabad Kreeri when the dead body of Nazir Zahoore son of Zahoor Ahmad Dar reached Kreeri. Nazir lost the battle of life at a Delhi hospital where he was being treated for liver failure. Entire area of Muradabad Kreeri today mourned the tragic and sudden demise of the young boy at the tender age of 18 years. Team Headlines Today and Lubaab Publications Group has expressed solidar-



ity with the bereaved of Zahoor Ahmad Dar. Chief patron Syed Sadud din Saidi prayed for the depart-

ed soul and patience to the bereaved family especially for the

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## CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

### HM

had in 1994 unanimously passed a resolution reaffirming that PoJK is an integral part of India.

Responding to a question on unrest in Pakistan's Balochistan province, the Home Minister said Pakistan hasn't been able to handle the situation there.

Pakistan has been facing increasing unrest and militancy not only in Balochistan but in other parts of the country also.

Shah said Pakistan should find out a solution to their problems.

Pakistan has been battling a separatist insurgency in Balochistan for decades, where militants target state forces and foreign nationals in the mineral-rich southwestern province bordering Afghanistan and Iran citing that the Pakistani state has taken control of the resources and deprived the Baloch of any benefits.

"India is not supporting the Balochistan movement. Certain provinces of Pakistan are unhappy with the way the Pakistan Government is functioning," Shah told the questionnaire.

Earlier in March, the separatist Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) — which accuses outsiders of plundering the province's natural resources — launched a dramatic train siege that officials said ended in around 60 deaths including some separatists behind the assault.

Referring to his recent visit to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the Home Minister said his meeting with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah was cordial and focused on development and governance.

"The Central Government is committed to work with Jammu and Kashmir's elected leadership," Shah said, adding the Centre has always supported regional Governments without any bias.

Shah was on a three-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir from April 6-8 during which he held security and development works review meetings with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and top officials of security agencies.

Asserting that national security is a top priority of the Central Government, the Home Minister said the Government's stands on security and separatism is very firm. "We will not compromise, nor we will allow anyone else to do it".

Issuing a stern warning to those trying to spread terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, the Home Minister said anyone trying to do this will face stern action.

Responding to a question on recent terror attack in Kathua district, Shah said infiltration (of the terrorists) is, of course, backed by Pakistan and not someone else like Russia and this has been happening for years.

However, he added, our soldiers and the Government are fully alert and alive to the situation and those trying to facilitate infiltration will pay heavily.

Two Pakistani terrorists were killed and four police personnel were martyred in the gun battle in Safiyan Jakhole area of Kathua district on March 27. Slain terrorists as well as those who escaped were reported to be part of freshly infiltrated group from the International Border in Pakistan.

To a question on neighbouring Nepal, Shah said Nepal is a democracy and people have the right to express their ideas. He was asked about the recent rallies calling for declaring Nepal as a Hindu Rashtra.

"It's a democracy, people can make demands in a democracy," he added. Led by former Maoist leader Durga Prasai, several rallies have been taken out in Nepal over the past few weeks demanding the reinstatement of monarchy and declaring Nepal as a 'Hindu Rashtra'.

### SHAH

In a post on X, the Union Home Minister, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) Shah said, "Under the Modi govt, the spirit of unity rules Jammu and Kashmir. Another Hurriyat affiliate organization, Jammu and Kashmir Mass Movement, has rejected separatism, declaring complete commitment to the unity of Bharat. I sincerely welcome their move."

"Till now as many as 12 Hurriyat-linked organizations have broken off from secessionism, resting trust in the Constitution of India. This is a victory of PM Shri Narendra Modi ji's vision for Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat," he added.

It may be recalled that earlier, on April 8, three Hurriyat-linked organisations—Jammu Kashmir Islamic Political Party, Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Democratic League, and Kashmir Freedom Front—publicly disassociated themselves from the separatist conglomerate.

Prior to that, on March 25, the Jammu and Kashmir People's Movement (JKPM) and Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Political Movement (JKDPM) also announced their exit from separatist politics. On March 27, Tehreek-i-Isteqal and Tehreek-i-Istiqamat followed suit, cutting ties with the Hurriyat Conference.

The trend of separatist organizations breaking away from Hurriyat, as per KNO, began in recent months, with groups issuing

public statements declaring their rejection of secessionism and pledging allegiance to India's Constitution.

The Hurriyat Conference, once a key separatist alliance in Kashmir, has seen a decline in its influence over the past few years, especially after the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019 and the detention of many of its leaders.

### LG

it's the cradle of spirituality, good governance and rich culture. Prabhu Shri Ram's birthplace is our identity, symbol of our unity and one of the sacred pilgrimages.

Ayodhya is spiritual resonance. Ayodhya is the key to happiness and spiritual awakening. Ayodhya is the energy, consciousness and life force of the society. Ayodhya is a repository of the best elements of our heritage and spiritualism and a beacon of hope for devotees.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that Ayodhya has been the soft power of ancient India and contributed to the spread of ideas through spiritual values, tradition and folk culture and helped in creating the Indosphere. He said, there are many examples like Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia which are closely linked to Ayodhya.

"I see Ayodhya as the Moral Compass of India whose energy, progressive policies and blessings of Lord Shri Ram will help us build a welfare state and guide us to keep our soul intact. Ayodhya has great significance as an idea and its cultural-spiritual embers will continue to shine for thousands of years to come," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also spoke on the massive impact of Ayodhya on shaping ideas and culture in Asia.

"In abstract term it was like a cultural magnet and gave a boost to India's spiritual clout. It had gravitational pull and Ayodhya's influence spread through literature, art, music and theatre," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that Bhagwan Shri Ram's ideals and values of righteousness, truth, justice, dignity, patience, tolerance, cooperation, compassion, leadership and courage are guiding the people to build a better future.

"These are the values which are powering India's journey towards 'Viksit Bharat' amidst global uncertainty.

We must recognize that development is a collaborative effort that requires cooperation and collaboration. Equal opportunities to the weaker sections should be our priority. In this mission, our unflinching faith in ancient traditions and spiritual heritage will provide a new momentum, strength and resilience to the society," the Lieutenant Governor further said.

The three-day Ayodhya Parv serves as a confluence of devotion, classical traditions, and dialogue, bringing together saints, cultural thinkers, policymakers, scholars, and artists from across the country.

On the occasion, several publications including 'Santon Mein Dhruv Tare', 'Chaurasi Kos Ki Ayodhya', 'An Eternal Hero : Ram', 'Warriors Of Kurukshetra' and 'Bharat Bodh Patrika' were also released.

### ECI

ed out that some countries use "electronic voting systems" which are a mix of multiple systems, machines and processes including various private networks including the Internet.

They underlined that India uses Electronic Voting Machines that work like "simple, correct and accurate calculators" and cannot be connected to either the internet, WiFi or infrared.

These machines have stood legal scrutiny by the Supreme Court and are invariably checked by the political parties at various stages, including conduct of "mock polls" before actual polling starts.

More than five crore paper trail machine slips have been verified and matched while counting in front of political parties, they pointed out.

Then Chief Election Commissioner, Rajiv Kumar, had in January responded to Musk's claim saying, "A global IT expert said EVMs can be hacked while our elections were going on. They (the US) don't have EVMs, they have electronic voting mechanisms.

### DYCM

entrepreneurships which are under Rs 10 lakh and need no collateral from the applicant as overall budget for Mission YUVA is Rs 1830 crore.

The Dy CM had district wise review of all the schemes besides assessing the hindrances in desirable outcomes of the initiatives.

The Dy CM, while highlighting the need for creating awareness about various labour welfare schemes being implemented by the Government, said that the same will help in ensuring the benefit percolates to the targeted population. He asked the officers to regularly hold awareness camps so that the information about the benefits of different schemes is properly disseminated. "The officers should ensure that these camps are holistic, so that massive participation of

stakeholders is ensured", he maintained.

He asked the concerned officials to motivate the individuals and create supportive environment for all businesses to thrive besides focusing on capacity building.

Surinder Choudhary reiterated government's commitment to establish J&K as a thriving hub of enterprises and holistic employment by fostering entrepreneurship culture. "Government's prime focus is on boosting entrepreneurship and employment," he added.

He also directed for undertaking regular inspection of various business establishments so that the welfare of workers is ensured. He said that there should be no laxity whenever a violation is observed. He asked the officers to conduct regular inspections of Industrial Estates, Hotels, Factories and other business establishments to gather feedback on production units besides the facilities and working conditions of human resource engaged there.

Later, the Deputy Chief Minister met several deputations who projected their issues and sought redressal of the same

Surinder Choudhary assured them that the Government would ensure time bound redressal of their issues.

### CS

enforcement, judicial efficiency and community awareness to successfully deal with this menace.

In a significant decision, the Chief Secretary asked for constitution of District Monitoring Committees in each district of the UT. These committees, to be headed by the respective Deputy Commissioners, with SSPs and Public Prosecutors as members, will be responsible for regularly monitoring the status of NDPS cases. They will specifically focus on long-pending cases and facilitate their speedy trial and disposal, he added. He also directed that a police station-wise review of all NDPS cases be carried out regularly to strengthen the quality of prosecution and enhance conviction rates.

The Chief Secretary also took stock of various FIRs registered years ago in different police stations that remain pending for final disposal. He asked the Deputy Commissioners and SSPs to personally monitor the progress on such cases and ensure investigations are concluded without any further delay.

The Chief Secretary raised concerns over underutilization of court time in handling NDPS cases, often due to gaps in the investigation process. He emphasized the need to identify these lacunae and hold officials accountable, particularly in instances where defective charge sheets (challans) delay or derail the judicial process. He asked the Police Department to closely examine whether procedural delays or poor-quality investigations were causing bail or acquittals, especially in serious cases involving commercial quantities of narcotics.

Recognizing the evolving nature of drug trafficking networks, Dulloo called for strengthening the intelligence-gathering mechanism to identify and apprehend key players involved in the drug trade. He advised the Police Department to utilize its intelligence network effectively to detect patterns, identify repeat offenders, and track supply chains.

In cases involving habitual or organized drug traffickers, he suggested invoking the provisions related to organized crime or Sec 346 of BNSS to effectively dismantle syndicates and create a strong deterrent in the society against drug trade.

The Chief Secretary expressed concern over the vulnerability of border districts to cross-border drug smuggling, particularly from neighbouring regions. He directed the concerned authorities to maintain heightened vigil in these areas and increase surveillance activities with several other measures to detect the involvement of locals in this illicit trade.

Dulloo also instructed that unauthorized drug de-addiction centres be identified and penalized heavily for violating norms. Additionally, he emphasized strict monitoring of chemist shops to ensure that no contraband substances are sold without valid prescription or authorization.

Highlighting the delays in trial due to pending forensic reports, Dulloo instructed the Forensic Science Laboratory to expedite the analysis and reporting of samples collected under NDPS cases. He asserted that early submission of forensic evidence plays a pivotal role in the timely conclusion of trials.

Reiterating the importance of community engagement, Dulloo called for continuous IEC (Information, Education, and Communication) campaigns to raise awareness among the masses, particularly the youth, about the harmful effects of drug abuse. He said such campaigns must reach even the remotest corners of the UT to prevent young people from falling prey to this life-destroying menace.

While speaking in the meeting, Director General of Police, Nalin Prabhat, emphasized upon adopting if 'whole if government approach' to successfully nip this evil from the society. He made out that the law enforcement agencies can not be successful without the active support of other government departments and responsible citizens.

# HT - NEWS

In his remarks, Principal Secretary Home, Chandraker Bharti, made out that the quality of investigation can further be improved to further increase conviction rates. He also favours making of appeals in genuine cases and handing over of big value cases to NCB/ED for more professional investigation and better outcomes.

The DG, Prosecution and ADGP, CID along with other senior officers including Divisional Commissioners, IGP, Kashmir/Jammu also gave their viewpoints to curb this menace in a more efficient manner. Some of the Deputy Commissioners/District SSPs also made their presentations highlighting the action taken by them to get rid off this drug abuse in their districts.

The meeting noted that enforcement agencies have registered significant cases and arrests over the past two years with some 1,514 cases registered in 2024 and 2,260 arrests made and 274 detentions under the NDPS Act.

For the first Quarter of 2025 (Jan-Mar), it was added that 464 cases had been registered till date with 637 arrests and 76 detentions, with 31 cases involving commercial quantities the properties of drug dealers worth Rs 12 Cr stands attached by the authorities.

Regarding the destruction of illicit crops and conduct of awareness programs, the meeting was informed that in 2023-2024, poppy cultivation on 273 acres of poppy and cannabis on 1,642 acres was destroyed. In addition, over 1,903 programmes on public awareness conducted across the districts, with Kupwara/Handwara leading at 347 events.

As far as the training and fixing of accountability is concerned, it was revealed that 195 training sessions were conducted since 2022, training 4,267 officers. It was further divulged that 27 departmental inquiries were initiated in 2024 against the IOs, with 16 punishments awarded including censures and withheld increments.

About the treatment facilities, the meeting was apprised that around 20 Addiction Treatment Facilities are functional across the UT (11 in Kashmir, 9 in Jammu). It was given out that 2,332 new patients were registered, with 77,382 follow-up visits recorded for the first quarter of 2025 in these treatment centres.

Besides, the Police and Social Welfare Departments run facilities reported 1,762 fresh OPD cases and 450 IPD admissions in 2024. Moreover, the IPD services will be expanded in districts like Kulgam, Shopian, Pulwama and Ganderbal shortly as the manpower is being trained for the same.

With respect to the regulatory actions against lenient pharmacies, the meeting was apprised that 22,379 licenses reviewed with 73 suspended and 4 cancelled in 2025.

The Housing & Urban Development and Rural Development Departments are further going to intensify awareness through wall paintings and hoardings to create awareness among the general public about the ill effects of drug abuse in nook and corner of the UT, informed in the meeting.

### SSR

The filling of claims is a continuous process and shall be closed on 24th April 2025, reads the communiqué issued by the Office of Chief Electoral Officer J&K, Pandurang K Pole.

Pole, while highlighting the importance of voting, said that, "it is our duty to participate in the democratic traditions of our country and the first step towards that goal is getting ourselves registered as electors.

Speaking on the mechanism of grievance redressal of electors regarding inclusion/deletion; the Chief Electoral Officer assured that the issues/ grievances of citizens shall be promptly addressed. He stressed that any aggrieved elector can appeal against the decision of the Electoral Registration Officer to the District Magistrate. If he/she is still unsatisfied with the decision, there is also a provision of second appeal before the Chief Electoral Officer, he added.

### DR FAROOQ

is enough, we cannot be part of Pakistan, but we can live like friends. The fear will prevail till terrorism continues."

"I remember Atal Bihari Vajpayee's saying that friends can be changed but not neighbours. If we have good relations with each other, both the countries will progress, but the hostilities will only hamper the pace of progress, which is being witnessed today."

About the closure of Jamia Masjid, he said what message are they giving to the people. "Is it indicating the peace here? How can we ask the Pandit brethren to return home amidst the frequent closure of Jamia Masjid where the people used to pray," he said.

Meanwhile, Dr Farooq also said that the National Conference (NC) is going to approach the Supreme Court (SC) to fight the Waqf Amendment Bill, passed in the Parliament recently.

About the protest held by Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) against the Waqf Act, Abdullah said, "It is a good thing. This is a free country."

He also congratulated the Government of India for bringing back the mastermind of 26/11 Mumbai attack accused, Tahawwur

Rana. However, he questioned the centre on its promises of bringing back the black money and providing Rs 15 to every citizen.

"At least they have brought someone back," he said while congratulating the Centre for extraditing Rana to India from the United States. He asked what happened to the promises of bringing back the black money and providing Rs 15 lakh to every citizen—(

### HC

High Court directed a fresh hearing of the matter after seeking objections from the respondents and ensuring both parties are heard.

### TEAM HT

Editor in Chief of daily Headlines Today Jahangir Bukhari has termed this loss as personal one as Zahoor Ahmad Dar is a pious person, a renowned social worker and a nice human being. "May Allah give courage to the bereaved family of Zahoor sahib and grant Jannatul Firdous to the departed soul. Entire team HT is with the bereaved family in this hour of grief" prayed Bukhari

### POLICE

a single-storey residential house along with one kanal of land at Sallar, Anantnag. The property is owned by Bashir Ahmad Wani son of Abdul Aziz Wani resident of Sallar, involved in a case under FIR number 65/2018 registered at Police Station Srigufwara, related to the recovery of a considerable quantity of poppy straw. The seized property is estimated to be worth Rs 70 lakhs, a police spokesman said in a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

"In another major development under Case FIR No. 35/2025 U/S 8/20-29 NDPS Act of Police Station Bijbehara, police attached a residential house and a vehicle (Regd. No. JK02AV-1235) belonging to Tajdar Amin Khan son of Mohd Amin Khan resident of Goriwan Bijbehara (Presently at Karewa Colony Bijbehara) and a shopping complex owned by Bilal Ahmad Itoo son of Ghulam Hassan Itoo resident of Gund Nasir, Bijbehara," police said.

