



PM Modi's vision changed landscape of country's criminal justice system: Amit Shah

Pays tributes to Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar; says country has got rid of colonial era laws

■ HT NEWS NETWORK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, APR 14: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision changed the entire landscape of the country's criminal justice system. Shah, who was the chief guest at the All India Forensic Science Summit 2025 organized by the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) here, as per the news agency—said, "Under the leadership of PM Modi, we are striving to make the justice system people-centric and scientific. Efforts are also being made to ensure that those seeking justice get justice on time and also



have the satisfaction of getting justice. Through this, our aim is to create a safe, capable and competent India."

To strengthen the criminal justice system, the Government of India has brought three new criminal laws in the form of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA), he added.

The conference on the theme of 'Role of Forensic Science in Effective Implementation of New Criminal Laws and Combating Terrorism' was attended by many dignitaries including Justice V Ramasubrama

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Waqf Amendment Act Targets One Religion, Let's Wait for Supreme Court's Decision: CM Omar Abdullah

■ HT News Network



NEW DELHI, APR 14: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said that the Waqf Amendment Act has targeted one particular religion and his party National Conference has moved the Supreme Court against it.

Talking to reporters here, Omar Abdullah, according to the news agency—said, "My party has already filed a petition in front of the Supreme Court. Now leave it to the judges. We are amongst a number of organisations that have approached the Supreme Court to look at this. Let them take a look at it."

He said, "We believe that this piece of legislation has targeted one particular religion. We are supposed to be a secular state. All religions are supposed to be treated equally. We believe that we have a right to be treated equally. We want the Supreme Court to

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Lieutenant Governor inaugurates Manufacturing Unit of Superior Polymers India Private Limited at Kathua

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 14: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today virtually inaugurated the Manufacturing Unit of Superior Polymer India Private Limited at Kathua. The Lieutenant Governor congratulated the Superior

Group of Industries and the members of Superior Polymer India Private Limited on their new venture and conveyed his best wishes.

He said the commencement of this greenfield project is an important milestone, promising a positive impact on the local economy and employ-



ment generation, and a significant push to the industrial development of the region.

"UT's manufacturing ecosystem is growing and today's project dedicated to the industrial development will give momentum to the mission of Aatmanirbhar J&K," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor reiterated that, under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Hon'ble Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, we are committed to the advancement of the industrial sector in Jammu and

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NEWS BRIEF

Srinagar Police Sets Up Women Help Desks in All Police Stations

SRINAGAR, APR 14: As a part of a move aimed at ensuring the safety and dignity of women in public spaces, Srinagar Police on Monday appealed to women to report any form of harassment, bullying, eve-teasing, or unsolicited comments. The police also publicized dedicated helpline numbers to encourage swift and accessible grievance redressal. As per the details collected by the news agency—a public awareness post shared by the Srinagar Police said they remain committed

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Drug peddler arrested in Kulgam: Police

KULGAM, APRIL 14: In its sustained efforts to root out the menace of drugs from the society, Police arrested drug peddler in Kulgam and recovered contraband substance worth lakhs from his possession.

Acting on specific information, a police party of Police Station Kulgam along with Executive Magistrate Kulgam raided the suspected spot at village Arreh near Islamia Hanfia Institute and apprehended one person, a police spokesman said in a statement issued to the news agency—

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Democratic Azad Party Dissolves All Committees

SRINAGAR, APR 14: Chairman of the Democratic Azad Party (DAP), Ghulam Nabi Azad, has dissolved all units of the party including state, provisional, district, and block committees, as well as the panel of spokespersons.

An official communication available with Kashmir News Service (KNS) reads, "Chairman Democratic Azad Party Ghulam Nabi Azad has dissolved all the units of the party including the state, provisional, district and block committees including spokesperson.

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Waqf (Amendment) Act an assault on rights of Muslim minority: CPI(M)

■ Farooq Rather



SRINAGAR, APR 14: CPI (M) senior leader and MLA Kulgam Mohamad Yousuf Tarigami on Monday said that Jammu and Kashmir is being persistently targeted by the incumbent government in the centre and termed the recently passed Waqf Amendment Bill as an assault on the rights of Muslims.

Addressing a news conference here, Tarigami, as per the news agency—said that CPI (M) during its recent Party Congress held in Madurai has unanimously resolved that the Waqf Amendment Act is an assault on the rights of the Muslim minority.

"During the Party Congress in Madurai, delegates from across the country, including those with deep associations with the faith, writers,

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Kashmir's pilgrims left in limbo as Saudi Arabia cuts Hajj quota by 80%

CM Omar, Andrabi urge EAM to engage with Saudi authorities; Farooq appeals to PM for quota restoration

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APR 14 (KNO): A sharp 80 per cent cut in India's private Hajj quota by Saudi Arabia has left many Kashmiris uncertain about their pilgrimage plans with the decision affecting over 52,000 Indian pilgrims, including hundreds from the valley. The move has sparked widespread concern among hopefuls, their families and political leaders alike.

A group of Kashmir applicants selected for Hajj 2025, speaking to the news agency—expressed



their uncertainty about their status, saying that while they were initially overjoyed with the con-

firmation, they are now in limbo and unsure if they will make it onto the final list.

"We don't know if we'll make it or if we're even on the final list anymore. It's creating a lot of stress and confusion for us," said one of the applicants.

He said the situation has left many in a state of anxiety, unsure about their chances of participating in the pilgrimage.

Arifa Bano, a resident of north Kashmir, said, "I have waited years to perform Hajj. This sudden change is heartbreaking. We hope the government does something."

The decision by Saudi authorities, part of crowd-control mea-

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'We serve to save': National Fire Service Day commemorated across valley

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APR 14: The Fire and Emergency Services (F&ES) Department on Monday observed National Fire Service Day at its headquarters in Batamalo here and in other parts of the valley, paying tributes to firefighters who lost their lives in the line of duty.

As per the details obtained by the news agency—the

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TRAIN TO KASHMIR: DGP chairs security review meeting ahead of PM's Katra visit

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, APR 14: Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Jammu and Kashmir visit to inaugurate train to Kashmir from Katra, Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Monday chaired a high-level meeting here to review the security scenario in Jammu region.

According to the details available with the news agency—the DGP took a detailed review and directed the officers to ensure fool proof security.



Meanwhile, the Special Protection Group (SPG), tasked with the Prime Minister's security, has taken over the control of the security at the venue in

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Handwara Accident Aftermath: Students join J&K Police to promote road safety

Overloaded school buses to face seizure, says SSP Traffic

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, Apr 14: In the aftermath of the tragic Handwara college bus accident that claimed two lives, the students across the Kashmir valley joined hands with the J&K Police to promote traffic awareness and road safety.

Students, as per the news agency—were seen assisting cops from the Jammu and Kashmir Police, pleading with motorists to wear hel-



metts, avoid overspending and respect traffic rules in several townships across the valley, including Handwara,

Sumbal and Anantnag.

"Road safety is not just a rulebook issue, it is about valuing lives. We have seen what happens when negligence goes unchecked," the participatory students said.

Meanwhile, the Jammu and Kashmir Police, who facilitated the initiative, believed that the participation of students has sent a strong message about the role of civic responsibility in

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J&K road accidents claim four lives, leave 30 injured in 24 hours

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APR 14: At least four people lost their lives while over 30 persons were injured in multiple road accidents across Jammu and Kashmir in the past 24 hours, officials said. In Ramban, a pre-dawn accident on Monday near Banihal claimed the life of one person and left nine others injured. The accident, as per the news agency—, occurred when a Tata Mobile vehicle carrying members of two Bakarwal families from Rajouri's Teryath area overturned and crashed into a railway bridge wall. A baby girl among the passengers,

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HM

nian, Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Attorney General R Venkataramani, Rajya Sabha MP and Chairman, Bar Council of India Manan Kumar Mishra, Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan and Vice Chancellor, NFSU Dr. J. M. Vyas.