Moreover, police said that under a case under FIR number 213/2024 under section 8/15-29 NDPS Act of Police Station Bijbehara, a vehicle (Regd. No. HR16L-3657) belonging to Harjinder Singh son of Gurdial Singh resident of Mubarak Pur, Kapurthala (Punjab), was also attached.

The combined estimated market value of the properties seized in these cases stands at Rs 1.2 Crore (approx), police said.

These decisive actions reflect Police's firm resolve to dismantle the financial networks of drug traffickers and ensure accountability by seizing properties acquired through illicit means. Such measures send a strong message and serve as an effective deterrent to those involved in the drug trade. Police urge the public to remain vigilant and share any information related to drug peddling in their areas. The identity of informants will be kept strictly confidential, the statement added—

### MILITANTS

ested area of Chatroo in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district, officials said.

A senior police official confirmed to Srinagar based news agency Kashmiri Dot Com that the encounter began on April 9, when security forces launched a joint anti-militancy operation based on specific intelligence inputs about militant presence in the remote forest belt.

"Three terrorists have been killed. The operation is still in progress," the officer said, adding that the identity of the slain terrorists is being ascertained.

## Mian Altaf appointed member of J&K Haj Committee



Srinagar, Apr 11: The government has appointed Mian Altaf Ahmad, Member of Parliament from Rajouri-Anantnag constituency, as a member of the Jammu and Kashmir Haj Committee.

The appointment has been made under section 17(1) and 18(1) of the Haj Committee Act, 2002, read with Rule 20 of the Haj Committee Rules, 2002.

His term of membership will be the same as that of the other members, who were appointed through the government notification issued on July 20, 2022—





# Div Com Kashmir reviews action plan of works for SANJY-2025

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APRIL 11: In order to ensure top notch facilities for Yatris during the forthcoming Shri Amarnathji Yatra (SANJY) 2025, Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri on Friday convened a meeting to review the action plan of works of line departments and concerned district administrations. The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners of Srinagar, Budgam, Anantnag, Bandipora & Ganderbal besides Director Tourism, Director Health Services Kashmir, Director ULB, Director CAPD, Labour Commissioner, Chief Engineers of R&B, KPDCL; officers of SMC, Information, PHE, I&FC, Ayush, Pahalgam Development Authority, Sonmarg Development Authority, etc. Addressing the meeting, Div Com directed Departments to submit action plans for SANJY-25 urgently, and initiate the process of floating of tenders so that the works shall be completed within the stipulated time. Keeping in view the railway connectivity,



Div Com directed Deputy Commissioners for creating temporary additional facilities at Railway Station Anantnag and Budgam

to accommodate and ferry pilgrims. He urged departments including Health, KPDCL and PHE to frame work plans for

these stations also to ensure smooth delivery of respective services. He instructed the Director Tourism to make the accommodation of the department at Budgam Railway station available to district administration for utilization during yatra. Div Com enjoined DC Anantnag for creating the facilities of appropriate number of RFID registration counters in the district. He also urged DCs for keeping funds for unforeseen exigencies to address issues urgently and efficiently. The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners of Srinagar, Budgam, Anantnag, Bandipora & Ganderbal besides Director Tourism, Director Health Services Kashmir, Director ULB, Director CAPD, Labour Commissioner, Chief Engineers of R&B, KPDCL; officers of SMC, Information, PHE, I&FC, Ayush, Pahalgam Development Authority, Sonmarg Development Authority, etc. Addressing the meeting, Div Com directed Departments to submit action plans for SANJY-25 urgently, and initiate the process of floating of tenders so that the works shall be completed.

## SKUAST-K, AICRP on Seed (NSP) distribute Quality Seed among Tribal Farmers at KVK Budgam

HT News Network

BUDGAM, APRIL 11: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Budgam in collaboration with AICRP on Seed (Crops) NSP, Shalimar SKUAST Kashmir today organized an input distribution programme under Tribal Sub-Plan at KVK Budgam. About 50 tribal farmers of village Lobran, Khag Block received 10q of high yielding SKUAST-K released variety of paddy seed (SR4) and Seed bins (50). Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, Director Extension SKUAST-K, chief guest on the occasion, stressed the need for adoption and dissemination of the high yielding university-released variety of Paddy. Explaining about the benefits of the SR4 paddy variety, Director Extension, SKUAST-K said that the variety is climate resilient, less susceptible to diseases and has the potential to tolerate adverse weather conditions. She also briefed the farmers about the role of SKUAST-K in augmenting research in agriculture to facilitate the farming community in the valley. Dr. Bilal Ahmad Lone (Prof. & Head KVK Budgam) briefed the tribal farmers about the role of KVK Budgam in facilitating agriculture and allied activities in the district through on farm trials, front line demonstrations and skill-based training/awareness programmes. He encouraged the farmers to avail the services of the Kendra for more profitable farming. Dr. Gowhar Ali (Assoc. Prof. NSP) and Dr. Aflak Hamid (Assoc. Prof. NSP) deliberated upon the Package of Practices to be adopted for the SR4 variety.

## Commissioner SMC reviews progress under PMAY-U 2.0

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APRIL 11: Commissioner SMC, Dr. Owais Ahmed Friday chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban 2.0 (PMAY-U 2.0). The meeting focused on intensifying efforts to provide 'Housing for All' and ensuring that the benefits of the scheme reach the intended urban poor and homeless populations. A key outcome of the discussion was the directive to conduct ward-wise intensive beneficiary identification camps across the city. Commissioner emphasized the importance of transparency and inclusivity in the implementation process and instructed the teams to ensure proper field verification and documentation for each identified beneficiary. He also called for enhanced inter-



departmental coordination and public outreach to raise awareness about the scheme. "Every eligible person must be given the opportunity to live in a dignified and secure home. The goal of 'Housing for All' is inclu-

sive urban development, and we must act swiftly and efficiently to achieve this target," said Dr. Owais. Commissioner directed the teams to expedite pending approvals, fast-track the preparation of Detailed Project Reports

(DPRs), and closely monitor the progress on ground. Special attention was given in ensuring the inclusion of vulnerable groups such as women-led households, SC/ST families, and persons with disabilities. The meeting concluded with a strong call to action to intensify implementation efforts under PMAY-U 2.0 and to make Srinagar a model city for inclusive housing. Among others, the meeting was attended by the senior officials of the Corporation. Commissioner emphasized the importance of transparency and inclusivity in the implementation process and instructed the teams to ensure proper field verification and documentation for each identified beneficiary. He also called for enhanced inter-departmental coordination and public outreach to raise awareness about the scheme.

## Market inspections conducted in Srinagar to check quality of food items

7 FBOs found operating in insanitary/ unhygienic condition in Hazratbal area penalized

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APRIL 11: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, a Food Safety Team today conducted intensive inspections of various food outlets in Hazratbal area of the District. During the inspection, some street vendors in Hazratbal market were found violating provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act. These violations included Temperature Control; High-risk food was exposed to temperature danger zones. Environmental Protection: High-risk food was not protected from environmental hazards.

At Hazratbal market about 7 FBOs were found operating in insanitary/ unhygienic conditions and improper handling of High Risk foods. Accordingly challan was submitted before Adjudicating Officer (ADC) Srinagar for violating various provisions of the Food Safety Act. The Srinagar Food Safety Team led by Assistant Commissioner, Yameen ul Nabi has been working to strengthen its intelligence network to gather information about unhygienic or misbranded food items. This initiative aims to enhance food safety enforcement in District



Srinagar. Those Food Business Operators especially dealing with High Risk food are directed to maintain high standards of sanitary and Hygiene conditions of their establishments

failing which strict action under FSS Act will be initiated against defaulters. The Food Safety Team actively made food business operators aware of food safety laws. They were cautioned that strict action will be taken against violators. Meanwhile, taking cognizance of the viral video that surfaced on social media yesterday, the Food Safety team inspected a meat shop in Hazratbal. The shop was found to be non-operational for over 10 years, as confirmed by locals and the shopkeeper. However, the owner was discovered to be running a street vending business selling chicken, potentially storing equipment like wooden logs and knives within the shop premises. The Food Safety Team actively made food business operators aware of food safety laws. They were cautioned that strict action will be taken against violators. Meanwhile, taking cognizance of the viral video that surfaced on social media yesterday, the Food Safety team inspected a meat shop in Hazratbal. The shop was found to be non-operational for over 10 years, as confirmed by locals and the shopkeeper. However, the owner was discovered to be running a street vending business selling chicken, potentially storing equipment like wooden logs and knives within the shop premises.

## SMC conducts demolition drive in Shalteng, Maloora areas

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APRIL 11: Srinagar Municipal Corporation today launched a demolition drive in Ward 25 and Ward 26, targeting unauthorized and illegal constructions in the Shalteng and Maloora areas. This initiative carried out on the directions of Commissioner SMC, Dr. Owais Ahmed and supervised by the Enforcement Officer for Zone West, aims to reinforce municipal regulations and curb illegal building activities. During the demolition drive, several unauthorized structures were dismantled, highlighting the SMC's commitment to maintaining urban order. The corporation strongly urges residents to obtain the necessary building permissions before undertaking any construction work. Commissioner Dr. Owais Ahmed said, "We reiterate our appeal to the general public to adhere to legal processes and secure prior approvals from the competent authority to avoid punitive measures." SMC has increased its vigilance across Srinagar city and warns that violations of building norms will result in strict action. Corporation remains dedicated to ensuring that all development within the city aligns with the Master Plan 2035.

## Body of Third Missing Kulgam Nomad Recovered After Nearly Two Months

HT News Network

Kulgam, Apr 11, : In a tragic end to a nearly two-month-long search operation, the body of Mukhtar Ahmad, the third nomadic youth who had gone missing under mysterious circumstances in February, was recovered on Friday from Vaishow Nallah in South Kashmir's Kulgam district. The discovery marks the final chapter in the case of the three young men who had vanished together, sparking widespread concern and speculation across the Jammu and Kashmir. Mukhtar Ahmad was reported missing on February 13 along with two others—Adil Ahmad and Showkat Ahmad. While the bodies of Adil and Showkat were recovered from the same stream last month, Mukhtar remained untraceable until today. Officials confirmed that the body was recovered during a routine inspection of the area, as part of an extended search operation launched after the trio went missing. With the recovery of Mukhtar's body, the total number of deceased in the case stands at three, all of whom were in their early twenties and belonged to nomadic families in the district. The mysterious nature of their disappearance and the eventual discovery of their bodies in the same water body have raised serious questions, both among locals and law enforcement agencies. While no foul play has been officially confirmed, the circumstances have not been ruled out either. Police say the investigation is ongoing, and post-mortem reports will be crucial in determining the exact cause of death.

## Physically, Mentally Fit Daughters Not Entitled to Maintenance Under Section 488: High Court

HT News Network

Srinagar, Apr 11, : In a significant ruling, the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has held that adult, unmarried daughters who are physically and mentally fit are not entitled to claim maintenance under Section 488 of the J&K Code of Criminal Procedure. Justice Rahul Bharti delivered the verdict while allowing a petition filed by senior citizen Abdul Raheem Bhat, who had challenged a Judicial Magistrate's 2019 order directing him to pay Rs 1,200 monthly maintenance each to his two unmarried, adult daughters. Referring to the statutory provision, the Court observed that Section 488 CrPC does not extend maintenance rights to major daughters who are not suffering from any physical or mental incapacity. "Such daughters cannot invoke Section 488 by any stretch of reasoning," the Court noted. The case dates back to 2014 when Bhat's two daughters and a son approached the trial court seeking maintenance from their father. The court had dismissed the son's plea but allowed maintenance to the daughters. Ironically, in 2017, the same father was granted Rs 2,000 monthly maintenance from his son through a separate court order. Finding merit in the petitioner's contention, the High Court ruled that the lower court failed to appreciate the legal bar and set aside the Magistrate's order. "The petition is allowed," Justice Bharti stated in his judgment. Advocate GN Sofi represented the petitioner before the High Court. The case dates back to 2014 when Bhat's two daughters and a son approached the trial court seeking maintenance from their father. The court had dismissed the son's plea but allowed maintenance to the daughters. Ironically, in 2017, the same father was granted Rs 2,000 monthly maintenance from his son through a separate court order.



EDITORIAL

Improve work culture in hospitals in government sector

The health and medical education department issued a bizarre order restraining a doctor from carrying out private practice for an unspecified period of time. The reason for restraining is that the doctor has carried out no surgery in the government sector. The doctor posted at the surgery department of Government Medical College, Srinagar has carried out more than 1800 surgeries in the private sector while no surgery has been carried out in the government sector under the Ayushman Bharat scheme.

Ideally the doctor should have been suspended from the government sector as he has failed to deliver at his place of posting. Instead of suspending him from the government service the health and medical education department barred the doctor from carrying out private practice. Restraining the doctor from carrying out private practice is no punishment and suspending him from the government service would have been the ideal means of reprimanding him. One fails to understand the motive behind the issuance of this order.

Once this doctor would have been suspended from the government service the other doctors who are found to be giving more time at their clinics rather than government hospitals would have felt the hit. As such this would have improved the work culture at the government hospitals and health institutions. This would have resulted in relief for the people especially those belonging to lower strata of society and also to those living in the far-off areas of the union territory.

In the past the government had issued many orders for regulation of private practice for doctors but these orders were seldom implemented on ground. It was observed that the doctors devoted more time at the private clinics rather than at their places of posting in the government sector. In some cases action was taken against certain doctors while as in most of the cases the doctors managed to run away. The issue hogged headlines for some days and with the passage of time it died down.

At places other than Jammu & Kashmir the doctors are asked to choose between the government service and the private job. In such a case the healthcare at a government hospital does not get hit and the doctors carrying out private practice don't fear any raid expected to be carried out by the government officers. Same needs to be adopted here as well but before that the government should fill all the posts of doctors in the government sector.

The Business of Birth: Rising Cesarean Deliveries in Jammu and Kashmir and the Need for Patient Awareness

ER. HAYA ALJAZ  
RESEARCH SCHOLAR

In recent years, the state of Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a massive surge in cesarean section deliveries, raising serious concerns among public health experts (excluding concerned surgeons). With a steady increase in test driven C-sections, many healthcare professionals are reportedly steering patients toward surgical births often for convenience or profit turning this into a disturbing trend.

Many expecting mothers report feeling pressured into cesarean deliveries. Doctors frequently cite vague or questionable reasons such as the baby's size, low amniotic fluid, potential distress, or hypothetical complications to push for surgery. They often claim, "It's safer for the baby," or "We don't want to take a risk," without giving women full information or viable alternatives.

Ironically, the advancement of technology in healthcare, rather than making childbirth more natural and safe, has made it harder for women to deliver normally. In earlier times, women gave birth without complications on roads, in tongas, in caravans, and even while migrating from one place to another. Nomadic women delivered babies anywhere, anytime, without hospitals or technology, and often without medical issues.

Even today, in villages and far-flung areas where modern technology has limited access, normal deliveries are still common. Women in these regions often remain healthier and stronger than their urban counterparts, despite not undergoing frequent scans or clinical followups. This contrast raises an important question has technology truly improved maternal health, or has it enabled a trend of unnecessary surgical interventions?

What's unfolding now borders on a butcher's business cutting women open without valid medical grounds. Many



women go through a full nine months of pregnancy, strictly attending follow-up appointments, undergoing all necessary tests, and maintaining active lifestyles, only to be wheeled into the OT at the last moment for a cesarean procedure. This not only undermines the essence of childbirth but also puts women's longterm health at risk.

C-sections were originally introduced as lifesaving interventions during life-threatening conditions. Unfortunately, in many urban and semi urban settings, they are now being promoted and preferred even in normal cases, often without justified cause. This issue is not just medical it is becoming a modern social evil. It is alarming and deeply concerning, yet often overlooked. The overuse and abuse of cesarean deliveries threaten not only physical health but also emotional and psychological wellbeing.

Raising awareness is no longer optional, it's a necessity. Women must be edu-

cated about their rights, childbirth choices, and the longterm consequences of surgical deliveries. By questioning medical recommendations, seeking second opinions, and pushing for evidence based practices; patient's can reclaim their autonomy and dignity in the childbirth process.