Shah said, "Forensics is not a new idea in our country. Its detailed description is found in Charak Samhita, Sushruta Samhita and Kautilya's Arthashastra. Acharya Kautilya has guided the world in detail on topics like toxicology, identification of poison, body language of suspects, and identification of accused on the basis of speech."

He said, "PM Modi's visionary leadership brought significant transformation to the country's criminal justice system. A system has been established where neither the accused nor the complainant is subjected to injustice. To ensure this balance, integrating forensic science into the criminal justice process is essential."

NOT POSSIBLE TO DELIVER TIMELY JUSTICE WITHOUT FORENSIC SCIENCE

"Without forensic science, it is not possible to deliver timely justice and increase the rate of conviction. The entire scenario of crime has changed today. Now criminals use different means of technology, information and communication, due to which crime has now become borderless," Shah said, as per KNO.

"Earlier, crime used to happen in a small part of a district, state or country, but now crime has become borderless. Modern crimes now transcend city, state, national, and even international boundaries," the Home Minister added.

He said, "Seven campuses of the National Forensic Sciences University have been established in different states of the country. Nine more campuses will be established in the next 6 months."

Apart from these, he said, the establishment of 10 more campuses is proposed. "There will be no state in the country where there is no campus of National Forensic Sciences University. We will work to make each campus the best unit in the world by giving it one subject. The students of the university will be helped in research and development so that they achieve heights in research and make the campus the best in the allotted subject."

The Union Home Minister said that after its completion, every year 36000 diploma and degree holder youth will pass out from these campuses and strengthen our criminal justice system.

Shah said, "There is a need for 30,000 trained professionals to visit every crime scene where the punishment is more than seven years. Each year, around 36,000 students will graduate from the National Forensic Sciences University, many of whom will go on to work in private forensic laboratories as well. He further mentioned that the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is working on an agreement between private and government Forensic Science Laboratories (FSLs), allowing certain samples received by government FSLs to also be analyzed by private labs."

Shah said that NFSU is advancing into several emerging fields, including drone forensics, smart city forensics, marine forensics, and corporate forensics.

He also highlighted the growing international presence of NFSU, stating that around 240 foreign students are currently enrolled, and that the university will continue to expand globally in the coming years.

GUJARAT FORENSIC SCIENCES UNIVERSITY

Referring to the importance of Gujarat Forensic Sciences University, Shah said, "When PM Modi was the Chief Minister of Gujarat and he himself was the Home Minister, the seed of Gujarat Forensic Sciences University, planted by PM Modi in 2009, has now grown into a banyan tree in the form of the National Forensic Sciences University — the first university of its kind in the world."

He said, "It is a matter of joy for him that when the National Forensic Sciences University was established on 1 October 2020, Narendra Modi was the Prime Minister and I was the Home Minister of the country."

Shah said that Forensic Science University is not only producing skilled professionals but is also paving the way for research across various fields. He noted that the university has become a trusted institution for forensic analysis in complex cases and has also evolved into a hub for equipping the country's forensic laboratories with modern technology.

He added that the university offers a wide range of programs, including degree, diploma, PhD, and research courses. Additionally, it has developed and adopted numerous indigenous technologies and has created toolkits to supply these innovations to police forces across the nation.

PAYSTRICTESTO DRBHIMRAO AMBEDKAR

Paying tribute to Bharat Ratna Babasaheb Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar on his birth anniversary, Shah said that Babasaheb worked to finalize the Constitution of India. "It was a Herculean task to finalize the Constitution after thousands of hours of intense discussion on every subject, but Babasaheb composed the Constitution by incorporating all aspects

keeping in mind the needs of the country and with the idea of maintaining the relevance of the Constitution for many years," he said.

The Union Home Minister said, "Our Constitution is not just a book. It has a system for the protection of the body, property and honor of every citizen and forensic science is now playing a very useful role in strengthening the criminal justice system associated with the protection of these three."

COUNTRY GOT RID OF COLONIAL ERA LAWS

Shah underlined that following the directive of PM Modi to get rid of the country of colonial-era laws, work on finalizing new criminal laws was carried out between 2019 and 2024.

He noted that extensive discussions during this period revealed the extent to which the outdated laws were harming India's criminal justice system.

He emphasized that if laws are not updated in accordance with changing times, they become obsolete and irrelevant.

He added that the original intent of the old criminal laws was not to deliver justice to Indian citizens but to uphold British rule.

In contrast, the three new criminal laws introduced under PM Modi's leadership have been crafted by Indians, for the protection and justice of Indian citizens.

CM

adjudicate this. Now we will wait..."

Earlier addressing ICC Aviation & Tourism Conference 2025 —hosted by the Indian Chamber of Commerce here, the Chief Minister flagged the high air fares for Srinagar-bound domestic flights, especially if booked a day or two before travel. "I hope the new Vande Bharat train connecting Jammu with Srinagar will bring some relief for the travelers."

He said that J&K has again become a pre-eminent tourist destination and called for choosing the path of "value-based tourism" instead of chasing volumes.

The Chief Minister said the tourism is something that Jammu and Kashmir is famous for. "Long before we became famous for the troubles, we were famous for the beauty, and for the tourism. And this beauty is not something that is talked about in recent times," Omar said, as per KNO.

He illustrated his point by citing a famous couplet inscribed on a wall of the Red Fort that describes Kashmir as a "heaven on earth".

"These words were written centuries ago. From then to now, Jammu and Kashmir has attracted attention largely for good, but in recent years, somewhat for the bad as well," the Chief Minister said.

"But, I can safely say that we have turned the corner, and Jammu and Kashmir today has once again become a pre-eminent destination for tourism in the country, increasingly for overseas tourists as well," he said.

He said that when J&K was struggling with the aftereffects of violent attacks and terror, "for us, tourism was a visible sign of a move towards normalcy."

"Increase in the number of tourists added to its economic activity, and also gave us a sense that perhaps better days were ahead of us" Omar said, adding, "And, therefore, we chased volumes, we went out and tried to get as many tourists as possible to visit J&K, because the more the tourists, the more impact, and therefore it was a win-win for all of us."

Emphasising the importance of "value-based tourism", he said, "We have in mind nine new destinations that we hope to get funded through multilateral agency funding, which we hope will ease some of the pressure on Gulmarg, Pahalgam and Sonmarg in the Valley, and also open up areas of Jammu hitherto undiscovered for tourism"—

HAJJ

sures, has left nearly 52,000 Indian pilgrims uncertain about their sacred journey many of whom had already made payments.

Even the visa suspension has disrupted travel plans for hundreds of Indian pilgrims, especially from Kashmir. Many had prepared for the Umrah pilgrimage, only to face cancellations due to visa denials.

A senior official at the Jammu and Kashmir Hajj Committee said that as of now, 550 pilgrims are scheduled to travel through private arrangements.

"It is essential that pilgrims confirm whether the HGO they are dealing with is officially listed and has been allotted a quota by the Ministry," he said.

For Hajj 2025, a total of 4,100 people from J&K submitted applications. As per official details, 3,601 were selected in the first draw conducted by the Haj Committee of India, while an additional 21 women were approved under the Mahram quota bringing the total number of confirmed pilgrims from J&K to 3,622.

The move is part of a broader effort to manage crowds and logistical pressure during the pilgrimage.

Last year, J&K received a quota of 8,345 Hajj slots. The Hajj Committee received 8,147 applications and facilitated the pilgrimage of 7,008 individuals.

However, this year's quota reduction espe-

cially for private arrangements is expected to drastically lower the number of J&K pilgrims able to perform Hajj.

The sudden announcement has drawn criticism from several political leaders. Former J&K Chief Minister and National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah said, "I appeal to the Prime Minister to speak with the leaders of Saudi Arabia and urge them not to reduce our quota of Hajj pilgrims. There is also the question of jobs here."

Dr Farooq said he would urge Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to formally write to the Prime Minister to address the issue.

Chairperson of the J&K Waqf Board, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi said the Ministry of External Affairs has taken up talks on this matter with the Saudi authorities.

CM Omar, through his office's post on X, said: "The reported cancellation of Hajj slots for over 52,000 Indian pilgrims, many of whom have already completed payments, is deeply concerning. I urge Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs @DrSjaishankar to engage with the Saudi authorities at the earliest."

People's Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti echoed the concern, posting: "Disturbing news emerging from Saudi Arabia. Reports indicate that 80% of India's private Haj quota has been cut abruptly. This sudden decision is causing immense distress for pilgrims and tour operators across the country."—

LG

Kashmir.

"We have ensured a workforce prepared for industrial jobs. We have empowered marginalized sections of the society to broaden the skilled workforce. Our Handloom and Handicraft exports surged after building the industrial ecosystem," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He said, the progressive Industrial Policy and several key interventions in the last few years have strengthened investors' confidence in the UT of J&K and attracted private investment.

"We have been successful in creating a conducive environment for the growth of industries, enabling overall development. Our efforts are now yielding positive dividends with many industrial units started their operations and many more investment proposals are in the pipeline," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The unit set up with an investment of Rs 75 crore will generate hundreds of employment opportunities.

Shri Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary Industries and Commerce Department; Dr Arun Kumar Manhas, Director, Industries & Commerce, Jammu; Shri Pradeep Agrawal Chairman, Superior Group of Industries; Shri Vishal Agrawal, Vice Chairman, Shri Ashish Sethi, CEO, Dr Sunil Kumar Mishra, Chief Human Resource Officer, and other members of Superior Group of Industries and Superior Polymer India Private Limited were present.

Shri Rakesh Minhas, Deputy Commissioner Kathua along with other officials also joined through virtual mode.

DGP

Katra, where the Prime Minister is scheduled to flag off the first train to Kashmir on April 19.

Prime Minister Narendra is set to flag off the first train between Katra in Jammu and Srinagar in Kashmir. He will also inaugurate the Chenab bridge.

PM Modi had described the Chenab bridge as an "unparalleled" example of engineering. Moreover, the flagging off the commercial operation of the first train between Kashmir and Jammu will mark the beginning of full rail connectivity from the Valley to the rest of the country. To start with, the national transporter will operate one Vande Bharat train between Katra and Srinagar, which will enable travelers to cover the stretch in just over three hours. Currently, it takes around 6 to 7 hours.

The Northern Railway has been conducting the trial run of trains between Kashmir and Jammu for more than two months. At present, train services in Kashmir are limited to the Sangaldan-Baramulla section, while long-distance trains terminate at Katra.

The bridge over the Chenab river is 35 metres taller than the Eiffel Tower.

Officials said around 29,000 tonnes of steel has been used in the construction of the bridge. They added that construction of the bridge was challenging because the area falls in earthquake-prone region and so its design and construction were done in such a way that even if an eight-magnitude earthquake occurs it will not affect the bridge—

CPIM

and people who have dedicated their lives to political and social matters, unanimously concluded that the Waqf Amendment Act is a serious infringement on the rights of the Muslim minority."

He further said that such measures threaten the democratic framework and constitutional values of the country. "This is what we highlighted there. Because of such actions, the democratic fabric and constitutional

structure of our country are being weakened," he said.

Tarigami appealed to civil society, parliamentarians, legislators, writers, and the media to raise their voices. "Whether it is an attack on minorities, on democracy, on institutions, or on constitutional rights—one never knows what will be targeted next. Before it's too late, voices must be raised," he added.

He also said that in a recent assembly meeting, several honourable members demanded a debate on the issue. "It was appropriate for us to raise this question, as it deeply concerns the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the country at large. But unfortunately, no debate was allowed. And there should have been one. I said this in the assembly as well."

Referring to other pressing issues, Tarigami said, "As far as Jammu and Kashmir is concerned, the Party Congress also unanimously passed resolutions on the issues of casual labourers, daily wagers, need-based workers, Anganwadi workers, helpers, and ASHA workers. These workers, even today, are struggling to earn two meals a day. The central government has repeatedly assured that those working under daily wage and need-based schemes should be paid minimum wages, but the ground reality remains different."

In another resolution adopted by the party congress, CPI(M) asks Centre to restore full statehood to J&K. The unconstitutional abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A had dismembered and downgraded the State, with its bifurcation into Union Territories (UTs) creating a deep political void, intensifying the sense of uncertainty and alienation among the people.

It said that despite a slew of oppressive measures taken by the BJP-led Centre, people turned out in large numbers to vote in the Assembly polls held after a gap of seven years and delivered a verdict against the Union government. But the Centre continued to undermine the democratic verdict.

The resolution urged the government to restore full statehood to J&K, protect land and job rights, restore democratic civil and trade union rights, release political detainees and journalists and end indiscriminate arrests of the youth on baseless charges, he said—

FIRE SERVICE

event began with a two-minute silence to honour the martyrs, followed by wreath-laying at the Martyrs' Column. Officers and personnel from across the department participated in the solemn occasion.

Speaking on the sidelines of the event, Command Officer Fire & Emergency Services Srinagar, Er Aqib Hussain Mir said, "The day reminds us of the courage and sacrifice of our firefighters who never hesitated to put their lives on the line. As per our motto 'We Serve to Save', we must always be ready to face any emergency."

He urged the personnel to stay committed to their duty, saying we shall never show our back to fire. "Saving lives and property is our top priority, even if it means putting ourselves at risk," he added.

Er Hussain praised ADGP Fire Services Alok Kumar for his leadership and continued support in strengthening the department. "Under the guidance of ADGP Alok Kumar Sir, the department has witnessed several positive changes, including better coordination and operational efficiency," he said.

He further shared the department's efforts towards modernisation. "The Fire and Emergency Services Department has already started adapting new gear and technology to enhance our ability to respond to emergencies quickly and safely," he said, adding such observances are important not only to remember the fallen heroes but also to spread awareness about fire safety among the public.

Notably, the National Fire Service Week is being observed from April 14 to 20 across the Union Territory, with various awareness activities planned at district and station levels. This year's theme is "Unite to Ignite, a Fire Safe India."—

ACCIDENTS

however, was unharmed, the officials said.

The injured were taken to Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Banihal and later referred to Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag for further treatment.

A minor tourist lost her life after being struck by an unknown vehicle in Pahalgam area of Anantnag district. According to an official, the accident occurred near the selfie-point in Pahalgam, where the vehicle hit and injured the young girl.

In Anantnag, a separate road accident took place in Sinthan Top area involving an Intrav (chota hathi) vehicle, resulting in injuries to eight people.

The injured were taken to PHC Larnoo, with some among them being referred to GMC Anantnag and SDH Kokernag. All the injured are stated to be stable, the officials said.

In Srinagar, two motorcyclists were critically injured in a collision near the All India Radio Kashmir flyover. They were quickly transported to SMHS Hospital by the Dial 112 police team.

A three-year-old boy was killed in Ganderbal after being hit by a vehicle in the Kullam Gund area. The boy, identified as Mohammad Hussain, was declared dead on arrival at SDH Kangan.

In Bandipora, a tractor plunged into a gorge in the Duban area of Onagam, resulting in one fatality and leaving another injured.

The deceased, Mohammad Yaseen from Malangam, was confirmed dead at the scene, while the injured, Bilal Ahmad was taken to a District Hospital for further treatment.

Police have registered cases and launched investigations into these incidents.