Many doctors today don't even wait for the onset of labor pain, which is medically important for a woman's body to naturally prepare for delivery. Labor pain is not just a sign it is a crucial physiological process that signals readiness and helps the body transition smoothly through birth.

Natural delivery through the birth canal plays a vital role in developing a baby's immunity. As the baby passes through the canal, it encounters beneficial maternal bacteria that help build the child's immune system. However, in cesarean births often done 10 to 15 days before the due date this essential step is skipped. Babies are taken out through the lower abdomen, without

any natural exposure.

This unnatural entry into the world can lead to serious complications. In many cases, the baby is rushed to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) just minutes after birth, deprived of the warmth and comfort of the mother's chest. What should have been time spent in the mother's womb becomes time in an incubator.

Complications like Acute Respiratory Distress (ARD), neonatal infections, and respiratory failures are now frequently observed. ARD in particular is a life-threatening condition that affects the baby's ability to breathe properly, often requiring ventilatory support. Such complications not only pose immediate risks but can also lead to long-term developmental delays, poor immunity, and prolonged dependence on medical care. Often, these babies spend 10 to 15 days in NICU and are later discharged with a long list of care instructions. In unfortunate cases, complications worsen, sometimes becoming untreatable

We women of this era are already older, biologically and functionally, than our grandmothers ever were-even in their youth. One of the key reasons is that their deliveries were extremely natural without unnecessary surgical interventions. Despite having more than six children our grandmothers remained active, healthy, and mentally strong, often living long, fulfilling lives. Today's women, in contrast, are facing reproductive and physical health challenges earlier in life.

This issue demands urgent attention, not just from the healthcare sector but from society at large. Women must reclaim their choices, and families must support informed decisions over fearful ones. It is high time we see childbirth not as a profit-making opportunity, but as a natural, empowering experience that deserves respect, patience, and dignity.

It's time we stand against this silent crisis. The health and future of our women deserve more.

Lost in Silence: The women we betrayed



TAWHEED SHEIKH

It is painful beyond words to witness the ongoing suffering of women in our society. A deep and widespread pain surrounds many as they carry heavy burdens in their hearts, often without sharing, often without anyone noticing. Their pain is silent, their struggles invisible, yet the weight is crushing.

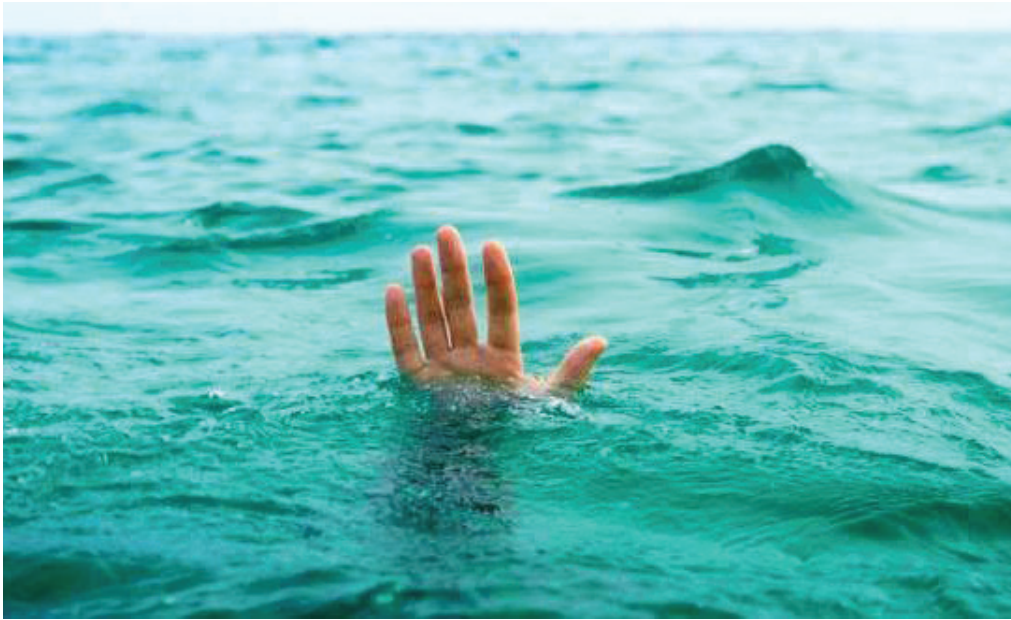
Yesterday, we were shaken by a heartbreaking incident in Ganderbal : a woman, overwhelmed and broken jumped into a water canal with her son and daughter. Fortunately, all three were rescued in time. Only days earlier, another woman in Bandipora chose to end her life in the same tragic way. These are not just tragic stories, they are urgent alarms ringing in our conscience.

Some women suffer in

silence under domestic violence, enduring physical and emotional abuse within their own homes. Others face societal pressures and stigmas that lead to profound mental distress. Over the past three years, more than 6,400 domestic violence victims in Jammu and Kashmir have sought assistance from One Stop Centres. According to the National Crime Records Bureau, cases of crimes against women in the region are increasing.

We have heard too many such stories—women setting themselves on fire, swallowing poison, drowning in rivers, hanging from ceiling fans—not because they wanted to die, but because they could no longer bear to live the life they were forced into. Because their voices were never heard. Because their pain was never seen. Because no one came to help when they were crying inside. Because the world around them expected them to keep smiling, keep serving, keep suffering without complaint.

We like to think that we are a caring society, a moral



society, a society rooted in values. But what kind of values are these where women are drowning in despair and no one notices until it's too late? Where a mother must decide between dying and surviving another day of silent pain? What kind of world is this where women, who hold families together, who sacrifice endlessly, who give their lives to others, find themselves so

alone, so lost that death feels kinder than life?

This is not just a personal failure. It is not just the burden of one woman, one family or one town. This is a collective failure. A failure of our homes, our communities, our institutions, our mindset. We have built a society where women are expected to endure quietly, without asking for help. Where mental

health is still taboo. Where talking about depression or anxiety is considered shameful. Where people whisper when a woman breaks down but no one asks what broke her.

The truth is, we have failed to protect the hearts and minds of our women. We have failed to give them a world where they feel safe, where they are allowed to be

vulnerable, where they are not constantly judged, blamed or silenced. We celebrate women on special days, we post quotes and pictures but where are we when a real woman in our life is crying herself to sleep every night? Where are we when a sister, a daughter, a wife or a mother is hiding her tears just to avoid being called weak?

A woman doesn't choose death easily. It takes countless nights of hopelessness. It takes unbearable loneliness. It takes repeated emotional wounds. It takes losing faith in everyone around her. Before she ends her life, she dies a hundred times in silence and that silence is what we need to break.

We need to create a world where women are not ashamed to say they're hurting. Where they are not blamed for their pain. Where they are encouraged to speak, to share, to heal. Where help is not a privilege but a right. Where empathy replaces judgment. Where kindness becomes the culture.

We need to open our eyes and our hearts. We need to

look at the women around us and ask how they're doing. We need to listen without interrupting, without offering quick solutions, without making them feel guilty for feeling broken. We need to sit with them in their pain, be present and walk with them through it. Because healing doesn't come from advice, it comes from connection.

Let's stop pretending everything is fine. It's not. Women are dying. Families are breaking. Children are losing their mothers. It's all preventable, if only we care enough, if only we act before it's too late.

To every woman who is struggling silently, please know you matter. You are not alone. You are not weak for feeling overwhelmed. Your pain is real and you deserve support, love and peace.

And to all of us, let's not wait for another tragedy to move us. Let's be the society that listens, that understands, that supports. Let us be the reason someone chooses to live.

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# Not only 'Sangam' but 'Samundaram'

**SALMAN ABDUS SAMAD**  
DEPARTMENT OF URDU, KBNLU,  
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It was a very intellectual journey. I participated in a two-day international conference organized by Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Solapur University, Solapur. The conference's theme was attractive to all scholars and intellectuals interested in promoting new ideas in literature and languages. The conference organizers paid attention to fixing the theme and all subtopics.

Because of this, the number of participants was high. In the 21st century, new trends are being discussed in languages and literatures, and some philosophers and new critics are studying literature from multiple aspects. The uniqueness of the theme "recent trends in languages and literatures" crept into the heart of every literary person.

Indeed, the relation of the trends is related to trends and traditions of society. Nowadays, not only the style of thinking but also the style of sleeping and eating is completely different than the 20th century. So it is mandatory to contemplate the new theories and ideas. Discussing the theory can make the literary person close to society and its changes. We encounter new thoughts and trends globally. Keeping all these aspects in mind, the confidence committee has finalized the topics related to trends in Languages and literature.

When the topics of new trends were being discussed, I had a good chance to share the idea about our new movement named Tahreek-e-Tardeed, in English "Moment of



Refutation".

Before moving ahead, it should be mentioned—the background of "Tahreek-e-Tardeed". It must have been 2017-18. We were researchers at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, and we, students and researchers from different languages and disciplines, used to assemble under the banner of Besimt Raftaar Adbi Front to present short stories, ideas, and poetry. More than 12 functions were held in different hostels' messes at JNU. In the beginning, we did not fix a president for the function. It used to be requested that all present students listen to all papers and poetry.

At the end of the function, we

used to select two presidents to present the presidential remarks. Because of this, we all used to listen to all presenters carefully and would express our ideas either before the president or after. The style and process of the functions made us free to think about literary concepts. In literature, only the president doesn't have the right to express ideas, but all present people have a tongue for analysis and a mind to think.

In that period, we used to think about freedom in literature and discussed how to liberate literature from positions and designations of remarkable value. I used to talk about it with my friends, Imteyaz Rumi and Furqan Alam, and we

decided to run the Movement of Refutation and publish a literary magazine named Tardeed.

When I planned to prepare the paper for the Solapur seminar, the ideas of Tahreek-e-Tardeed came to my mind again. So, I prepared the paper titled "Moment of Refutation: A New Trend in Literature." This movement has taken some ideas from nihilism and Socratic skepticism. Both were famous and controversial ideas for refuting and judging thoughts from different aspects. We don't fully believe in them for refutation, but there are some points we can relate to.

Basically, there are two valuable positions in the Movement of Refutation. First is the re-assessment

of ideas in criticism. No doubt, refutation is different from decline and rejection because refutation is close to re-assessment. Indeed, there are many aspects of re-assessment. The second is about developing an atmosphere of freedom in literature. Nowadays, the literature of position holders is being remarked as better than others. Critics hardly speak the truth about the literature of those in positions. This can be seen partially in literature easily.

I wrote the paper for Solapur about this because it was the best time to reflect on these ideas. I tried to prepare the manifesto of Tahreek-e-Tardeed. It is not final yet. If I get support from different

sides, I will re-write it.

I presented my paper in Urdu. I was impressed by the kind behavior of Dr. Ayesha Pathan and Dr. Sumiyya Baghban from the Urdu Department of Solapur University. I also had a good meeting with Dr. Ghaus Ahme Shaikh and Dr. Shafi Chaubdar, the President and chief guest of the Urdu technical session. The teachers from the Hindi and Sanskrit departments conducted the opening and valedictory sessions and won everyone's hearts through their fluency in language and their sweet and graceful style of moderation. For this important program, I sincerely thank Professor Gautam Kamble, Director of the School of Languages.

On this occasion, three Assistant Professors from Khaja Bhandawaz University, Kalaburagi – Dr. Deshmukh Afshan Begum, Dr. Maimoona Begum Saradgi, and I (Salman Abdus Samad) – visited Social College, Solapur, and presented our lectures. In this function, famous poet Momin Bijapuri from Bijapur University was with us. Thanks to Dr. Ghaus Ahmad Sheikh and Principal Dr. Iqbal Ahmed Tamboli for this wonderful arrangement. They gave us their time, respect and made the visit memorable.

In the end, once again, I thank Solapur University for organizing such a conference where literary people from eight languages took part. The place where two rivers meet is called a "Sangam". And where eight languages come together in a conference, it will be called "Samundaram".

## The game of the private system: Attack on the common man's pocket



DR. SATYAWAN SAURABHI

India is a country where education and health are considered basic rights. But when these rights take the form of a business, then these rights become a burden in the life of the common man. In today's era, private schools and private hospitals have created such a system in the name of facilities that directly attacks the pocket of the common man. This attack is not only economic but also mental and social.

### Educational or business?

Talking about private schools, these educational institutions now seem less like schools and more like five-star hotels. Lakhs of rupees are collected for admission in schools in the name of different items like donation, admission fees, annual charges, dress, books, shoes, bus fees, etc. Books have to be bought from the school's 'authorized vendor,' whose price is double the market rate because the school's commission is included in it. School uniforms also have to be bought from them, which are not available in the general market.

All this is not because parents demand these facilities but because schools have made it 'compulsory.' The thing called studies now happens less in the classroom and more in coaching institutes—and the interesting thing is that the owners of those coaching institutes are also often associated with the same school operators. The child goes to school all day, then coaching, then homework, and then tuition—no time for oneself, no thinking, no childhood. The aim of all these is the same—'get' 99%. And when these marks are not achieved, the children suffer from an inferiority complex. Parents start comparing them with other children, and this whole process turns into mental harassment.

## In India, basic rights like education and health have become a source of profit for private institutions.

### Health name, business work

Now if this is the situation in education, the health sector is even more horrific. The structure of private hospitals is now more focused on 'earnings' than treatment. As soon as you enter the hospital, a 'slip' is issued, then various tests, expensive medicines, ICU, and demand for 'advance payment'—and that too without telling you what the condition of the patient is.

Doctors treat even a common cold, cough, or fever as if life is in danger. By scaring people, they are advised to take long-term medicines and get admitted. Even if the patient recovers, the family gets sick after seeing the bill. The medicine, which is available outside for Rs. 10, costs Rs. 200 to 300 in the hospital bill.

Even after death, the body is kept for a day or two, and money is collected till the last breath in the name of 'mortuary charges,' 'freezer charges,' etc. This is a cruel joke on the family, which has already lost its loved ones.

### Government's silence—why?

The saddest aspect of this loot is that no one has to do it secretly—everything happens openly. Newspapers, social media, and news channels—this issue is raised everywhere. Every year there is a hue and cry over the fee hike of private schools and hospital bills, but every time this hue and cry is slowly suppressed.

Why? Because most private schools, colleges, and hospitals—there is some politician behind all of these. Whether he is from the ruling party or the opposition, most of the people sitting in the system are somehow involved in this game. Rules and laws are made, but they

are not implemented.

RTE (Right to Education Act), CGHS (Health Care Scheme), and National Medical Council—these are all mere names used for publicity and not for providing relief to the common man.

### The tragedy of the middle class

The government sometimes makes plans for the poor; the rich have no worries, but the middle class suffers the most. They are neither willing to be sent to a government school nor to a government hospital. Out of helplessness, they choose the private option and then get caught in the same trap—a trap in which there is no control, no accountability.

The middle class neither takes to the streets nor protests. Every month it cuts its pocket to pay EMI, pays school fees, pays hospital bills, and thinks only this: "There is no other way."

### Solution possibilities

If this problem is to be really tackled, some concrete steps will have to be taken. Transparency of private institutions—Schools and hospitals should publicly display information about their fees and services on websites and notice boards. There should be an independent regulatory body that monitors fees and quality of service. A system where common citizens can register their complaints and they are resolved in a timely manner. It should be ensured that the interests of any political person or their family are not linked to these institutions. Unless the general public unites and raises its voice, this chain of loot will continue.

Education and health are no longer a 'service'—it is now a 'service' whose price is determined by your pocket. This situation is shameful for any sensitive and democratic society. Unless we wake up, raise our voice, and demand accountability from the system, this private system will continue to rob us like this.

We have to understand that by joining the race of showing off, we are putting our children's childhood, our family's peace, and our future stability at stake. This is the time to ask questions, to show the mirror to the system—otherwise not only your pocket will be lost, but self-respect will also be lost.