Meanwhile, a senior traffic police official advised drivers to exercise extreme caution, obey speed limits, and remain alert at all times.

"It is crucial for all road users to exercise extra care to ensure their own safety and the safety of others. Prioritize life over reckless, high-speed driving," the officer said—

HANDWARA

preventing such incidents.

Earlier, the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Traffic Rural Kashmir, Ravinder Pal Singh at Kupwara had a few days back stated that despite the awareness drives, the initiative will only bear fruits if motorists truly understand and cooperate with the rules.

"We try our best to reach rural areas with a thrust to control accidents, fatalities, but this is only possible when people consider whatever we advise them," SSP Singh said.

He also pointed out that wrong-lane driving is a major contributor to road accidents and cautioned against teenagers driving without proper licenses.

The SSP, in the meanwhile, added that they will be strict with the school buses found to be overloaded. "They need to follow the guidelines of the Supreme Court. We will distribute stickers displaying the guidelines and traffic department contact numbers."

He further noted that installing CCTV cameras in school buses would become mandatory, adding that they are going to seize the vehicles that violate these parameters.

Pertinently, on April 12, two young female students lost their lives while 23 other received injuries after a college bus carrying students en route to a picnic met with a severe accident in Vodhpura, Handwara in north Kashmir—

WOMENS

to protecting women and girls in the city.

"Respected Women: If you face harassment, unsolicited comments, bullying, or feel unsafe in public spaces in Srinagar, don't hesitate to reach out. Srinagar Police is here to help," the details accessed by KNO revealed, adding the message read, ending with the line: "Stay safe, speak up."

Also, the dedicated helpline numbers shared, to ensure prompt assistance, the following helpline numbers have been made operational are as: Women Helpdesk (WhatsApp): 9596770601, Women Helpdesk (Call): 9596770602, PCR Helpline: 9596222551 and Women Safety Squad: 7006740755.

In the meanwhile, as part of their broader strategy to curb crimes against women, Srinagar Police has also set up Women Helpdesks in police stations and deployed a 'Mobile Women Safety Squad' to respond to real-time emergencies or distress calls.

Also, a police spokesperson shared, women should feel safe and supported, whether they're commuting, shopping, or working. "We want to create an environment where no woman hesitates to speak up against any misconduct," they said.

Meanwhile, locals also appreciated the move, especially women who often feel vulnerable in crowded public spaces like markets, buses, and streets—particularly after dark.

KULGAM

During the search, 471 grams of Heroin-like substance valued in lakhs were recovered from his possession. He has been identified as Irfan Ahmad Raina son of Mushtaq Ahmad resident of Arreh, Kulgam. He has been arrested and shifted to a police station where he remains in custody, police said.

Accordingly, police said that a case under FIR number 34/2025 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Kulgam and further investigation is going on.

Police remains committed to its zero-tolerance policy against drug abuse and trafficking and urges the general public to come forward with any information regarding drug peddling or other anti-social activities in their areas, police said—

AZAD

An official communication available with Kashmir News Service (KNS) reads, "Chairman Democratic Azad Party Gulam Nabi Azad has dissolved all the units of the party including the state, provisional, district and block committees including spokesperson. The committees will be reconstituted in due course of time. This issues with approval of Chairman."

The order has been issued by Bashir Arif, Secretary to the Chairman.



"Hope After Loss" One-Day CME on "Navigating the Challenges of Recurrent Pregnancy Loss" Held at Govt LD Hospital.

HT News Network

Srinagar, April 14: The Postgraduate Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar, successfully organized a one-day Continuing Medical Education (CME) programme on the theme "Hope after Loss", focusing on the "Challenges And Clinical Management Of Recurrent Pregnancy Loss (RPL)". The event was inaugurated by Prof. (Dr) Iffat Hassan Principal/Dean GMC Srinagar, who emphasized the significance of ongoing education in improving patient outcomes and enhancing societal well-being. Prof. (Dr) Syed Masuma Rizvi, Head of the Department, underlined the importance of such academic engagements in empowering young doctors and promoting collaborative strategies to address the emotional and medical complexities of RPL. Renowned faculty members including Prof. Samiya Mufti, Prof. Arshid Hussain, Prof. Ajaz Hakeem, Dr. Asifa Ali, Dr. Rukhsana Sami, Dr. Aashiq, Dr. Saima Wani, and Dr. Farzana Bashir delivered insightful lectures covering various clinical aspects related to the Etiology, diagnosis, and evidence-based management of recurrent pregnancy loss. These sessions



were chaired by eminent specialists such as Prof. Shahida Mufti, Prof. Syed Masuma Rizvi, Prof. S.M. Saleem Khan, Prof. Shagufta Rather, Prof. Rakesh Koul, Prof. Hina Bashir, Prof. Nighat Firdous, Prof. M.

Maqbool Dar, and Prof. Samina Sultana. A highly interactive panel discussion, moderated by Prof. (Dr) Samiya Mufti, Organising Secretary, brought together leading experts to deliberate on practical

strategies, interdisciplinary approaches, and case-based scenarios, fostering dynamic exchange of ideas and enhancing learning.

Distinguished guests including former Heads of Department Prof. Farhat Jabeen, Prof. Nighat Firdous and Prof. Rizwana Habib, and senior faculty members from GMC Srinagar, SKIMS Medical College, and LD Hospital such as Prof. Ambreen Qureshi, Prof. Shylla Mir, Dr. Anjum Malik, Dr. Syed Naseer and Dr. Muzaffar Jan, Medical Superintendent LD hospital shared valuable insights into hospital-based and community-oriented management practices. The CME witnessed active participation from postgraduate students, faculty, and medical professionals, making it a significant academic milestone in advancing care for patients experiencing recurrent pregnancy loss.

The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks presented by Dr. Rukhsana Sami on behalf of the Organising Committee, acknowledging the contributions of all participants and resource persons. She expressed hope for continued academic collaboration to address critical challenges in women's reproductive health.

Altaf Bukhari Urges Centre to Reverse Cut in Private Hajj Quota

HT News Network



Srinagar, Apr 14: Apni Party President Syed Muhammad Altaf Bukhari has voiced serious concern over the recent reduction in India's private Hajj quota, urging the central government to intervene and have the decision reconsidered by Saudi authorities. In a post on X, Bukhari said the cut in private Hajj slots could prevent over 40,000 eligible pilgrims from fulfilling their long-awaited spiritual journey, many of whom have already made advance payments. Calling the move unfortunate, he appealed to Union Minister for External Affairs Dr. S. Jaishankar and Union Minister for Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju to raise the issue with the Saudi government and work towards restoring the original quota.

Patients Allege Discrimination at Srinagar's B&J Hospital, Demand Probe into MRI Referrals

HT News Network

Srinagar, Apr 14: Patients visiting the Bone and Joint Hospital in Srinagar have accused the hospital administration of favouritism and malpractice, alleging that MRI facilities at the government hospital are selectively used for influential individuals, while ordinary patients are frequently directed to a private diagnostic centre outside the hospital. Several patients and attendants expressed outrage, claiming that hospital authorities rarely conduct MRI tests on-site. Instead, they are allegedly being pressured to get the scans done at a nearby private centre, raising suspicions of a nexus between the hospital and the private facility. "This is a public hospital, and yet MRI tests are hardly being done here. Whenever we ask about it, we are told the machine is busy or not functional. But we have seen VIPs and well-connected people getting immediate access," said a patient from north Kashmir. Another attendant, accompanying an injured labourer from Pulwama, said they were advised to go to the private diagnostic centre just minutes after registration. "It's a well-coordinated push. As soon as you mention MRI, they start hinting it will be quicker and better outside," he alleged. The complainants have urged the Health Minister of Jammu and Kashmir to intervene, demanding an inquiry into the alleged irregularities and immediate steps to ensure fair and accessible services at the hospital.