**Research Scholar in Political Science, University of Delhi, Poet, freelance journalist, and columnist.**

## Tulips bloom in Kashmir



RAYEES AHMAD KUMAR

For the past few weeks, tourists and visitors from all parts of the country and abroad are massively thronging to the land of beauty and charm. They don't come to mesmerize themselves in the vast meadows and upper reaches of world famous hill station of Gulmarg, the pristine climate and high altitude snow caps of Sonamarg or the historical Mughal gardens. Instead their main choice to visit these days is Tulip Garden. Nestled in the lap of majestic Zabarwan Hills and close to famous Cheshmashahi and Botanical Garden, The Tulip Garden is presently housing millions of vibrant and multiple coloured tulip bulbs. Developed during the reign of former chief minister of erstwhile state of Jammu Kashmir Ghulam Nabi Azad and officially recognized as Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden, the garden is spread over thirty hectares of fertile land on the banks of world famous Dal Lake. Though the shelf life of Tulip flowers is very short and soon the bulbs wither away, the rush of the visitors both local and non locals is surging with each passing day. To accommodate the heavy rush of people intending to visit and ensuring their seamless tour, civil and police administration of city is finding it challenging to control the vehicular and other traffic on the boulevard road and other roads leading to the garden, at times one way traffic is only allowed during peak hours to minimize the traffic jam. As per some media reports, 81452 visitors toured this garden in a single day, marking it as the preferred choice among the visitors during the ongoing spring season of valley. This has boosted our tourism sector besides raising the economy of the region. According to some online news portal, in just fifteen days, Asia's largest tulip garden has surpassed the previous record of footfall. Featured in the World book of records, the garden is showcasing 1.7 tulips of 74 varieties, drawing massive crowds from across the globe. This achievement reaffirms garden's global appeal and it's significant role in promoting valley's growing tourism potential.

Soon after culmination of February month each year, people of valley long for the opening of Tulip garden, as it offers the recreational avenues with spring season knocking the



doors of valley. It marks the end of extremely shivering winter season. This year after being thrown open by the honorable chief minister, record number of visitors have paid a visit. Enthusiasm and eagerness among the visitors is evident from their passion to take photographs and selfies in the garden, uploading them on the social media and attending the festivities there. Valley's famous hot traditional green tea Kehwa is served there to attract huge crowd besides popularizing the centuries old staple beverage. The enchanting scenes and charm of the Tulip garden, has encouraged administration and locals to go for more such gardens. As a result many gardens were developed which too attract both local and non locals tourists. At Pulwama, Kokernag Anantnag and Udhampur, the newly developed Tulip gardens spread over several kanals of land house many varieties of tulips. People of the area are expressing their utmost desire to develop these gardens at par with the Asia's largest Tulip garden of Srinagar to attract massive tourist influx. Sometimes the musical concerts and other festivals held in the garden, draws big crowds including the people from different walks of life. From ordinary people to bureaucrats and ministers, everyone visits the garden to get the glimpses of millions of varied coloured bulbs planted in beds, lawns and pathways. The huge tourist influx recorded these days is primarily due to tulip garden, but the other health resorts too eagerly wait the arrival of local and foreign visitors during the summer season. Although the least snowfall during this winter couldn't attract a pleasing number of tourists and skiers, the winter festival and winter Games at Gulmarg were delayed, yet we expect a great number of tourists to visit here during summer. It will help in strengthening our economy as well as exchange of ideas and cultural traditions. As hosts, we appeal the people of globe not to restrict yourself to Tulip garden only, Kashmir has lot to offer, and our world famous health resorts and hill stations always welcomes you.

**Writer is a columnist hailing from Qazigund Kashmir.**





# Satish Sharma inaugurates 3 day painting exhibition at Kala Kendra

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 11: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Transport, Science & Technology, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, ARI & Trainings, Satish Kumar Sharma, today inaugurated a three day painting exhibition at Kala Kendra, Jammu, showcasing the remarkable works of renowned artist Muneer Ali Khan. The exhibition, being organized by Kala Kendra Jammu, featured a collection of art works that highlight the diverse and unique artistic vision of Khan.

In his welcome address, Dr. Javid

Rahi, Secretary of Kala Kendra, stated that the primary objective of today's exhibition is to promote creativity in arts and provide a platform for artists like Muneer Ali Khan to share their work with a wider audience. Kala Kendra is committed towards nurturing and celebrating the talent that contributes to our cultural richness.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister emphasized the importance of art in shaping cultural identity and inspiring the future generations. "Art and creativity are essential components of our culture and I am truly impressed by the talent and expression reflected in the paintings of Muneer Ali Khan.



Events like this not only celebrate artistic excellence but also encourage our younger generation to engage with creative pursuits. I sincerely appreciate the efforts of Kala Kendra for organizing such a purposeful exhibition", maintained the Minister. He suggested that similar exhibitions should be held in various districts to bring art closer to the people and foster cultural awareness at the grassroots level.

The exhibition was also graced by the presence of noted journalist Zafar Choudhary, who shared his personal experience of being associated with Muneer Ali Khan's artistic journey over the years. "Muneer Ali Khan's work stands out for its diver-

sity and imaginative expression. His art reflects deep thought, emotion and a distinctive creative approach. It is always a pleasure to witness his evolving style," asserted Choudhary. Muneer Ali Khan expressed his gratitude to the organizers and attendees. He shared insights into his artistic process and the inspiration behind some of his key works on display. "I have organized several exhibitions over the years, but every opportunity to present my work is special. Art appreciation is essential for an artist's growth and motivation. I thank everyone who came today and took the time to engage with my work," said Khan.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

It is being notified that my name in school record as well in my Aadhar Card having Aadhar card number this 430060985997 has been wrongly mentioned as Peer wajid Mushtaq now I want to update it in both aadhar card as well as in school record as wajid Mushtaq shah  
DOB 28/12/2020 C/o Mushtaq Ahmad Shah  
Address : HARDUTOORU, achabal anantanag , j&k 192201  
If anyone have objection plz contact us

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 ABDUL MANAN LONE S/O NASEER AHMAD LONE R/O THINDIMA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 18/04/2019 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order .In this connection . if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

Executive Magistrate  
1st Class KREERI

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 FATIMA HAFEEZ S/O HAFEEZULLAH WANI R/O THINDIMA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 07/10/2014 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order .In this connection . if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

Executive Magistrate  
1st Class KREERI

## PUBLIC NOTICE

My son's name has been wrongly written as TALIB KHUR-SHEED in Hospital record while his correct name is AAHIL KHURSHEED which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he / she may file his/her objection in the office of BMO / SDH KREERI within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained .

Name....KHURSHEED AHMAD GANIE  
S/O ALI MOHAMMAD GANIE  
R/O KAWACHACK

## PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that my dob. has been incorrectly mentioned on my Adhar card 994606844372, as NADEEM FAYAZ LONE S/O FAYAZ AHMAD LONE DOB 06/06/2005 R/O KULTOORA Tehsil LANGATE the correct DOB is 06/04/2008 NADEEM FAYAZ LONE S/O FAYAZ AHMAD LONE r/o KULTOORA 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 LANGATE within a period of 07 days after that no objection will be accepted.

NAME: NADEEM FAYAZ LONE  
DOB 06/04/2008  
S/O FAYAZ AHMAD LONE  
R/O: KULTOORA TEHSIL LANGATE DIST KUPWARA

## SAD DEMISE



DEEWAT

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF DEEWAT W/O LATE: ABDUL AZIZ SHANGLOO R/O: FIRDOS COLONY CHANDPORA HARWAN SRINAGAR, WHO LEFT FOR HEAVENLY ABODE ON 10TH APRIL 2025 THURSDAY AFTER A BRIEF ILLNESS. MAY ALMIGHTY ALLAH GRANT JANNAT-UL-FIRDOS TO THE DEPARTED SOUL. FATAH E KHANI WILL BE OBSERVED AT THEIR ANCESTRAL GRAVEYARD LOCATED AT MALKHA SRINAGAR AT 11:00 AM, ON 13TH OF APRIL SUNDAY

BEREAVED FAMILY  
8803485579  
9419019556

## 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 KHANDAY 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 KHANDAY  
R/O KHISIPORA KREERI  
DISTT..... BARAMULLA

## PUBLIC NOTICE

My daughter's parentage name has been wrongly written as SAHIL AHMAD LONE in Hospital record bearing ID No 101002578718 while her correct parentage is SUHAIL HASSAN LONE which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he / she may file his/her objection in the office of BMO / SDH KREERI within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name....SUHAIL HASSAN LONE  
F/O FATIMA  
R/O TAPPER PAYEEN

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I Farooq Ahmad Badana S/O Mam Din Badana R/o Lohikot Tehsil Qalamabad DIST KUPWARA have applied for DOB Certificate of my daughter and son's Namely Aaqib Ahmad Badana DOB 15/08/2016 Seerat Jan DOB 18/06/2023 Rafakat Ahmad Badana DOB 21/06/2020 Parentage Farooq ahmad badana R/O Lohikot Tehsil Qalamabad DIST KUPWARA in this record if anybody has any kind of objection He/she may contact concerned authority within 7 days no objection will be entertained after the date expire.

AAQIB AHMAD BADANA DOB 15/08/2016  
SEERAT JAN DOB 18/06/2023  
RAFAKAT AHMAD BADANA DOB 21/06/2020  
PARENTAGE/FAROOQ AHMAD BADANA  
R/o LOHIKOT TEHSIL QALAMABAD DIST KUPWARA

## IUST's Alamdar College Observes World Health Day

■ HT News Network



Awantipora, April 11: Alamdar Memorial College of Nursing and Medical Technology, Charar-e-Sharif, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), observed World Health Day 2025 in collaboration with Sub-District Hospital (SDH), Charar-e-Sharif. The event was held in line with this year's World Health Organization (WHO) theme: Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures. The programme was held across at SDH Charar-e-Sharif and the college campus. The event witnessed the participation of ASHA workers and hospital staff, students, faculty, and college staff.

Speakers from SDH Charar-e-Sharif and IUST addressed key issues such as cleanliness, mental health, and maternal and child healthcare — including antenatal, intranatal, and postnatal care, essential newborn care, brain development, and nutrition.

A poster competition reflecting the WHO 2025 theme was also held. Dr. Zamrooda Akhter, Principal of Alamdar Memorial College, emphasized the importance of health awareness and community involvement in building a healthier society. A poster competition reflecting the WHO 2025 theme was also held. Dr. Zamrooda Akhter, Principal of Alamdar Memorial College, emphasized the importance of health awareness and community involvement in building a healthier society.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

It is being notified that my name in school record as well in my Aadhar Card having Aadhar card number this 880778217731 has been wrongly mentioned as Peer Raafiq Mushtaq now I want to update it in both aadhar card as well as in school record as Raafiq Mushtaq Shah  
DOB 05/03/2015  
C/o Mushtaq Ahmad Shah  
Address : HARDUTOORU, achabal anantanag , j&k 192201  
If anyone have objection plz contact us

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 MOHAMMAD MOEID LONE S/O PERVAIZ AHMAD LONE R/O THINDIMA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 25/03/2013 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order .In this connection . if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

Executive Magistrate  
1st Class KREERI

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 MOHSIN HILAL S/O HILAL AHMAD NAJAR R/O HAIL Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 04/02/2019 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order .In this connection . if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

Executive Magistrate  
1st Class KREERI

## ازعدالت ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ درج اول ویلگام

درخواست شادبیر ولدبیر احمدگٹا بی ساکن موضع پنجواہ الغرض تاریخ پیدائش  
15/09/2008

### اشتہار ہمراد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

مندرجہ ذیل عنوان کے صدر میں سائل نے عدالت ہذا میں ایک درخواست نمول بیان ملتی بغرض اندراج تاریخ پیدائش سرٹیفکیٹ مطابق کاڈ 15/09/2008 شادبیر ولدبیر احمدگٹا بی ساکن موضع پنجواہ پیش کی ہے لہذا ہر خاص و عام کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ نسبت اندراج تاریخ پیدائش مذکورہ اگر کسی کو بھی غلط یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر دفتر ہذا میں پیش کریں مبادرت ہوئے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

### ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ درج اول ویلگام

## اطلاع عام

میں مسمیٰ کو صیت احمد ڈار ولد مرحوم عبدالحق ڈار ساکن موہڑ ناگہار قاضی آباد ہر خاص و عام کو بذریعہ اشتہار کے آگاہ کرتا ہوں کہ مجھے ملتی ہے نام پر آتی تھی بنام مرحوم عبدالحق ڈار ولد مرحوم دل محمد ڈار کے نام پر آتی تھی اب مجھے اپنے نام پر درج کرنی مطلوب ہے بنام کو صیت احمد ڈار ولد مرحوم عبدالحق ڈار ساکن موہڑ ناگہار قاضی آباد کے نام پر درج کرنی مطلوب ہے اس ضمن میں اگر کسی بھی شخص یا شخص کو کوئی غلط یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر دفتر ہذا میں پیش کرنا چاہئے جس کی پورہ ہندواڑہ میں پیش کریں مبادرت ہوئے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا ریکٹر یومرانی ڈی فہر

0214020007150

### المشتر

### توصیف احمد ڈار

### ولد مرحوم عبدالحق ڈار

### ساکن سوہرنا گھاہ قاضی آباد ڈسٹرکٹ

### کیواڑہ

## زدفتر نایب تحصیلدار سانگس اچمہ بل

محفوظہ بانو بیوہ عیدر سید وانی ساکن براہ تحصیل سانگس بغرض بغرض حصول لیگل ریکرڈ

### اشتہار ہمراد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

سائل کاٹو ہر عیدر سید وانی ولد غلام محمد وانی ساکن براہ 19/03/2025 کو فوت ہوا ہے وارث باہر افراد

محفوظہ بیوہ متوفی 47 سال گھڑکام
سپہنہ ر سید دختر 30 سال سادی سودہ
غوسیہ ر سید دختر 29 == سادی سودہ
سہادر سید پسر 26 سرکاری ملازم
زادر سید == 24

اس طور کنڈیکل (5) افراد پر متفق مطابق رپورٹ پٹواری مندر چروارتان جائز کے علاوہ اور کوئی وارثان جائز نہیں ہے سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو کوئی غلط یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر دفتر ہذا میں پیش کرنا چاہئے جس کی پورہ ہندواڑہ میں پیش کریں مبادرت ہوئے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

### نائب تحصیلدار

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I SARTAJ AHMAD YAQUBI GANIE S/O MOHD YAQUB GANIE R/O Khirman Ganesh Raina Wapoh Tehsil & District Anantnag UT of Jammu and Kashmir have applied for rectification/ addition of caste details in the 10th/ 12th Certificates Issued / to be issued by CBSE in favour of my ward namely IZHAN YAQUBI S/O SARTAJ AHMAD instead of IZHAN YAQUBI S/O SARTAJ AHMAD YAQUBI GANIE , his Actual particulars as per birth, revenue and other allied records. Now I am going to apply for Correction of the same. Objection if any may be Conveyed to the concerned authorities within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

Sartaj Ahmad Yaqubi Ganie  
S/O Mohd Yaqub Ganie







# Saudi Govt's visa suspension won't impact Hajj pilgrims from J&K: Officials 'Move will prevent misuse of Umrah, tourist visas ahead of pilgrimage'

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, Apr 11 The Saudi Arabia government's recently imposed temporary ban on the issuance of Umrah, tourist and visit visas ahead of the Hajj-2025 has sparked concerns among the aspiring pilgrims in Jammu and Kashmir. However, the officials, who spoke to the news agency—clarified that this move was a routine pre-Hajj measure and will not affect the upcoming Hajj pilgrimage from India, including Jammu & Kashmir. Executive Officer of the J&K State Haj Committee, Dr Shujaat Ahmad Qureshi, clarified that the ban applies

specifically to Umrah, tourist and visiting visas and has been enforced in coordination with multiple countries. The senior officer said that this decision will prevent the misuse of Umrah or visit visas by individuals, attempting to perform Hajj illegally—a problem that affected accommodations and logistics in previous years. "Last year, those who went on Umrah or other visas often stayed back and performed Hajj without authorisation, which led to overcrowding, particularly in Minatents," the senior officer said. "This year, such practices will be curbed due to the ban and legitimate pilgrims will benefit with better access to facilities."



He added that this was done every year, typically a few days before Hajj, however, this time the visa suspension was imposed nearly 20 days in advance, stating that might have caused some confusion. The Executive Officer of the J&K State Haj Committee said that the move is expected to streamline the Hajj process and reduce issues faced by officially registered pilgrims, especially those who often encountered logistical challenges due to overlapping stays by non-Hajj visa holders. "It helps avoid unnecessary crowding and mismanagement, especially in tents and accommodation areas," the official noted. As for the current status of Hajj

preparations from Jammu & Kashmir, over 3,600 pilgrims are scheduled to perform Hajj this year under the government quota. Their orientation and training programmes are currently underway, and vaccination drives will be completed in the coming days. As per the tour operators, the temporary suspension of visas by Saudi Arabia does not impact Hajj pilgrims, who are travelling to Saudi Arabia strictly for Hajj and have secured Hajj visas. As per the officials, the early travel restrictions comes after the tragedy during the 2024 Hajj pilgrimage, where over 1,000 people were killed—

## DC Baramulla convenes meeting to review alignment of Sopore–Kupwara Railway Line

■ HT News Network

BARAMULLA, APRIL 11: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today chaired an important meeting to review the proposed alignment of the Sopore–Kupwara railway line, a key connectivity project in north Kashmir. The meeting was informed that the proposed alignment has been carefully planned to minimize the impact on horticultural land and avoid existing structures to the maximum extent possible. The Northern Railway officials presented detailed maps and technical plans to support their assessment. DC emphasized the need for a balanced approach that ensures development while safeguarding public interest. He instructed the concerned departments to maintain coordination and



ensure that land acquisition and other procedural aspects are handled smoothly and transparently. The Sopore–Kupwara railway line is expected to significantly enhance regional connectivity and contribute to the socio-economic upliftment of the area. The meeting was attended by ADC Sopore, Shabir

Ahmad Raina; ADC Baramulla, Syed Altaf Hussain Musvi; senior engineers and consultants from Northern Railway, besides other senior revenue officers of the district. The meeting was informed that the proposed alignment has been carefully planned to minimize the impact on horticultural land and avoid existing structures to the maximum extent possible.