Kashmir's Drug Crisis Spotlighted in Award-Winning Documentary "Aatish-e-Tilism"

HT News Network

Srinagar, Apr 14, Senior Journalist and filmmaker Anil Kumar Singh's hard-hitting documentary Aatish-e-Tilism is gaining critical acclaim, bagging the second spot in the long film category at The Prism Film Festival. Running just 16 minutes, the film dives deep into the drug menace gripping Kashmir, portraying how civil society, NGOs, and the administration are coming together to tackle the crisis. Through poignant conversations with students, medical professionals, and grassroots activists, the documentary paints a vivid picture of a region fighting back against addiction. Aatish-e-Tilism not only exposes the harsh truth of synthetic drug abuse and narco-terrorism but also stresses the importance of community-led awareness and rehabilitation. The film shines a light on efforts by organisations like Chotay Taray, which offer judgment-free spaces for recovery and support. Singh's work stands out for its emotional depth and urgency, calling for a stigma-free approach to addiction and greater solidarity in healing Kashmir's youth.

Minor Girl from UP Dies in Hit-and-Run Incident at Tourist Resort Pahalgam

HT News Network

Anantnag, Apr 14, T: An incident occurred in South Kashmir's Pahalgam on Monday, where a 4-year-old tourist girl from Uttar Pradesh lost her life after being struck by an unidentified vehicle near the popular selfie point. Officials said the minor girl, identified as Halma Hasina, daughter of Hashim Quraishi, a resident of Mulganj, Kanpur, was critically injured after being hit by a speeding vehicle that fled the scene.

Sajad Lone 'Not Amazed' by Farooq Abdullah's Defense of Speaker on Waqf Bill

HT News Network

Srinagar, April 14: Peoples Conference President and MLA Handwara Sajad Lone today expressed his lack of surprise regarding Dr. Farooq Abdullah's recent statement supporting the Assembly Speaker's decision to disallow discussion on the Waqf Amendment Bill. In his media interaction, Lone highlighted what he described as inconsistencies in National Conference's approach to the controversial legislation. "They have 50 MLAs, the Speaker belongs to their party—I fail to understand against whom they were protesting against and raising concerns within the Assembly. And now Farooq Abdullah comes out in support of the Speaker. This is a tremendous mockery," Lone stated. Furthermore, Lone emphasized that a historic opportunity was missed to either pass a resolution or at least conduct a meaningful discussion on the contentious Waqf Bill. "It could have sent a powerful message from the only Muslim-majority province in the country but instead it appeared as though NC was fighting against itself merely to sabotage the discussion and to appease New Delhi," he remarked. When questioned about NC's plans to challenge the Waqf Bill in the Supreme Court, PC President noted that while courts will adjudicate according to legal principles, the emotional appeal that could have been conveyed through the Assembly has been squandered. "As a sole Muslim-majority province, our collective voice would have carried significant weight, but now even if thousands of individuals approach the court separately, the matter will be decided purely on legal grounds rather than reflecting the sentiments of the people."

Kashmir University Faces Major Staff Crunch with 570 Vacant Posts

SRINAGAR, : Nearly 20 per cent of the 2,859 sanctioned posts in the University of Kashmir were lying vacant as on February 2024, the varsity said in response to an application filed under Right to Information Act (RTI), highlighting significant staff shortage across departments.

The application filed by Jammu-based RTI activist Raman Kumar Sharma in February this year revealed that majority of the vacancies are at the faculty level. This includes over 200 key posts of professors, associate professors and assistant professors, besides 110 junior assistants.

Against the sanctioned strength of 2,859 posts, 570 posts were vacant as on February 29, 2024, Central Public Information Officer of the University of Kashmir, Ghulam Mohammed Wani said in his response.

Wani, who is also Assistant Registrar at the university, said there are 56 sanctioned posts of professors but 47 are vacant, while 91 out of 120 associate professor posts are unoccupied.

Similarly, only 291 posts of assistant professors are filled, leaving 80 other posts vacant, he said, adding that against the sanctioned posts of seven directors, five remained vacant.

As many as 110 junior assistant



posts, against sanctioned strength of 180, are without staff, he said.

The RTI also revealed that the posts of dean of college development council, dean of students' welfare, academic coordinator, research fellow, editor-cum-lecturer, documentation officer, editor-cum-research assistant, additional controller of examination and assistant estates officer are also lying vacant.

The university also awaits the appointment of professor-cum-principal (nursing), two assistant professors (nursing), three tutors (nursing), two deputy directors and three assistant directors in physical education department, one deputy director and three assistant directors in director-

ate of internal quality assurance, nine assistant librarians and two placement officers.

The Institute of Music and Fine Arts of the university is also without a principal and out of seven senior instructors (IMFA), only three are posted in the department, the RTI said.

There are three vacancies of joint registrars, two deputy registrars-cum-deputy controller examinations, seven assistant registrars-cum-assistant controller examinations, two assistant programmers, one auditor, three coaches (physical education and sports), two computer operators, three Hindi typists and five junior engineers, Wani said.

BJP Pays Glowing Tribute to Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Across Kashmir Valley.

HT News Network

Srinagar, April 14:- The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu and Kashmir today paid rich tributes to Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar on his birth anniversary, with commemorative events organized across all districts of the Kashmir Valley. The programmes were held under the leadership of the respective BJP District Presidents, who led floral tribute ceremonies and highlighted the life and legacy of the architect of the Indian Constitution. The main function was held at the BJP Head Office, Kashmir—J53, Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar, where senior BJP leaders gathered to honor Dr. Ambedkar's unparalleled contributions towards social justice, equality, and empowerment of marginalized communities. Waqf Board Chairperson (MOS) Dr. Darakshan Andrabi and



Party Chief Spokesperson Advocate Sunil Sethi were the Chief Guest on the occasion. During the event, BJP leaders, karyakartas, and supporters offered floral tributes to Dr. Ambedkar and reiterated the Party's commitment to his vision of an inclusive and progressive India. Speakers on the occasion recalled Dr. Ambedkar's struggle against social discrimination and his pivotal role in shaping a democratic and egalitarian framework for the nation.

Speaking on the occasion, Party Chief Spokesperson Advocate Sunil Sethi emphasized that Dr. Ambedkar's ideals remain more relevant than ever and serve as a guiding light for the ongoing mission of nation-building under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The event concluded with a collective pledge by all present to continue working for the upliftment of every section of society in line with Dr. Ambedkar's vision of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas."

Five Days workshop on NEP-2020 at SSM College of Engineering concludes with Expert lecture of Prof. (Dr.) B.S. Murty Director IIT Hyderabad

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APRIL 14 The five days conclave at SSM College of Engineering Parihaspora on NEP-2020 that started on 9th April 2025 came to an end today on 14th April 2025 with Expert Lecture of Prof. (Dr.) B.S. Murty, Director Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad concluded. Academicians and Industrialists from various organizations which included Prof. (Dr.) Mushtaq Ahmad Darzi Dean School of Management University of Kashmir, Prof. (Dr.) Mushtaq Ahmad Siddiqi Chief Coordinator NEP University of Kashmir, Prof. (Dr.) M.A. Shah Department of Physics NIT Srinagar, Prof. Ajaz Masoodi Department of Civil Engineering NIT Srinagar, Prof. Shabir Ahmad Parah Department of Electronics and Communication University of Kashmir, Dr. Shabir Ahmad Sofi Department of Information Technology NIT Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Saad Parvez Department of Mechanical Engineering NIT Srinagar, Dr. Shahzadi Wafai Nowbahar Government Degree College Pattan, Dr. Muzamil Rafique Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department UT of Jammu and Kashmir, Administrators and Senior faculty members of SSM College of Engineering also participated. Threadbare deliberations/suggestions were given by all the participants.