## TLSC organises awareness program on Child Rights, Child abuse at Gurez

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, APRIL 11: Tehsil Legal Services Committee (TLSC) Gurez under the aegis of District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Bandipora today organised an awareness programme on child rights and child abuse. The programme was aimed to sensitize the public, especially students and parents, about the fundamental rights of children and the alarming issue of child abuse in its various forms. Chairman Tehsil Legal Services Committee, Gurez, presided over the programme and emphasized the importance of safeguarding children's rights and ensuring a secure, nurturing environment for their growth and development. In his keynote address,

Chairman highlighted various legal provisions under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, and the Constitution of India, which guarantee the safety, education, and dignity of every child. He urged all stakeholders viz. parents, teachers, legal authorities, and the community at large to remain vigilant and report any instances of abuse or exploitation. Resource person Adv. Javaid Iqbal, legal experts, Headmaster Boys Middle School addressed the gathering and conducted interactive sessions with the audience, shedding light on identifying signs of abuse and mechanisms available for legal and psychological support. The event concluded with a pledge to collec-

tively work towards the protection and empowerment of every child in the region. The programme was aimed to sensitize the public, especially students and parents, about the fundamental rights of children and the alarming issue of child abuse in its various forms. Chairman Tehsil Legal Services Committee, Gurez, presided over the programme and emphasized the importance of safeguarding children's rights and ensuring a secure, nurturing environment for their growth and development. In his keynote address, Chairman highlighted various legal provisions under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children)

## Progress of JJM, HADP schemes reviewed at Handwara

■ HT News Network

KUPWARA, APRIL 11: In order to ensure timely completion of works under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and saturation of Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) in sub district Handwara, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi Friday chaired a series of meetings with concerned officers, here. While chairing the meeting of PHE officers, the ADC impressed upon the concerned engineers to speed up the pace of work and ensure completion of all ongoing JJM schemes in the sub district to mitigate the water supply issues of people of various areas. The meeting held a threadbare discussion regarding the status of various ongoing water supply schemes coming up in different areas of PHE division Handwara. It was informed that 10 schemes have been completed under JJM in the sub district besides, out of the total 122 allotted works pertaining to construction of Bore wells/Tube wells/Dug wells, OHTs, RSFPs, GSRs/ Pipe Network, 59 works stands completed and work is in progress on the rest of the projects. The ADC chaired a separate meeting of concerned officers to review the progress of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and other schemes of the Agriculture department. He enjoined upon the officers to ensure awareness of the HADP scheme at grassroots level so that maximum beneficiaries are covered and benefitted under the ambitious scheme targeted for upliftment and welfare of the farmer community.

## Enquiry Underway Against Naib Tehsildar Over Alleged Misconduct

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, Apr 11, : Authorities have initiated a formal enquiry into the alleged misconduct of a revenue official in south Kashmir, highlighting growing concerns over unchecked violations by government employees in the Union Territory. The Financial Commissioner (Revenue), Jammu and Kashmir, ordered a departmental inquiry against Tawseef Ahmad Mir, Naib Tehsildar Tral, presently posted at D.H. Pora in Kulgam for allegedly failing to uphold honesty, integrity, and dedication in his official duties. The officer has been charged with violating Rule 3 of the Jammu and Kashmir Government Employees Conduct Rules, 1971. The Rule 3 means that employees should maintain a reasonable and decent standard of conduct in their private lives and not bring discredit to their service through misconduct. A charge sheet had earlier been served to Mir, accusing him of acting in a manner unbecoming of a government servant and failing to maintain the standards expected from his position. Following this, the officer submitted a reply to the charges; however, upon examination, the response was found unsatisfactory, prompting the administration to initiate a formal inquiry.

## Medical Store Sealed in Bijbehara for Dispensing Expired Injectables, Three Others Shut for Violations

■ Farooq Rather

Bijbehara, Apr 11, : A joint team of Drug Control Officers from District Anantnag and police authorities sealed Abdullah Medical Store in Bijbehara after it was found dispensing expired injectable medicine to a patient, officials said on Friday. Acting on a complaint, the team conducted a surprise inspection of the store. After reviewing CCTV footage and records, it was found that the licensee had violated prescription norms and licence conditions, including improper handling of addictive medicines. The store was immediately shut pending further investigation. Officials said that they lifted over 12 drug samples for testing and quality verification. Additionally, records of several habit-forming drugs dispensed without proper prescriptions were seized for legal scrutiny. The inspection drive extended to more than 15 medical establishments in and around SDH Bijbehara, including its internal dispensing section and drug store. Operations of three other medical stores—Shafeeq Medical Store, Javeed Medical Store, and Zeerak Medical Store—were also suspended for failing to maintain computerized records as mandated by law.

## Naazir Zahoor laid to rest in Kreeri Scores of people participated in Nimazi Jinaza

■ Aashiq Hussain

Kreeri, 11 April (HT) Naazir Zahoor passed away at fortis hospital Delhi. His last rites was performed at muradabad kreeri baramulla in which scores of people participated. The demise of Naazir Zahoor has been widely mourned various, Social religious organizations have condoled with the bereaved family. Former law minister Syed Basharat bukhari, NC Leader Mohd Yaqoob Wani visited Zahoor Ahmad Dar's Kreeri residence. NC leader Mohd yaqoob condoles the said demise of Naazir Zahoor In a condolence message wani expressed shock and grief over the sad demise of Son of Zahoor Ahmad Dar Wani prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and courage to the berieved family to bear this loss. Senior NC leader showed sympathy with the berieved fam-



ily at this difficult time. BJP Senior leader and former BDC Wagoor GM Sofi express heartfelt sympathies with the bereaved family especially with Zahoor Ahmad and Showket Ahmad Dar. Provincial President Teachers forum Javaid Ahmad Bhat talking also expressed grief over this irreparable loss and prayed for the peace to the departed soul

## TLSC organises awareness program on Child Rights, Child abuse at Gurez

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, APRIL 11: Tehsil Legal Services Committee (TLSC) Gurez under the aegis of District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Bandipora today organised an awareness programme on child rights and child abuse. The programme was aimed to sensitize the public, especially students and parents, about the fundamental rights of children and the alarming issue of child abuse in its various forms. Chairman Tehsil Legal Services Committee, Gurez, presided over the programme and emphasized the importance of safeguarding children's rights and ensuring a secure, nurturing environment for their growth and development.

In his keynote address, Chairman highlighted various legal provisions under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, and the Constitution of India, which guarantee the safety, education, and dignity of every child. He urged all stakeholders viz. parents, teachers, legal authorities, and the community at large to remain vigilant and report any instances of abuse or exploitation. Resource person Adv. Javaid Iqbal, legal experts, Headmaster Boys Middle School addressed the gathering and conducted interactive sessions with the audience, shedding light on identifying signs of abuse and mechanisms available for legal.

# DIQA IUST Hosts Strategic Workshop on NAAC Reassessment Under Binary Accreditation Framework (BAF)

■ HT News Network

Awantipora, April 11: In a decisive move to align with evolving quality benchmarks, DIQA held an intensive workshop on NAAC reassessment under the newly introduced Binary Accreditation Framework (BAF). The session galvanized all departmental Nodal Officers, equipping them with insights to navigate the paradigm shift in accreditation norms. Centered on the theme "Sustaining Strengths, Bridging Gaps," the workshop dissected the BAF's transformative approach—replacing traditional grading with a binary (accredited/not accredited) outcome, hinged on stringent quality indicators. The dialogue underscored the urgency of consolidating institutional merits while addressing critical gaps to secure accreditation. Dr. Peer Bilal Ahmad, Director DIQA,



inaugurated the proceedings, framing the BAF as both a challenge and an opportunity. "This framework demands precision, accountability, and a cultural shift toward outcome-centric education," he asserted.

Deputy Directors DIQA followed with incisive breakdowns of the BAF's pillars—documentation rigor, performance metrics, and evidence-based assessments. A hard-hitting segment analyzed the university's Cycle-II NAAC Assessment

& Accreditation (A&A) report, spotlighting Key Indicators (KIs) with subpar scores. This forensic review pinpointed systemic shortfalls, from research output gaps to infrastructural lapses, and spurred candid discussions on corrective strategies. The workshop's interactive pulse saw Nodal Officers probe ambiguities, share cross-departmental solutions, and forge consensus on streamlining compliance. The collective resolve mirrored the institution's pledge to not just meet but redefine accreditation standards. Closing the session, Director DIQA rallied stakeholders with a call to "transform introspection into action," pledging DIQA's unwavering support in the reassessment drive. The workshop ended on a note of cautious optimism, with attendees committing to elevate preparedness and cement the university's stature as a vanguard of quality education.







## ADM Ansuya Jamwal calls on NGOs to strengthen fight against drug abuse

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 11: Additional District Magistrate (ADM) Jammu Ansuya Jamwal on Friday chaired a meeting with representatives of various NGOs, urging them to vigorously contribute towards promotion of 'Nasha Mukti Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan' launched by the Government. Addressing the participants, the ADM highlighted the crucial role NGOs play in spreading awareness by reaching the public directly. She assured that the District Administration would provide resource persons to support the NGOs in conducting awareness campaigns in different localities. ADM Jamwal stressed that while the administration continues to organise events across the district, NGOs should also take proactive steps to engage the public at the grassroots level. She encouraged them to interact with people in neighbourhoods, educate them about the ill effects of drug abuse and help in building a more informed and vigilant society. She further encouraged the NGOs to inform the administration about drug addicts and suspicious elements involved in the drug supply chain. She assured complete confidentiality and appropriate action against the perpetrators with the support of the police and concerned agencies. The ADM invited suggestions from NGOs for a sustained and coordinated fight against drug abuse. The District Administration reiterated its full support to all genuine initiatives aimed at making Jammu a drug-free district. The meeting was part of the larger strategy under the 'Nasha Mukti Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan' to mobilise all sections of society in the campaign against drug addiction.

## DYSSO hosts Sports Mela as part of Rajouri Day Celebration

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, APRIL 11: As part of the ongoing Rajouri Day celebrations, the District Youth Services and Sports Department, in collaboration with the District Administration today organised a vibrant Sports Mela here at Mini Sports Complex. The Sports Mela witnessed enthusiastic participation from around 200 students drawn from different educational institutions of the district. A total of 12 teams competed in different events including Volleyball (minor), Tug of War, Musical Chairs, Spoon Race and other fun-filled games. Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa was the chief guest, who lauded Youth Services and Sports Department for engaging the youth through such meaningful and energetic events. The ADCD emphasized that Rajouri Day is not only an occasion to pay tribute to the sacrifices of our heroes but also a day to celebrate the spirit of unity, youth power and communal harmony. He urged the youth to stay committed to physical fitness, sportsmanship, and nation-building. Prominent among others present were PO ICDS Fareed Ahmed Kohli; Chief Education Officer Iqbal Ahmed; representative Rotary Club Grand, Dr. Sachin and officers and officials from the DYSSO. Their presence added great value and encouragement to the participants and organisers alike. The event created an atmosphere of excitement, camaraderie and thrill, truly reflecting the spirit of Rajouri Day. The District Youth Services and Sports Officer, staff and volunteers ensured smooth conduct of the event and thanked all stakeholders for their support. The celebration concluded with presentation of appreciation certificates and encouragement to all the participants.

## Tourism Deptt to host Baisakhi festival at Srinagar

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APRIL 11: Department of Tourism is hosting Baisakhi festival with prominent singers and a confluence of cultural displays at Zabarwan Park Srinagar. The celebration will kick-start on April 13 at 5 PM with throwback bhangra and cultural dance while the crowd will witness live performances of Shafi Sopori, Qazi Touqeer, Owais Pandit and others.

## Forest Department organizes workshop for Forest Services aspirants in North Kashmir

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APRIL 11: In continuation to its efforts aimed at capacity building of Forest Services aspirants, a one day workshop titled 'Strategies and Approaches for Qualifying Indian Forest Examination' was today held at the North Forest Headquarters at Mazbugh Sopore. The training cum workshop witnessed enthusiastic participation from forest services aspirants from Baramulla, Kupwara, Ganderbal and Budgam districts. Conservator of Forests (CoF), Kashmir North Circle, Irfan Ali Shah in his address spoke at length about the immense potential of local youth and the significance of increasing awareness about the Indian Forest Service. CoF encouraged aspirants to pursue careers in the green sector with passion, commitment, and integrity. He underscored the department's need for young, dynamic officers.

# IAPSMCON 2025 kicks off in Sgr with focus on integrating medical edu with public health practices

## Over 1,200 delegates to address healthcare innovations, strategies

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, Apr 11 The 52nd Annual National Conference of the Indian Association of Preventive and Social Medicine (IAPSMCON 2025) commenced on Friday in Srinagar, drawing over 1,200 delegates from across India, including representatives from all 36 states and Union Territories. Organised by the Department of Community Medicine, Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar, the three-day conference is one of the largest medical and public health events ever hosted in Jammu and Kashmir. Speaking to the media on the sidelines of the event, Secretary of Health and Medical Education, Syed Abid Rasheed, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), emphasised the significance of the conference in aligning



advancements in medical education with public health practices.

"This conference is a reflection of our commitment to academic excellence and innovation in public health. It offers a platform to bring together diverse voices and experiences from across the country," he said.

Dr Abid called for leveraging national-level advancements for the benefit of local

medical professionals and, ultimately, patients. "Doctors from Kashmir have earned global recognition, and integrating new knowledge through such forums will further enhance their capabilities," he added. The Secretary Health further said Kashmir is evolving as a tourist hub, making the region more conducive to hosting such large-scale academic events. He hinted at more such conferences being

planned in the future.

The event includes 10 plenary sessions, 20 best practice presentations, over 560 research paper presentations, and daily sessions from 9 am to 5 pm, with a valedictory session on day 3.

Experts in medicine, public health and health policy will discuss emerging challenges, innovations, and strategies in healthcare delivery and education. The conference also provides a valuable networking and learning platform for students, researchers, and practitioners.

A senior official from GMC Srinagar said, "This initiative will showcase the academic strength of J&K and bolster national-level collaborations in healthcare."

The conference is expected to contribute to policy development, healthcare delivery improvement, and the integration of public health with academic medicine across India—

## DDC Poonch reviews developmental activities in Aspirational Blocks, Panchayats

■ HT News Network

POONCH, APRIL 11: District Development Commissioner Vikas Kundal today evaluated the performance of departments with regard to achievement of indicators prescribed under District Good Governance Index (DGGI) and progress of development works under the Aspirational Block Development Programme (ABDP) and the Aspirational Panchayat Development Programme (APDP). He was chairing a meeting held today at the District Development Commissioner's office complex. The DDC evaluated key performance indicators across different sectors, utilizing data from relevant portals. He discussed a comprehensive and implementable framework for the current financial year aimed at enhancing the quality of life and service delivery in Aspirational Blocks and Panchayats in the district. The sectors reviewed included Health



& Nutrition, Education, Agriculture and Allied Sectors, Basic Infrastructure, Drinking Water, Sanitation, and Social Development. Emphasizing the need for strict adherence to program guidelines, Kundal insisted on regular updates to ensure the accuracy of progress reported on the portal. In a focused directive, he instructed the Chief Medical Officer to improve health service quality and set a target for achieving bronze certification in a health institution in Balakote. The

Chief Education Officer was tasked with verifying toilet and drinking water facilities in educational institutions and reporting back to the office. Additionally, the Block Development Officer was directed to prioritize the saturation of PMAY-G and toilet facilities in aspirational panchayats and blocks to better meet the basic needs of the public. The DDC stressed the importance of enhancing efforts in areas requiring improvement and ensuring that all aspirational blocks and panchayats are connected to internet services. The Common Service Centre manager was assigned the task of saturating these areas to provide government services at residents' doorsteps. He highlighted the necessity of channeling resources towards the modernization and overall development of these aspirational regions. The meeting was attended by PO ICDS, ACP, District Statistics and Evaluation Officer, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti, DSWO /DIO Poonch.