Prof. Murty gave threadbare insight and said India was Vishwa Guru in the past in education and will be Vishwa Guru again by giving vast choice and flexibility to students through NEP-2020.

EDITORIAL

Need of the hour; fire safety audit of religious places in J&K

Last week a child lost his life while some others sustained injuries after fire broke out in a religious seminary at Tral in South Kashmir's Pulwama district. The incident sent shock waves among the people of the valley and they expressed concern over the unfortunate death of the young boy. Even though the fire tenders from different fire stations reached the place of incident within no time the intensity of fire was such that the young boy was charred to death instantly.

The people as a whole expressed concern over the lack of fire safety equipment at the seminary and said that if the proper security measures were in place the incident could have been avoided. It has been observed that the fire safety procedure is compromised at most places of religious importance across the Kashmir valley. As a result of this, the lives of hundreds of people who visit these places are at risk. The worst thing is that both the masses as well as the government are not paying attention to this issue.

The need of the hour is that a fire safety audit is carried out in all the masjids, temples, gurdwaras and churches across the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir. Once this exercise is carried out then the picture would be crystal clear and it would be known how many such religious places are without the necessary fire-fighting equipment. This should be followed by issuance of warning to the management of deficient religious places. A time frame needs to be set out for installation of fire safety equipment failing which stern action needs to be taken against the guilty.

Over the years there has been a mushroom growth of the religious seminaries in Jammu & Kashmir, especially the valley. There is no harm in imparting religious education to the boys and girls but at the same time the lives of the people are more important. The management of such institutions need to be made aware about the safety concerns and it should be impressed upon them to put in place the necessary fire safety equipment.

It is highly unfortunate that many people who carry out construction of shopping complexes and malls also compromise over the safety of the people who are expected to visit such places. Somehow the departments also take the things very lightly and they issue the no objection certificates (NOCs) to owners of such complexes and malls who blatantly flout the norms according to their own wish.

The Alarming Rise of Unemployment in India

MOHAMMAD SOHIL
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Unemployment has emerged as one of the most pressing socio-economic issues in India today. Despite several government initiatives aimed at improving the labor market, the unemployment rate in the country has been rising steadily, reaching a concerning 9.2% in June 2024, as per data from the Centre for Monitoring the Indian Economy (CMIE). This spike in joblessness is not only affecting urban populations but has also deeply infiltrated rural areas, with youth and educated individuals bearing the brunt.

India, with its vast and diverse demographic landscape, faces a complex challenge. While a large population is often viewed as a potential economic asset, it becomes a liability when job opportunities fail to keep pace. The growing gap between available jobs and the number of job seekers, particularly among the youth, is a clear indication of systemic inefficiencies and structural flaws in the labor market.

A Youth Crisis

Youth unemployment has become particularly severe, with highly educated individuals, including graduates, postgraduates, and even PhD holders, struggling to find suitable employment. This trend reflects not just a scarcity of jobs but also a serious mismatch between the education system and market demands.

India's education system, criticized for emphasizing theoretical learning over practical and vocational skills, has contributed to this issue. Many students graduate with degrees that do not translate into employable skills, leaving them ill-prepared for the job market. As a result, even prestigious academic qualifications are no longer a guarantee of employment.

In states and union territories such as Jammu and Kashmir, the problem is even more acute. Many highly qualified



youth remain unemployed, leading to rising frustration and concern over their future prospects. The region has witnessed a surge in the number of unemployed graduates, with limited government or private sector opportunities to absorb them.

Rural Realities and Gender Divide

The unemployment crisis is not confined to urban centers. Rural India has seen a sharp rise in joblessness, with the rate climbing from 6.3% in May 2024 to 9.3% in June 2024. Contributing factors include seasonal employment in agriculture, underemployment, and a lack of alternative job options.

Women, especially in rural areas, face additional barriers. The lack of proper educational infrastructure, poor functioning of government schools, and prevailing gender biases continue to limit opportunities for girls and women. Many females are either not allowed or not encouraged to pursue higher education or join the workforce, further deepening the unemployment problem.

Root Causes of Unemployment

Several key factors contribute to the rising unemployment rate in India: Population Growth: A rapidly

growing population creates immense pressure on the job market, leading to an excess supply of labor.

Skill Mismatch: There is a clear gap between the skills possessed by job seekers and the requirements of industries.

Agrarian Distress: A large section of the population is dependent on agriculture, which offers limited and inconsistent employment.

Technology and Automation: With industries embracing automation and digitization, demand for manual labor has declined.

Economic Slowdowns: Events like the COVID-19 pandemic and global financial uncertainties have adversely impacted hiring across sectors.

Educational Shortcomings: The current education system lacks emphasis on employability, practical training, and vocational courses.

Economic Consequences

The high unemployment rate has far-reaching economic and social implications. It directly affects consumer spending, as unemployed individuals have less disposable income. This slowdown in demand can hinder economic growth, reduce investor confidence, and trigger social unrest.

Furthermore, widespread unemployment can lead to mental health issues, increase crime rates, and cause a sense of hopelessness, particularly among the youth. It also affects family structures and can lead to migration from rural to urban areas, creating further stress on cities and urban infrastructure.

Government Initiatives and the Way Forward

The Indian government has launched various initiatives to tackle unemployment, such as the Skill India Mission, Startup India, Make in India and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). These schemes aim to create jobs, encourage entrepreneurship, and promote skill development.

While these initiatives have shown some success, experts argue that their implementation often falls short. Issues such as bureaucratic hurdles, corruption, and lack of awareness limit their reach and effectiveness. A focused and targeted approach is needed, particularly in areas like education reform, infrastructure development, and support for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), which have the potential to generate large-scale employment.

ment.

It is also crucial to invest in modernizing the education system by integrating vocational training, internships, and digital literacy. Creating industry-academia partnerships can help align the skills of graduates with real-world job requirements. In addition, promoting sectors like renewable energy, tourism, healthcare, and digital services can provide employment to a wide range of individuals, from skilled professionals to semi-skilled workers.

Conclusion

The rising unemployment rate in India is not just a statistic—it is a reflection of unfulfilled potential and growing disillusionment among the nation's youth. Without urgent and effective intervention, the country risks facing a prolonged socio-economic crisis.

As India aspires to become a \$5 trillion economy, it must first address the needs of its most valuable asset—its people. Job creation, skill development, and educational reform must become national priorities if we are to ensure a brighter future for the next generation.

The writer is pursuing law at Jammu University

Why India's First National Cooperative University Matters



BY BALASUBRAMANIAN IYER
REGIONAL DIRECTOR
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE
ALLIANCE ASIA AND PACIFIC

The passage of the bill for India's first national cooperative university, Tribhuvan Sahkari University, in Parliament marks a historic milestone in the journey of the Indian cooperative movement. That this development comes during the 2025 International Year of Cooperatives only adds to its significance. As Union Minister for Cooperation Shri. Amit Shah noted, this university is poised to become a powerful vehicle in realizing the vision of "Sahkar Se Samridhhi"—"Prosperity Through Cooperation."

India is home to the largest cooperative movement in the world, comprising over

800,000 cooperatives and 287 million members. Deeply embedded in the daily lives of people—from roti, kapda, to makan (food, clothing, and shelter) — cooperatives are more than just economic institutions; they represent an expression of community-driven development, economic equity, and social justice. The establishment of the Ministry of Cooperation (MoC) in 2021 signaled a renewed national commitment to this sector, aimed at expanding its reach, improving its efficiency, and integrating it as a cornerstone of inclusive development.