## OBC/SC/ST delegation calls on Javed Rana; highlights issues

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 11: A delegation of OBC/SC/ST led by former Minister Ram Paul today called on Minister for Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, at Civil Secretariat, Jammu. The delegation presented set of demands including reconstitution of OBC Board, reservation in promotions, safeguarding constitutional provisions for welfare of underprivileged communities besides others. The delegation also raised the issue of implementation of reservation in admission to professional educational institutions and recruitments in letter and spirit. The Minister, while advocating the social justice, equality and inclusive development as among the top priorities of present dispensation, assured the delegation that



Cabinet Sub-Committee is looking into all the issues and grievances. He added that various policies and programs have already been implemented aimed at fostering inclusive growth for marginalised sections of the society. The Minister, while advocating the social justice, equality and inclusive development as among the top priorities of present dispensation, assured the delegation that Cabinet Sub-Committee is looking into all the issues and grievances.

## NC Slams LoP Sunil Sharma Over His Remarks On Restoration Of J&K's Statehood

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, Apr 11: The National Conference (NC) on Friday slammed Leader of Opposition (LoP) in Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Sunil Sharma over his remarks that statehood should be restored only after terrorism and separatism are completely uprooted from the Union Territory.

In a statement, NC's state spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar said Sharma's remarks "directly contradict the promises" made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his election campaign visits to Srinagar and Jammu. Dar expressed disappointment over the remarks, saying the LoP's comments are a far cry from the "commitments" made by the prime minister and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to the people of J-K.

Referring to the "promises" made by Shah, the NC state spokesperson urged for swift restoration of statehood as pledged by the



BJP's central leadership.

He said that the "constant vague assurances" of statehood being restored without a specific timeline are getting old, and added it is time for action.

The NC leader expressed hope PM Modi will deliver on his promises and restore statehood to J-K. "If there are any remaining roots of separatism or terrorism, we want them to be uprooted completely, and only then should statehood be restored," LoP and BJP leader Sharma told reporters in Jammu on Thursday. (Agencies)

## PHDCCI Kashmir Team Engages in Interactive Session with CGTMSE to Promote Credit Guarantee Schemes for MSME's

■ Ishfaq Aziz

Srinagar Apr 11: The Kashmir Team of the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) actively participated in an insightful awareness program organized by the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) in collaboration with Women's World Banking at Orchard Retreat, Srinagar. The event, marking CGTMSE's 25th anniversary, aimed to address financial challenges faced by MSME's while promoting the benefits of CGTMSE's credit guarantee schemes. Ms. Kirti Pratik Patil, Manager, CGTMSE, and Ms. Nirmala Vedula, Senior Relationship Manager, Women's World Banking, delivered detailed presentations on the CGTMSE scheme, followed by an engaging discussion with bankers and stakeholders to enhance awareness and capacity-build-



ing initiatives. The "PHDCCI delegation", led by Mr. Himayu Wani, Co-Chair, PHDCCI Kashmir, included prominent members such as Er. Bilal Ahmad Bhat, Mr. Bilal

Kawoosa, CA Anil Sharma, Er. Owais Raja, Er. Fayaz Bhat, Er. Ruhaan Rafiq, Ms. Madeena Mir, Ms. Shabina Khan, Ms. Qaiser Mir, Syed Zainab, and Ms. Tabassum. The session

provided a platform for in-depth discussions on the operational aspects of CGTMSE, challenges in implementation, and strategies to improve outreach for the benefit of MSEs.

Mr. Himayu Wani highlighted the critical need to sensitize entrepreneurs and bankers about the CGTMSE scheme to enhance financial accessibility for small businesses. He applauded CGTMSE's 25 years of impactful service and stressed the importance of expanding awareness campaigns to ensure wider utilization of the scheme by emerging entrepreneurs. The interactive session fostered meaningful dialogue among stakeholders, addressing key challenges and exploring solutions to strengthen financial support for MSEs in the region. PHDCCI reiterated its commitment to driving entrepreneurship and economic growth through collaborative initiatives with key institutions like CGTMSE.





## 49th meeting of National Committee of Archives begins in Jammu Satish Shrama calls for 100 percent digitization of Archives records

HT News Network

Jammu, April 11: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Science Technology and Transport Departments, Satish Sharma, today called for 100 percent digitization of Archives records in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister was speaking as a chief guest at the inaugural session of two day 49th meeting of the National Committee of Archives commenced today at the Convention Centre, Jammu.

Speaking at the occasion, the Minister appreciated the remarkable progress being made in the areas of digital preservation of all Archives and cultural heritage in Jammu and Kashmir. He said that the ongoing efforts to digitize archival records, at both Srinagar and Jammu repository, is a great milestone and a significant step towards safeguarding J&K's invaluable history.

"These initiatives not only preserve our cultural identity but also make historical data accessible to students, researchers and institutions across the country and



beyond," maintained the Minister. He said that successful hosting of photographic and art exhibitions in New Delhi and the upcoming events in Jammu and Srinagar, are reflective of our growing emphasis on modernizing cultural capacity and embracing innovative preservation techniques. These platforms not only celebrate our heritage but also foster educational awareness and cultural pride among citizens, he added.

He called for 100 percent digitization of all the records and stressed on completion of pending digitization work in shortest span of time period.

He emphasized upon all the departments and stakeholders for their collaborative spirit and commitment towards this digitalization project. "The Government of Jammu and Kashmir fully supports these efforts, which align with our broader vision of inclusive growth, heritage

preservation and digital transformation," he said. The Minister, who also inaugurated an archival exhibition showcasing rare records and documents, stressed the need for support in archival management. The 49th Meeting of the National Committee of Archivists witnessed participation from representatives of around 20 States and Union Territories.

The event started with the lighting of lamp ceremony followed by an online inaugural speech by Minister for Culture of India, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat. He encouraged the J&K Government for its endeavours towards preservation of its rich history and heritage.

Arun Singhal, Director General, National Archives of India; Brij Mohan Sharma, IFS, Principal Secretary to Government, Culture Department; Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, Director Archives, Archaeology and Museums, J&K and Raju Singh, I/c Deputy Director Archives, New Delhi were also present on the occasion.

The meeting is being jointly organised by National Archives of India and Directorate of Archives, Archaeology & Museums, J&K.

## Phase III training for Udhampur Haj pilgrims on April 16

HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, APRIL 11: Third phase of orientation training programme about Manasik-e-Hajj and other logistics for the selected Haj pilgrims of Udhampur has been scheduled to be held on April 16, 2025. "In pursuance to the communication received from Executive Officer Haj Committee, the third phase of orientation/training programme about Manasik-e-Haj and other logistics for the selected Haj pilgrims of district Udhampur for Haj-2025 is scheduled to be held on 16th of April, 2025 at 10 am at Jamia Masjid, Eid Gah, Adarsh Colony Udhampur" an official said.

Accordingly, the officials have appealed to selected pilgrims of the district to make it convenient to attend the aforementioned training programme on scheduled date, time and venue.

## 7th Rashtriya Poshan Pakhwada 2025 celebrated in Poonch

HT News Network



POONCH, APRIL 11: District Administration Poonch, in collaboration with Poshan Unit, celebrated the Seventh Rashtriya Poshan Pakhwada 2025 with great enthusiasm here at the Auditorium Hall of SKC GDC. The campaign focused on four critical themes set for this year -- the first 1,000 days of life, popularising the Poshan Tracker's beneficiary module, community-based management of malnutrition, and addressing childhood obesity through lifestyle changes. Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal was the chief guest at the event attended by ACR Mohammad Sayeed; PO ICDS Khalid Hussain Wafa; DSWO Wakeel Ahmed Bhat; Chief Medical Officer Dr. Parvaiz, ACP Parvaiz Ahmed Khan and Professor Rakesh Sharma from GDC Poonch, along with a large number of female guests. In his address, the DC emphasized the importance of the POSHAN Abhiyaan, a national nutrition mission aimed at improving the nutritional status of children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers. He commended the staff working on the mission for their dedication and achievements. PO ICDS, ACR, CMO and others also addressed the gathering, stressing the significance of the mission and its various initiatives.

The event featured engaging skits, speeches, and awareness activities focused on Mission Poshan schemes, such as "Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi," traditional dietary practices, health education for pregnant women, infant and young child feeding practices, and the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, along with information on Aadhar enrollment. The celebration concluded with DC presenting awards and certificates of appreciation to the best performers in the mission, recognizing their invaluable contributions to enhancing nutrition and health in the community. This celebration underscored the commitment of the District Administration toward enhancing nutrition and health awareness among the community.

## Traffic enforcement drive conducted at Gujjar Nagar

HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 11: A joint enforcement drive was carried out today at Gujjar Nagar by officers from the District Administration, Motor Vehicle Department, Police and Traffic Police to check traffic violations, particularly the issue of wrong parking which often causes congestion in the area.

During the drive, around 100 vehicles were checked, resulting in 26 challans issued for various offences. A total of 11 vehicles were also seized on the spot. The expected fine collection from the challans stands at 60,000.

The enforcement team included Tehsildar Jammu Khas Paramdeep Singh, ARTO Jammu Mohd Saleem Manhas, DTI Arjun, SHO Peer Mitha Raza Ali, MVI Azad Hussain, along with supporting staff from the concerned departments.

## GCOE hosts Seminar, Preamble Pledge to mark Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Jayanti

HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 11: The NSS Unit of Government College of Education Jammu, organized a thought-provoking seminar and Preamble Pledge ceremony to commemorate the 133rd birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the principal architect of the Indian Constitution.

The event was held under the dynamic leadership of Principal of the college Dr. Jyoti Parihar and the guidance of NSS Programme Officer, Professor Sarita Dogra.

The celebration began with the solemn recitation of the Preamble, reaffirming the constitutional values of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity, which Dr. Ambedkar stood for. This was followed by a seminar where students eloquently expressed their thoughts on the life, struggles, and contributions of Dr. Ambedkar towards social justice and nation-building.

The seminar was judged by an esteemed panel comprising Dr. Rajinder Kour, Professor Anuradha Choudhary and Dr. Sonam Gandotra. Their insights and encouraging words added great value to the event. The First Position was clinched by Salma Khaatoon, second position by Shiwali Sharma, while third Position went to Maansi Rajput. The event was graced by the presence of distinguished faculty members including Dr. Shubhra Jambwal, Professor Kiran Thapa, Professor Deepali, Professor Roopa Kumari, Dr. Shalini Sharma and Dr. Suraj Prakash, who appreciated the efforts of the students and emphasized the relevance of Dr. Ambedkar's vision in today's time. The NSS Unit continues to uphold the values of service, education, and equality through such meaningful engagements. The event concluded with a vote of thanks and a collective commitment to carry forward the legacy of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

## ACS Education reviews upcoming college admissions, NEP 2020

HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 11: The Higher Education Department today convened a high level meeting in the Civil Secretariat, Srinagar, under the chairmanship of Shantmanu, Additional Chief Secretary, Education.

The meeting was attended by Director Colleges, Higher Education Department, Deans of Academic Affairs and Registrars from the University of Kashmir, University of Jammu, Cluster University Jammu and Cluster University Srinagar besides Principals of autonomous colleges, Government College for Women, Parade Jammu, GDC Baramulla and Islamia College of Science and Commerce, Srinagar.

The deliberations centered on critical issues pertaining to undergraduate admissions for the upcoming 2025-26 academic year and crucial progression



of students to the 4th year under the transformative National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 besides other NEP related initiatives. The meeting took several decisions aimed to smoothen the admission process for upcoming UG 2025-26 admissions. It was decided that the Universities across the Union Territory will formulate and implement statutory provisions by the end of this

month, facilitating lateral entry for eligible polytechnic students into the 2nd year (3rd semester) of Four Year Undergraduate Program of Degree Colleges.

It was decided that admissions would continue to be granted through both CUET and non-CUET modes, aligning with established practices. However, timelines will be thoroughly reviewed and optimized to ensure greater

student convenience and accessibility. In order to optimize the process, Director Colleges will coordinate and oversee the admission process, working in close liaison with the universities to ensure strict adherence to stipulated timelines.

All the universities are mandated to establish statutory mechanisms and guidelines as provisioned under NEP 2020 for multiple exit options at the end of the 1st and 2nd year, providing students with greater portability. Besides, the Universities shall come up with an implementation plan in terms of requirement of additional credits for award of Certificate or Diploma.

It was further decided that the Director Colleges, Higher Education Department, will undertake a reclassification of colleges based on admission grant criteria on CUET or NON-CUET, pre-informing students and institutions, so that aspirants seek admissions.

## DIPR Cultural Unit spreads anti- drug awareness at Bakshi Nagar

HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 11: Cultural Unit of Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR) Jammu, in collaboration with the District Administration Jammu, today organized a cultural awareness programme titled "Nasha Mukht Bharat" (Say No to Drugs) here at Bakshi Nagar.

The purpose of the initiative was to raise awareness about the harmful consequences of drug abuse and advocate a drug-free society. Artists from the Cultural Unit engaged the audience with theme-based songs, effectively illustrating the impact of drug addiction on individuals, families, and society as a whole. Present at the event were the Lecturers from the Education Department and Naib Tehsildar Jammu Khas, who also shared their viewpoints on the issue and emphasized its relevance to the audience. They praised the Department of Information and Public Relations for hosting such an impactful event aimed at increasing public awareness.

The programme was conducted under the directions of Joint Director Information Jammu, Atul Gupta and under the supervision of Cultural Officer Jammu Mukesh Kumar Sharma. Present at the event were the Lecturers from the Education Department and Naib Tehsildar Jammu Khas, who also shared their viewpoints on the issue and emphasized its relevance to the audience. They praised the Department of Information and Public Relations for hosting such an impactful event aimed at increasing public awareness. The programme was conducted under the directions of Joint Director Information Jammu, Atul Gupta and under the supervision of Cultural Officer Jammu Mukesh Kumar Sharma.

## MD JJM calls for speeding up of pipeline mapping in Jammu province

HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 11: Mission Director Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) J&K Khurshid Ahmad Shah today convened a review meeting of Jal Shakti (PHE) Divisions of Jammu province through virtual mode.

The meeting was attended by Chief Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Department Jammu, Executive Engineers of civil and Mechanical divisions, besides Superintending Engineers of respective circles.

The MD enquired about the pace of pipeline mapping in the region, while directing the Engineers to expedite the execution work in their respective Divisions.

The Mission Director was assured that the targets will be achieved soon. The chair urged the officers to clear the backlogs and gear up for achieving new targets within set timelines.



The Mission Director also directed the divisional officers to complete the ongoing schemes where 80-90 percent works stand completed.

Expenditure reconciliation, Dump data and overall progress in the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission in Jammu Province was also discussed in the meeting. The meeting was attended by Chief Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Department Jammu, Executive Engineers of civil and Mechanical divisions.

## ADC distributes Registration Certificates among Industrial Handicrafts, Handloom Cooperative Societies at Kishtwar

HT News Network

KISHTWAR, APRIL 11: In an initiative to uplift the artisan and weaver community, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Pawan Kotwal, along with AD Handicrafts Pardeep Shan, distributed registration certificates among newly formed Industrial Handicrafts and Handloom Cooperative Societies under the Financial

Support Scheme of the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom.

Two societies were formally recognized during the event including Kuntwara Wheat Straw Handicrafts INDUSCO Ltd, Akarhang Kuntwara and Snow Valley Cutting Tailoring Handloom INDUSCO Ltd, Passerkot Chattroo.

These societies have been registered under the aegis of the Directorate of



Handicrafts and Handloom, Jammu, as part of the department's initiative to foster cooperative-based micro-enterprises under the Self-Reliant Act, 1999.

Under this scheme, 11 registered Artisans/Weavers can formulate a society and receive financial assistance of Rs. 1.00 lakh in two equal, non-refundable installments. In addition to financial aid, the scheme also

offers marketing support to boost sales and visibility for local crafts.

The objective of this initiative is to promote self-reliance among artisans and weavers by enabling them to function collectively on a single platform and operate as small-scale enterprises.

The event was attended by Supervisor INDUSCO, Abid and other concerned staff.





# India moving ahead with development and heritage together: PM

## AGENCIES

VARANASI, APR 11 (UNI)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the country's identity in the world has changed in the last ten years and today's India is moving ahead with development and heritage.

The PM inaugurated and laid the foundation of 44 development projects worth Rs 3,900 crore for Kashi and Purvanchal from his parliamentary constituency Varanasi.

He received a warm and enthusiastic welcome from the people of Kashi.

Addressing a massive public gathering in Mehandiganj, Modi connected with the audience in their local language, Bhojpuri. Repeatedly expressing his deep emotional bond with the city, he said, "Kashi is mine, and I belong to Kashi."

He said that the government's motto is 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas', as opposed to the ideology of 'family-first politics'. "Such people are only focused on grabbing power following the principle of 'family's support, family's development'," he said.

Highlighting Varanasi's remarkable transformation over the past decade, the PM said that Kashi has not only preserved its ancient heritage but has also embraced modernity and taken strong steps toward a brighter future. "Kashi is no longer just ancient, it is now progressive too," he said.

He highlighted that the city is positioned at the center of Purvanchal's economic map. "The Kashi guided by Lord Mahadev is now driving the chariot of development for Purvanchal," he said.

He described the blend of Kashi's rich cultural legacy and its rapidly developing infrastructure as a unique model for India's growth journey.

Mentioning the inauguration and foundation laying of numerous projects connected to Kashi and various parts of Purvanchal earlier in the event, Modi emphasised the strengthening of connectivity through infrastructure projects, the campaign to provide tap water to every household and the expansion of education, health and sports facilities.

He said that these initiatives will serve as milestones in transforming Purvanchal into a developed region. He assured that every resident of Kashi will benefit from these initiatives.

Some of the major projects include the expansion of Lal Bahadur Shastri Airport, construction of flyovers at Bhikharipur and Manduadih and a new bridge connecting Banaras and Sarnath.

During the event, Ayushman Vay Vandana health cards were distributed to elderly citizens. The scheme provides free medical treatment for senior citizens above the



age of 70.

Modi said, "The satisfaction on the faces of our elders is the biggest success of this scheme. Now, families won't have to sell land or take loans for medical expenses, the government will take care of it."

He mentioned that around 50,000 cards have been distributed in Kashi so far, offering relief to thousands of families.

He also handed out GI (Geographical Indication) registration certificates to local artisans. He said that over 30 products from Varanasi and nearby areas, including tabla, shehnai, thandai, lal bharwa mirch, lal peda and tiranga barfi, have received GI tags.

Calling it 'a passport of our soil's identity', he said these tags will help bring Kashi's traditional skills to the global market. He called UP number one in the country for GI tagging and said it marks a proud moment for local artisans and producers.

In a major boost to the dairy sector, the PM transferred Rs 106 crore in bonus payments to livestock farmers associated

with Banas Dairy.

Calling it a reward for their hard work, he said, "This is not a gift, but the result of your dedication."

He highlighted how the dairy has helped improve the financial condition of thousands of families in Kashi, especially empowering women. "Many sisters in Purvanchal have now become Lakhpati Didis," he said.

He said that India is now the world's largest milk producer, with a 65 percent increase in production over the last 10 years. "The Banas Dairy unit in Kashi collects milk from one lakh farmers and is distributing Gir cows to further support livestock owners," he said.

Modi highlighted the major development projects that have transformed connectivity in the region. He said that over Rs 45,000 crore has been invested in the last 10 years for infrastructure upgrades, including the construction of the Phulwaria flyover, ring roads and wider highways connecting nearby districts like Ghazipur, Jaunpur and

Mirzapur.

He said, "Earlier, even small festivals caused traffic jams. Now, with wider roads and better facilities, people are saving time."

The PM mentioned the upcoming city ropeway, which will place Varanasi among a few cities globally to have such a facility.

Remembering the birth anniversary of Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, he paid tribute to his work for women empowerment and social awareness. "Mahatma Phule and Savitribai Phule dedicated their lives to the self-respect of women and social welfare. We are committed to carrying forward their vision," he said.

Modi encouraged youth in Kashi to actively pursue sports. "India is preparing to host the Olympics in 2036. Youth from Kashi should start working hard now to bring Olympic medals and make the country proud," he said, adding that new stadiums and sports complexes are being built in the region to support this goal.

He described Kashi as the soul of India and a beautiful reflection of the country's diversity. He said every neighbourhood in Kashi represents a unique shade of India's culture.

Highlighting events like the 'Kashi-Tamil Sangamam', he said such initiatives have helped strengthen national unity.

The PM also spoke about the proposed 'Ekta Mall', which will bring together products from

across all Indian districts under one roof. Referring to UP's growth, he said the state is no longer just a land of possibilities but a land of strength and achievements.

He emphasised the global rise of 'Made in India' products and highlighted how UP's goods are now becoming global brands. He said that with the help of GI tags, many local items have gained international recognition.

Modi said, "UP now ranks number one in GI tagging."

Mentioning items like Jaunpur's Imarti, Mathura's Sanjhi art, Pilibhit's flutes and Tharu Zardozi from Lakhimpur Kheri, he said, "The fragrance of the soil of UP will now go beyond the borders."

Calling Kashi a symbol of both heritage and development, the PM Modi said, "It is our duty to connect Kashi's ancient soul with a modern identity. Kashi has been a spiritual and cultural center, but it is now also leading economic and social progress."

He urged the people of Kashi to join in the journey of progress and expressed confidence that Kashi will continue to inspire the entire nation.

Congratulating the people of Kashi and Purvanchal for the ongoing development work, Modi said, "Whoever preserves Kashi, preserves the soul of India. We must continue to make Kashi strong and dreamlike."

## Headley, Rana roots of 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks



## AGENCIES

MUMBAI, APR 11 (UNI)

Pakistani-American national David Coleman Headley alias Daood Sayed Gilani and US deported Pakistani-Canadian national Dr Tahawwur Hussain Rana were the roots of the 26/11 terror attacks in Mumbai, according to the investigations by the Crime Branch-CID of Mumbai Police and National Investigation Agency (NIA).

The duo of Headley-Rana, were childhood friends and classmates at the prestigious Cadet College Hasanabdal in Attock district of Punjab Province had deep links ISI, the spy agency of Pakistan and terrorist organisations like Lashkar-e-Taiba and Harkat-ul Jihadi Islami.

While Headley entered into a plea bargain to turn an approver and secure pardon and provided evidence to a special court in Mumbai during February and March 2016, Rana has been acquitted from the United States.

Both had played key roles in the Pak terror

groups sponsored terror plans of Mickey Mouse Project that involved reconnaissance of a larger plan to target Danish newspaper Morgenavisen Jyllands-Posten in preparation for an attack in retaliation for the newspaper's publication of cartoons depicting Prophet Mohammed in 2005 and the 26-29 November 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, in which 166 were killed and more than 300 people were injured.

While being stationed in Mumbai on reconnaissance missions, Headley used to receive money from his childhood friend Rana, who was based in Chicago, and used to collect money from Sajid Mir, his LeT handler, Major Iqbal of the ISI and also Major Abdul Rehman Pasha, who left the Pakistani Army to join the LeT and then drifted to al Qaeda.

"The pak terror groups, Headley and Rana, Ilyas Kashmiri, Major Iqbal, Sajid Mir were closely linked," informed sources based on the investigation and court records.

## Where has Rs 10,000 cr ELI scheme disappeared?, Rahul slams PM Modi

## AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, APR 11 (UNI)

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Friday slammed Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the 'Employment Linked Incentive' scheme, and asked whether it is "another jumla?" as the government has returned the Rs 10,000 crores allotted to it.

Gandhi accused the Modi government of not being serious about creating employment, and of focusing "solely on large corporates and favoring cronies over fair competition".

Taking to his social media handle X, Rahul Gandhi said:

"After the 2024 election, PM Modi announced the 'Employment Linked Incentive' scheme with



much fanfare, promising to provide employment to our youth."

He alleged, "It's been nearly a year since announcing the scheme, the government hasn't even defined it, and has returned the Rs 10,000 crores allotted to it. This shows how serious the PM is about unemployment."

He said, "Jobs can't be created by focusing only on large corporates, promot-

ing cronies over fair-play businesses, prioritising assembly over production, and disregarding India's indigenous skills".

He added that crores of jobs can be generated through significant investment in MSMEs, the creation of fair markets that encourage healthy competition, support for local production networks, and by equipping the youth with the necessary skills.

Expressing concern, Rahul also posed three questions to the Prime Minister:

"Prime Minister ji, you announced ELI with great showmanship - but where has this Rs 10,000 crore scheme disappeared? Have you abandoned our unemployed youth along with your promises?

While you create new slogans every day, our youth are still waiting for real opportunities. What is your concrete plan to generate the crores of jobs India desperately needs, or is this just another jumla?

And when will you shift your focus from enriching Adani and your billionaire friends to ensuring that young people from marginalised communities have equal access to employment?"

## Congress fed Kasab biryani, now wants credit for Rana extradition: BJP's Pralhad Joshi

## AGENCIES

BENGALURU, APR 11 (UNI)

Hailing the extradition of 26/11 conspirator Tahawwur Rana as a major diplomatic success for India, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi on Friday attacked the Congress, accusing the party of attempting to hijack credit for what he called a "decisive achievement" of the Modi government.

"The Congress party had served biryani to Ajmal Kasab and tried to make him strong," Joshi said,



speaking to reporters here. "From 2008 to 2014, they were in power. They did not do anything. The

the diplomatic strategy of the central government led by Shri Narendra Modi."

"If they want to claim

credit, let them. But the people of this country know very well what their attitude and stand on terrorism has been," he added.

Tahawwur Rana, a Pakistani-Canadian national and key plotter of the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, was extradited to India from the United States on Thursday, after years of legal proceedings.

The development has been lauded by the BJP as a significant milestone in India's global diplomatic outreach on terrorism.

## Kashi undergoes remarkable transformation in past 11 years: Yogi

## AGENCIES

VARANASI, APRIL 11 (UNI)

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday said over the past 11 years, Kashi has undergone a remarkable transformation under the visionary leadership and guidance of the Prime Minister.

The CM expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for visiting his parliamentary constituency, Kashi, for the first time after the successful organisation of the Maha Kumbh.

He said, "Devotees from across the country are now thronging to witness the new, rejuvenated Kashi. This is the same Kashi once known for its narrow lanes and persistent traffic congestion. Today, it stands tall as a symbol of modern development seamlessly blending with its ancient heritage."

Yogi said that while Kashi has always been an ancient seat of learning, its educational institutions were once in disarray. "However, over the past 11 years, developmental projects worth more than Rs 50,000 crore have been launched in the city, focusing on health, tourism, infrastructure, and connectivity," he said.

He said, "Even today, the PM is carrying out the foundation stone and inauguration ceremonies of various projects worth nearly Rs 4,000 crore in Kashi."

To mark the occasion, the CM welcomed the PM with Angavastr adorned with illustrations



of Radha-Krishna's leelas and presented him with a Kamal Chatra handcrafted from Varanasi's GI-tagged woodcraft, a symbol of the city's rich artisanal heritage.

He highlighted that this visit marked the PM's first to Kashi following the Bharatiya Janata Party's resounding victories in the Haryana, Maharashtra, and Delhi Assembly elections, as well as after the successful hosting of the divine and grand Maha Kumbh.

He said, "Kashi proudly bore witness to this sacred spectacle. With over 3 crore devotees from India and abroad visiting during the 45-day event. Every pilgrim was eager to see the transformed city and pay homage at the newly rejuvenated shrine of Baba Vishwanath."

Yogi said that the Maha Kumbh's unmatched success and grandeur were a direct result of the PM's unwavering commitment to cleanliness, safety and

cultural revitalisation.

He emphasised how initiatives like the Namami Gange project rejuvenated the sacred rivers and enhanced the spiritual experience for millions.

He said, "Every devotee who took a dip at the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati felt a deep sense of spiritual fulfillment, a testament to the transformative impact of the Prime Minister's vision."

The CM said that the PM's dedicated efforts to bring national and international recognition to Kashi and UP products have yielded remarkable results.

He said, "Today, Kashi and its surrounding districts hold the highest number of GI tags, positioning Uttar Pradesh at the forefront in this domain. Further strengthening this achievement, the PM is awarding certificates for 21 new GI tags today, a significant step in promoting the unique

identity of local artisans and craftsmen on both national and global platforms."

Highlighting the transformative impact of welfare schemes, Yogi said that Ayushman Bharat has emerged as a milestone in ensuring accessible healthcare for the underprivileged.

He said, "Over 50 crore people across the country, including more than 10 crore in UP, have benefited directly from the scheme. Through the Vaya Vandana Yojana, senior citizens above 70 are now entitled to free health coverage of Rs 5 lakh. In Kashi alone, over 50,000 elderly residents have received Vaya Vandana health cards."

The CM praised the Banas Dairy initiative, calling it a transformative project that has successfully linked Kashi's farmers and livestock rearers with economic empowerment. "Today, as part of this initiative, the Prime Minister distributes bonus payments to cattle rearers who have benefited from value addition and profit-sharing through the Banas Dairy unit in Kashi," he said. He said, "In every sphere, be it tourism, education, healthcare, connectivity, or the upliftment of farmers and artisans, these initiatives have reshaped the destiny of the people. On behalf of the people of Kashi and the entire state, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Prime Minister for these visionary schemes that have brought about a new era of development in his very own Kashi."



# Good food, sleep, exercise key for better health: Govt

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Good food, sleep, and exercise are crucial for better health, said the government on Monday on World Health Day.

World Health Day is celebrated on April 7 every year. The theme this year is Healthy beginnings, hopeful futures.

“This #WorldHealth-Day, let’s commit to small healthy habits for a brighter, stronger future,” the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare shared in a post on social media platform X.

In a video posted along the post, the ministry advised people to eat good food, with more fruits and vegetables; to move more, and sit less.

“Walk, run, dance, or stretch for 30 minutes a day to stay fit,” the ministry said



“Take a good night’s sleep to recharge your body and mind,” it added.

The Ministry also suggested people increase their intake of water, to “keep body cool and energy high” as well as to care for mental health by taking breaks.

“On this World Health Day let’s promise to take care of our health every single day,” the Ministry said.

Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged Indians to adopt a healthier

lifestyle and work towards a life free from obesity.

He emphasised that maintaining personal fitness would be a significant contribution to India’s goal of becoming a developed nation – Viksit Bharat.

“On World Health Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to building a healthier world. Our government will keep focusing on healthcare and invest in different aspects of people’s well-being. Good health is the foundation of every thriving society!” PM

Modi posted on X.

In a video message shared on the platform, the Prime Minister stressed the age-old adage that “health is the ultimate fortune and the ultimate wealth” while sounding an alarm over India’s growing obesity crisis.

“You all know that today, our lifestyle is becoming a big threat to our health. Recently, a report has come on the problem of obesity. This report says that by 2050, more than 44 crore Indians will suffer from obesity. This is scary. How big a crisis can this be?” he said.

He called for immediate action to prevent such a scenario and proposed a simple change: “I want to take a promise from you today that we all should reduce our cooking oil by 10 per cent. This will be a big step towards reducing obesity.”

# Ayush Minister launches ‘Harit yoga’ to boost personal, planetary health

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Union Minister of State for Ayush Prataprao Jadhav on Monday launched ‘Harit Yoga’ to boost both personal and planetary health.

‘Harit Yoga’, which means a sustainability-driven initiative combining Yoga with tree planting and clean-up drives, is one of the 10 signature events to mark the 11th edition of International Yoga Day (IDY).

“Our health is inextricably linked to the health of our planet. Just as Yoga nourishes our mind and body, tree plantation nourishes the Earth, ensuring a greener and healthier future for generations to come,” said Jadhav, while addressing the media at the grand Yoga Mahotsav 2025 in Odisha’s Bhubaneswar.

“Yoga has gained unprecedented popularity in the last 10 years and now it has become a global



phenomenon,” he added.

He also mentioned about sustainability and environmental aspects of Yoga and aligned Harit Yoga with PM Narendra Modi’s vision of ‘Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam’.

“This initiative encourages individuals to plant trees as a symbolic act of nurturing both personal and planetary health,” the MoS said.

He also highlighted

the success of the ‘Prakruti Parikshan Abhiyan’ in which Prakruti Parikshan of more than 1.29 crore people was conducted earning a place in the Guinness Book of World Records.

Yoga Mahotsav 2025 sets the stage for a revolution in health and well-being, with India leading the charge in making Yoga a way of life worldwide.

To mark the launch of the signature event, Jadhav along with other dignitaries also planted medicinal plants. At the grand celebration, more than 6,000 Yoga enthusiasts practiced the Common Yoga Protocol -- intended to popularise Yoga practices like Yoga Nidra, Pranayama, Dhyan, etc.