Ministry of Cooperation has taken commendable steps: allocating 2,516 crore to computerize 67,390 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), introducing model byelaws adopted in 32 states to enable over 25 business activities, creating 2 lakh new multipurpose cooperatives, supporting 1,100 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), and transforming 44,000 PACS into Common Service Centers. Tax incentives, easier access to credit, and

decentralized storage solutions are enhancing cooperatives' operational capacities. The establishment of three new national federations for seeds, exports, and organic products further signal that cooperatives are being positioned as key agents of India's development.

Yet, for all its scale and reach, the cooperative sector's education and training infrastructure remains fragmented, under-developed, and unevenly distributed. The demand for qualified professionals—from managerial and administrative to technical and operational—is far outpacing the available supply. Equally critical is the need to invest in the capacity-building of existing employees and board members, many of whom lack access to regular training or structured learning opportunities. Without standardized curricula, quality assurance, and institutional coherence, the sector cannot fully realize its potential or sustain its growth. There is also a pressing need to attract newer and younger generations to

the cooperative movement—individuals who are not only professionally equipped but also inspired by cooperative values and driven to innovate within the sector. This is where Tribhuvan Sahkari University can play a transformative role: by serving as a hub for education, training, and research that builds capacity across all levels while fostering a new generation of cooperative leaders.

Named after Shri. Tribhuvandas Patel, the visionary architect of the AMUL model, and based in Anand, the cradle of India's dairy cooperative revolution, the university is as much a symbolic tribute as it is a strategic intervention. The choice of the Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA)—an institution that has pioneered cooperative management education for decades—as the foundation for this university is both practical and inspired. With IRMA designated as a Centre of Excellence, the university will build on a strong legacy of producing professionals equipped to address the challenges and

opportunities of cooperative enterprises.

The vision of the university will go further, beyond just those seeking formal management degrees. It will extend its reach to board members of primary and secondary cooperatives, employees across functional areas, and the new generation of youth interested in ethical, sustainable, and inclusive business models. The university will support this through flexible learning modules, certification programs, degree offerings, digital access, and field-based research—all rooted in cooperative values of self-help, democratic control, and mutual responsibility.

Importantly, the university can also serve as a national knowledge platform, facilitating dialogue among stakeholders, providing evidence-based policy insights, and supporting innovations tailored to rural realities. With India's diverse cooperative landscape—spanning dairy, credit, housing, fisheries, textiles, and more—the university has the potential to act as a converging space for

multidisciplinary expertise, linking academia, practitioners, and policymakers.

Globally, cooperative education has been foundational to the success of cooperative movements. As far back as the Rochdale Pioneers in 1844, the original rules of conduct included allocating a portion of profits to education. The fifth Cooperative Principle—Education, Training and Information—remains a core pillar of the movement, ensuring that members, leaders, and the broader community understand and uphold the cooperative model. It is this deep-rooted educational tradition that sustains cooperative governance, fosters innovation, and strengthens accountability.

In this context, Tribhuvan Sahkari University can be more than just an academic institution—it can become a national and global knowledge hub for cooperative development, a space where practice meets policy, and learning fuels leadership. At the ICA Global Cooperative Conference held in New Delhi, Prime Minister

Shri. Narendra Modi called on India to lead the Global South in uniting cooperatives to build shared platforms, tackle common challenges, and collectively chart a path forward. The national university offers just such a platform—capable of nurturing dialogue, sharing best practices, and strengthening south-south cooperation among cooperatives.

In a world that is increasingly seeking inclusive, democratic, and sustainable economic models, India's cooperative movement—and now its first cooperative university—offers not just inspiration but direction. The university must rise to this moment by being accessible, innovative, and impact-driven, fostering leadership at every level of the movement. The foundation has been laid; it is now time to build an institution worthy of the vision it represents—one that will educate, empower, and energize generations to come through the enduring power of cooperation - and ensure cooperatives build a better future for all.

The laps of the Pir Panjal !

BY M S NAZKI

If tomorrow comes!

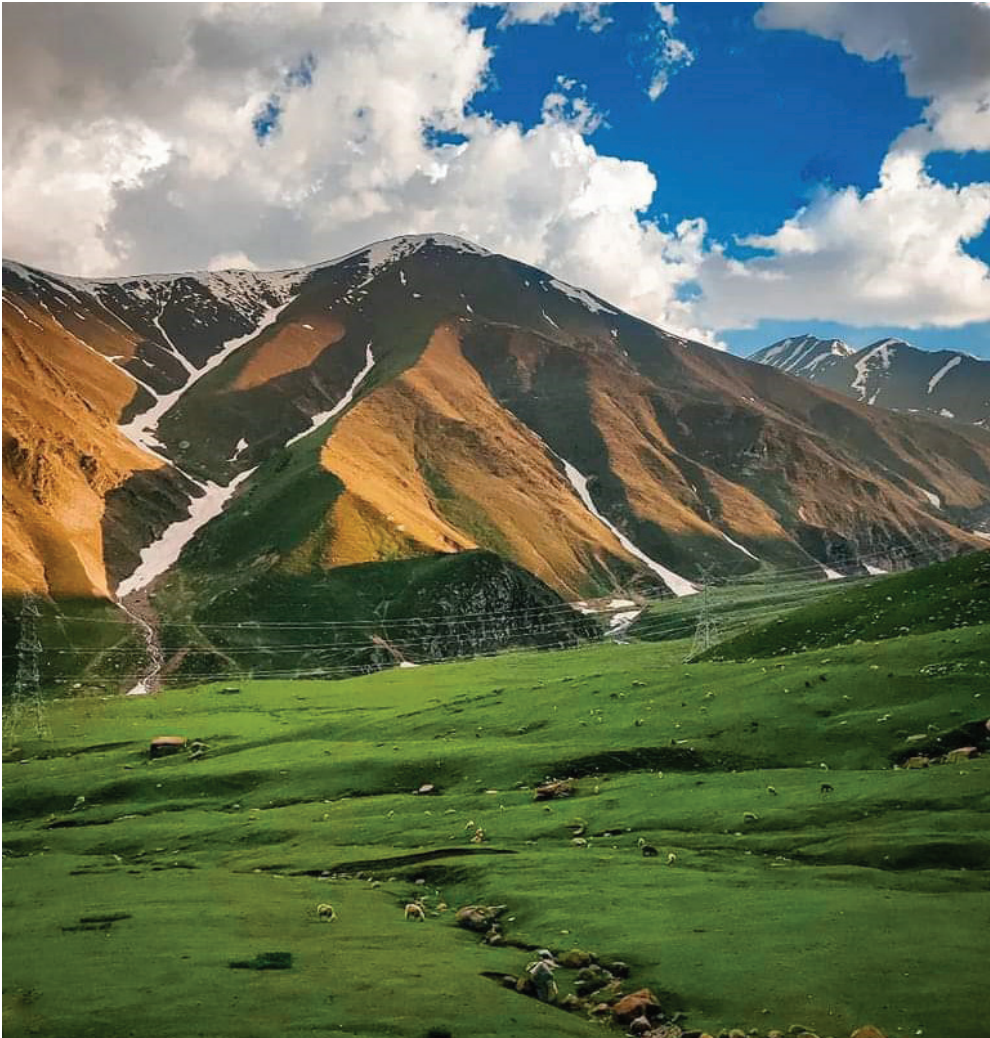
This is a story of yesterday, today and tomorrow because yesterday these kids were born, today they are living somehow and tomorrow well no one knows!

* It's their today that matters but is someone bothered? I doubt if someone is!