Meanwhile, Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary, Ministry of Ayush praised the enthusiastic turnout and noted that the 11th edition of IDY is poised to witness record-breaking global participation.

# South-East Asia recorded 53pc reduction in maternal mortality ratio since 2010: WHO

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

The South-East Asia region recorded a 53 per cent reduction in maternal mortality ratio (MMR) since 2010, said the World Health Organization (WHO) on World Health Day on Monday.

World Health Day is observed every year on April 7.

Saima Wazed, Regional Director for WHO South-East Asia noted how the region made significant progress in the last years, in improving maternal and child health.

From 2010 onwards, the SE Asia region achieved the highest reduction in the stillbirth rate, and in the maternal, newborn, and child mortality rates, compared to all other WHO regions and the global average.

“We recorded a 53 per cent reduction in the maternal mortality ratio (MMR), a 44 per cent



reduction in the neonatal mortality rate (NMR), a 39 per cent reduction in the stillbirth rate (SBR), and a 49 per cent reduction in the under-five mortality rate (U5MR),” said Wazed.

She noted how the region for the first time “reported an MMR of below 100 per 100,000 live births (currently 96)”.

From 2016 to 2023, Maternal Mortality in the region reduced by an average of 5.1 per cent per year -- more than three times the global reduction rate.

However, despite progress, the region continues to see maternal deaths,

said Wazed.

“The stark reality is that in our region today, approximately 2,700 mothers and 45,000 newborns still die every month. We tragically see about 34,600 stillbirths each month. Most of these deaths are from preventable causes,” the Regional Director said.

Addressing this -- whether through coverage, quality of evidence-based intervention packages, or socio-economic factors -- requires a concerted and coordinated effort from all stakeholders, she noted.

“Healthy beginnings,

hopeful futures” is the first World Health Day theme dedicated to maternal and newborn health since 2005.

“Our health begins before birth. It is a multi-generational inheritance, bequeathed from our grandparents to our parents to us. This means that when we improve the health of our people today, the effects ripple across time and uplift generations yet unborn,” said Wazed.

“The health of mothers and their newborns, therefore, is vital not just for our communities today, but for all who will come after us,” she added.

Wazed called for boosting Universal Health Coverage (UHC), which aims to provide a healthcare system where everyone can access quality services without financial burden; and strengthening primary healthcare systems to deliver inclusive, equitable care.

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Healthcare expenditure in India is expected to surge from 3.3 per cent to 5 per cent of its GDP by 2030, according to a report on Monday.

While global healthcare spending stands at about \$10 trillion, India spends about 3.3 per cent of its GDP on healthcare. Its per capita expenditure stands at only around \$80.

The report by CareEdge Ratings showed that with structural improvements, including doubling the number of medical seats, increasing insurance coverage (about 40 per cent of the population), and expanding hospital bed capacity, India’s healthcare infrastructure is expected to improve substantially by 2030.

“India’s lower per capita income compared to many other countries has been a key reason for



underinvestment in the healthcare infrastructure and lower healthcare spending,” said the report.

“However, the Government has been stepping up its efforts to increase healthcare spending, which bodes well, especially for rural areas and weaker sections of the society which are heavily dependent on public health services,” it added.

India’s health insurance coverage (public and private) has more than doubled over the last 10

years, reaching about 40 per cent in 2023, largely due to increased awareness and central and state-sponsored health insurance schemes.

In addition, the recent expansion of the Ayushman Bharat scheme to cover citizens aged 70 years and above is likely to expand health insurance coverage to about 50 per cent in 2025.

India is expected to add about 25,000 to 30,000 hospital beds over the next three years, with

investment from both the public and private sectors.

Over the last decade, there has been a substantial investment in medical education, resulting in the number of undergraduate and postgraduate seats in medical colleges almost doubling.

Further, the report noted that the availability of doctors in the country will also improve, driven by more than 1 lakh undergraduate medical seats. “This may also bridge the gap somewhat between the availability of healthcare professionals in rural areas and urban areas,” it said.

“India’s healthcare landscape is evolving rapidly. The government’s commitment to increasing healthcare spending, coupled with private sector participation, is laying a strong foundation for improved healthcare access and quality,” said Krupal Modi, Director, CareEdge Ratings.

# Extended loneliness triples risk of early death in middle-aged women: study

AGENCIES  
SYDNEY

A study published on Monday revealed for the first time a causal link between chronic loneliness and early death among middle-aged Australian women.

Researchers analysed two decades of data from the Australian Longitudinal Study of Women’s Health, involving over 57,000 participants.

The findings after examining data from women aged between 48 and 55 show that women who consistently reported feeling lonely over a 15-year period were three times more likely to die early compared to those who did not report loneliness.

Women without persistent loneliness had a 5 per cent risk of death, while that risk rose to 15 per cent among those with ongoing feelings of loneliness, according to the researchers of the University of



Sydney, the University of New South Wales, and Western Sydney University, Xinhua news agency reported.

“Loneliness is a risk factor that should be screened for by clinicians, just as we would screen for high blood pressure or cholesterol. We also need to raise the public awareness of loneliness to demystify and destigmatize loneliness,” said the

study’s lead author, Neta HaGani.

Prof. Melody Ding from the University of Sydney, the study’s senior author, said women in middle age are more likely to be primary caregivers for

both young children and elderly parents, as well as going through major life transitions such as menopause, retirement or children leaving home, factors that can contribute

to social isolation.

The study, published in BMJ Medicine, also found a dose-dependent relationship -- the more frequently loneliness was reported, the higher the risk of early death.

While comparable long-term data on men’s health is lacking, Ding said midlife is a period of transition that may affect women more adversely.

# Struggling with Face Fat? Here are 10 possible reasons

Ever wondered why you’re gaining weight on your face? Why exercise hasn’t resulted in face fat loss? There could be several lifestyle or genetic reasons for fat accumulation in the face. Here’s a look at 10 common causes of face fat:

1. Genetics: Genetics play a significant role in how and where your body stores fat, including in your face. If your family tends to carry more weight in the face, there’s a high chance you might do so too.

2. Overall Weight Gain: When you gain weight, fat can accumulate in different parts of your body, including your face. The face has fat deposits, and an increase in body fat can lead to a rounder face.

3. Diet & Water Retention: Consuming high-calorie, processed, or sugary foods can contribute to weight gain and facial fat. Excessive sodium intake



can also lead to water retention, which might make the face appear puffy.

4. Hormonal Changes: Hormones, particularly those related to ageing (like a decrease in estrogen or thyroid imbalances), can influence fat distribution in the body, including the face.

5. Aging: As you age, the skin loses elasticity, and the fat in your face may begin to shift or accumulate differently. This can cause the face to appear fuller or rounder, even if your weight hasn’t changed drastically.

6. Alcohol Consumption: Alcohol can cause bloating and dehydration, which may lead to a puffy face.

7. Dehydration: Ironically, not drinking enough water can lead to your body retaining water in an effort to stay hydrated, which might cause puffiness in the face.

8. Sleep and Stress: Poor sleep and high levels of stress can lead to weight gain and fluid retention, which can show in the face. Stress hormones like cortisol can increase fat storage, especially around the face.

9. Medical Conditions: Certain conditions, like Cushing’s syndrome, which causes high cortisol levels, can lead to fat accumulation in the face, giving it a round or “moon-shaped” appearance.

10. Medications: Some medications, like corticosteroids or antidepressants, can lead to weight gain or fluid retention, which can contribute to facial puffiness.

Since targeted weight loss is not possible, reducing face fat can be achieved through a combination of overall weight loss and lifestyle changes. Additionally, it’s important to note that genetics, overall body composition, and lifestyle choices play a significant role in how fat is distributed in the body.

If you’re concerned about your facial appearance or weight, consulting with a healthcare provider or nutritionist can provide more personalized advice.





## Kashmir's leading manufacturers of cricket bats, GR8 Sports honoured in Delhi

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, APR 11 (UNI)

GR8 Sports India Pvt Ltd, one of the country's most promising sports startups, was recently awarded the prestigious title of 'Startup Maharathi in Gaming & Sports' at Startup Mahakumbh 2025, held at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

The recognition, granted after a rigorous multi-phase evaluation process, was officially announced during the Startup Mahakumbh Recognition Ceremony on April 5, 2025.

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, presented the award to Fawzul Kabiir, Co-Founder of GR8 Sports, in presence of industry leaders and key stakeholders from across India's startup ecosystem.

This honour places GR8 Sports among the leading innovators in India's sports sector, reflecting the company's growing contribution to sports manufacturing, especially through



its world-class Kashmir Willow cricket bats.

Fairing extremely well at the international arena, the company again got attention with its debut at the ICC Women's T20 Cricket World Cup 2024 and its partnership with the Legends League Cricket 2024. Over the years, GR8 Sports has consistently showcased its excellence – from being the only ICC-certified and approved bat brand from Kashmir Valley, to representing Indian sports craftsmanship at international tournaments besides expos and trade fairs.

"This recognition hasn't come overnight. It is the

result of relentless dedication, belief in innovation, and the trust placed in us by players, partners, and well-wishers. As we grow, we remain committed to extending a helping hand to all startups who need support. The spirit of collaboration and community-building is what drives India's startup ecosystem forward, and we are proud to be a part of this journey," Fawzul, the Co-founder of GR8 Sports said.

Startup Mahakumbh 2025 brought together thousands of startups, investors, and industry leaders from across the country.

## India bag crucial win against Hong Kong, China at Billie Jean King Cup Asia-Oceania Group 1

AGENCIES

PUNE, APR 11 (UNI)

The Indian team carried on their winning run at the Billie Jean King Cup Asia-Oceania Group 1, delivering a strong performance to secure a 2-1 victory against Hong Kong,

China, here at the Mahalunge Balewadi Tennis Complex

India got off to the ideal start on day three, courtesy Vaidehi Chaudhari's splendid performance against Ho Ching Wu, in the Indian's first game of

the tournament.

The youngster, hailing from Ahmedabad, fought tooth and nail in a tightly contested first set, winning the tiebreak 10-8. She wasted no time to impose herself in the second set, eventually securing a 7-6 (10-8), 6-1 victory in 2 hours and 3 minutes, to give India a 1-0 lead in the tie against Hong Kong, China on Thursday evening.

In the second singles match between the two countries, Shrivalli Bhamidipaty carried on

her fabulous run in the tournament, maintaining a perfect record after three matches.

The young Indian star had to dig deep against Hong Yi Cody Wong in a three set encounter that lasted 2 hours and 27 minutes. Shrivalli bagged the first set in a tiebreak, winning 8-6, before her opponent fought back. However, the Indian had the last laugh with 8 aces, securing a crucial 7-6, 2-6, 6-3 victory to give India an unassailable 2-0 lead in the tie.

In their final match of the day, the Indian duo of Ankita Raina and Prarthana Thombare fell short in a hard fought battle against Eudice Chong and Hong Yi Cody Wong. The experienced Indian pair secured the first set in a tie-break, before the Hong Kong, China duo fought back in the second set. And from there on in, Hong Kong, China had the better of the exchanges, winning the final set, and the contest at 7-6, 3-6, 11-13.

The Indian team will

take on the Chinese Taipei in their third match of the Billie Jean King Cup on Friday evening.

The tournament is powered by the Sports Authority of India (SAI) and the Ministry of Sports and Youth Welfare (Maharashtra). Other partners for the tournament include Bisleri, Shiv-Naresh,

Manipal Hospitals, Eco Factory Foundation and Dunlop.

Live stream for the Billie Jean King Cup Asia-Oceania Group 1 is available on DD Sports.

### PBKS aim to exorcise Hyd ghosts as SRH fight for survival

AGENCIES

HYDERABAD, APR 11 (UNI)

Punjab Kings haven't won at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium since 2014, and Sunrisers Hyderabad have won four of the last five encounters between the two sides.

When the two teams clash in the 27th match of the Indian Premier League 2025 on Saturday, the contest will be as much about breaking patterns as it will be about points.

Hyderabad, led by Pat Cummins, are on a slippery slope after four straight defeats. Their campaign, once brimming with promise, is now teetering on the edge. The team's last outing saw a meek surrender to Gujarat Titans by 7 wickets, exposing glaring holes in both their batting and bowling. With a playoff spot slipping away, SRH must arrest the slide, and there is no better venue than home to begin a turnaround.

Historically, SRH have turned the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium into a fortress. The team thrives on familiar conditions, fans support, and a surface that favours stroke-play and spin. Their head-to-head dominance over Punjab further strengthens their confidence ahead of this fixture.

Fifa Club World Cup with the Reds. He was one of three key Liverpool players who will be out of contract this summer, along with right-back Trent Alexander-Arnold and centre-back Virgil van Dijk.

Netherlands defender Van Dijk has said there has been progress on talks over a new deal but Alexander-Arnold has been heavily linked with a move to Real Madrid.

Salah's previous deal was understood to be worth more than £350,000-a-week and made him the highest-paid player in the club's history.

It is believed the negotiations over his new contract did not involve a pay cut as part of the talks.

## Chelsea eases past Legia Warsaw in UEFA Conference League quarterfinal first leg

AGENCIES

WARSAW, APR 11 (UNI)

Chelsea moved a step closer to the UEFA Conference League semifinals with a convincing 3-0 win over Polish side Legia Warsaw in the first leg of their quarterfinal on Thursday night.

Despite dominating possession in the first half, the visitors were unable to break through. Legia goalkeeper Kacper Tobiasz made key saves to keep the match scoreless at the break, stopping a long-range effort from Kiernan



Dewsbury-Hall and denying Cole Palmer in the box.

Chelsea broke the deadlock early in the second half. Tyrrique George pounced on a rebound in the 49th minute after

Tobiasz had saved a shot from Reece James, giving the Premier League side the lead.

The visitors doubled their advantage eight minutes later when Noni Mad-

ueke beat Tobiasz with a low shot to the near post in the 57th minute.

Christopher Nkunku had an opportunity to extend the lead from the penalty spot in the 73rd minute after being fouled in the area, but Tobiasz denied the Frenchman to keep Legia's hopes alive.

Madueke added his second goal of the night in the 75th minute, finishing off a cross from Jadon Sancho to seal the result and leave Legia facing a steep uphill battle.

The second leg is scheduled for April 17 in London.

## FIBA welcomes IOC's decision to increase 3x3 basketball Olympic teams

AGENCIES

MIES (SWITZERLAND), APR 11 (UNI)

FIBA has hailed the decision to increase the number of 3x3 basketball teams to 12 per gender at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics as a milestone for the sport.

"This expansion from 8 to 12 teams per gender reflects the growth of 3x3 basketball over recent years and further highlights the sport's global appeal and development. The expanded field opens the door for greater universality and broader national representation, offering more countries the opportunity to compete on the Olympic Stage," read a FIBA statement on Thursday.

The International Olympic Committee's executive board on Wednesday announced plans to



increase the quota of 3x3 basketball competition at LA28 to 12, up from eight at the Paris 2024 Olympics.

"We thank the IOC for its decision, which provides great encouragement for FIBA and its members to continue promoting our urban discipline. Having four additional teams for the men's and women's tournaments is a testament to the global interest and excitement Olympic Basketball have delivered at Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024," said FIBA president

Sheikh Saud Ali Al Thani.

"Today marks a milestone for FIBA and our sport. The additional quota allows more National Federations and players from all around the world to dream that they can make it from the streets to the Olympics," said FIBA Secretary General Andreas Zagklis.

3x3 basketball made its Olympic debut at Tokyo 2020, and LA28 will be the third time the sport is included in the Olympic program.

## Mohamed Salah signs new 2-year deal with Liverpool

AGENCIES

LONDON, APR 11 (UNI)

Egypt forward Mohamed Salah has signed a new two-year contract with Liverpool.

His previous deal was scheduled to run out in the summer and there had been doubts he would stay with the Reds following comments from the 32-year-old during the season as well as speculation linking him with a move to Saudi Arabia.

However, he will now have the chance to add to his 243 goals and 109 assists for Liverpool in 393 appearances, the BBC reported.

"Of course I'm very excited - we have a great team now," said Salah.



"Before we also had a great team. But I signed because I think we have a chance to win other trophies and enjoy my football."

"I have played eight years here, hopefully it's going to be 10. I'm enjoying my life here, enjoying my football. I have had the best years of my career here."

Salah has scored 32

goals in all competitions this season, including 27 in the Premier League as the Reds chase a 20th top-flight title. Liverpool are 11 points clear of second-placed Arsenal with seven games remaining.

Salah, who joined Liverpool from Roma in 2017, has won the Champions League, Premier League, FA Cup, League Cup and