'The laps of the Pir Panjal have seen many children being born, playing similar games, whacking the bushes, lifting pebbles and collecting them and taking them to their homes, keeping them hidden from the mothers since for the latter they are just a rubble but for the child more precious than the gemstones and then that mischievous smile before rushing into mom's hug and going to sleep only to wake up with a cute yawn and the vigorous rub on the eyes with their palms. This is also life, everything looks great especially the smile and one can easily say that the beauty of life is best expressed by an innocent smile of a child and the smile of a child is the inspiration for the future. Great lines indeed but what is the inspiration are we giving to the child who is growing in an ocean as others did in the same regions ever since humanity set its foot on these lands? These chil-

dren should be having books in their hands so that they begin the journey of life on strong and immaculately sure footing'. Not so the case as of now. Yes I'm talking about the children of the nomads'!

If a child smiles, if an adult smiles, that is very important. If in our daily lives we can smile, if we can be peaceful and happy, not only we, but everyone will profit from it. If we really know how to live, what better way to start the day than with a smile? Our smile affirms our awareness and determination to live in peace and joy. The source of a true smile is an awakened mind. But all this comes with awareness and these children have no one to provide them. Putting a smile on these children's faces can change the world, maybe not the whole world but at least their world! But who will make that happen? The nomads move to the mountains in summers as that is their seasonal routine and along with them their children also move. Yes families have to stay together but the fact is that the childhood of these little things is getting wasted. Not that their parents do not care for them, they love them as we love our children but the difference is that our children have books in hand (so necessary in the formative years) but these



children do not have. They grow up as not so knowledgeable beings though about the terrain, the passes in the mountains, the meadows,

the streams, the brooks they know everything but that is not enough in these modern times. Therefore when they come down in winter's the

young child girl's look like Alice in wonderland and the boys like lost kids in the huge circus where every human being is doing something or

the other. In winters when they come down the routine is almost the same and hence life passes and they continue doing what their family tradition has been doing down the ages. So the innings that started off with a smile ends up in brooding and sulking faces with no innocence left. This life is cruel but it can be made smooth if books are made available to these children so that they also learn something and absorb the knowledge that can take them far in life. But who will do it? No doubt some initiatives are taken but they all tend to fizzle out mid way firstly because the parents are disinterested and second the officials of the concerned department miss out on something at some place or could be that they too are disinterested!

If you have a look at the picture attached with the story it can be made out that they are doing well. Smile on their faces does tell that they are always happy and content. But are they really? They are sitting in great locales as they do every season but other than that their life is nothing but a hollow empty cube which needs to be filled up.

They are still young and know little about the world. They see each other as

quite similar, all of them are humans and have the will to play and socialize. So what if they speak different languages? Their games don't need any language. But one thing can be easily said: happy children have everything, though poor. Sad children have nothing, though rich. But if books and some sort of facilities are given to them as they deserve, the whole thing will go in their favor and they can improve themselves. But again who will do it?

Children from remote areas of Rajouri, Poonch ,Reasi, PirPanjal, Kandi, Kotranka, Budhal, Chasana and Darhal need attention and the time is now to give it to them. If everyone has the right to education then why not these kids? These kids are far away from understanding abstract nouns except one 'love'. But they should now be taught another one also, 'education'. We as parents always say, a child's duty is to become greater than his parents. Yes we can say that because we are privileged ones but who will tell these children of lesser God's? Their parents, that would be asking too much from them. They can give them immense love but teaching, I doubt? This is an expert's job and in mountains you do not find them!

The Twitterfication of Governance

DR SANJAY PARVA

In an era where attention spans are shorter than a TikTok clip, the Twitterfication of governance has become a phenomenon. Politicians, armed with smartphones and an inflated sense of self-importance, are now running governments, not from the halls of parliament or assemblies but from the chaos of social media. Whether it's a policy announcement squished into 280 characters or an international spat playing out in public view, social media has redefined political discourse - and not necessarily for the better. More often than not for the worst meeting its ugliest ends.

The Rise of Social Media Statesmanship

Gone are the days when statesmanship required measured thought and careful articulation. Today, diplomacy is done with hashtags, and legislation is debated through viral memes. Leaders tweet and retweet, often bypassing traditional channels of governance and scrutiny. While this may appear as a democratization of information, what it often creates is a toxic cocktail of sensationalism, miscommunication, and bickering.

Consider the infamous spat between ruling and opposition party members, where Twitter becomes a digital wrestling ring. It's not unusual for a leader's tweet to spark outrage, rebuttals, and counterclaims - all in real-time. These interactions often serve no purpose other than generating headlines and likes, distracting from the real issues that require thoughtful deliberation and governance.

Social Media: From Transparency to Tumult

The argument often put forth by social media's advocates in governance is that it increases transparency. Indeed, platforms like Twitter and Facebook allow politicians to communicate directly with citizens without the traditional filters of media outlets. However, this direct line of communication has its drawbacks.

Misinformation and Half-truths:

A tweet announcing a new policy might oversimplify its nuances, leading to confusion or even panic. When decisions of national importance are shared in fragmentary tweets, it undermines the depth and seriousness that governance demands.

Polarization and Echo Chambers:

Politicians use social media to rally their base, often resorting to divisive rhetoric. This creates echo chambers, where supporters hear only what they want to hear, further entrenching political divides.



The Culture of Clutter:

The sheer volume of noise on social media makes it challenging to discern what's significant. A minister's crucial policy update can easily get lost between an influencer's dance video and a celebrity's pet post.

When Diplomacy Becomes Drama

International diplomacy, once a realm of discretion and decorum, has also fallen prey to social media theatrics. Take, for instance, instances where world leaders have engaged in online sparring. These public exchanges often resemble playground squabbles more than the deliberations of seasoned statesmen.

The implications are serious. When national leaders use social media for off-the-cuff remarks, they risk escalating tensions and derailing diplomatic efforts. In such cases, the immediacy of social media becomes a liability rather than an asset.

The Bickering Bonanza: Ruling vs. Opposition

Social media has also become the battlefield for ruling parties and their opposition counterparts. Instead of engaging in constructive debates, these interactions often degenerate into personal attacks and petty one-upmanship.

For example, an opposition leader might tweet a scathing critique of a government policy, only for a ruling party member to reply with a meme or an

insult. This tit-for-tat exchange might generate retweets and headlines, but it rarely leads to meaningful dialogue or solutions.

The culture of bickering that social media fosters is not only unbecoming of elected representatives but also erodes public trust in the political process. Citizens look to their leaders for guidance and solutions, not for entertainment or drama.

Constructive Use of Social Media: The Road Less Tweeted

Social media, for all its flaws, is not inherently bad. When used thoughtfully, it can be a powerful tool for governance, transparency, and engagement. Here are some ways politicians can make constructive use of these platforms:

Public Engagement and Feedback:

Politicians can use social media to seek input from citizens on policies and initiatives. For example, hosting live Q&A sessions or polls on critical issues can foster a sense of inclusion and ownership among the electorate.

Awareness Campaigns:

Social media is an excellent platform for spreading awareness about government schemes, public health campaigns, and educational initiatives. Clear, well-crafted messages can reach millions of citizens instantly.

Fact-based Communication:

Instead of engaging in mudslinging, politicians can use social media to share data, progress reports, and factual updates. This can help bridge the trust gap between the government and citizens.

Crisis Management:

In times of natural disasters or emergencies, social media can be an invaluable tool for disseminating critical information quickly. Leaders can use it to coordinate relief efforts and provide real-time updates.

International Collaboration:

While Twitter diplomacy often makes headlines for the wrong reasons, it can also be used to showcase solidarity and cooperation between nations. Thoughtful and positive interactions between world leaders can inspire confidence and goodwill.

The Balance Between Governance and Twitter Gimmicks

The challenge lies in striking a balance between leveraging social media's benefits and avoiding its pitfalls. Politicians must remember that governance is a serious business that requires thoughtful deliberation and accountability. Social media can complement these efforts, but it cannot replace traditional institutions and processes.

Ultimately, the measure of a politician's success should not be the number of followers they have or the virality of their tweets, but the tangible impact of their policies and actions on citizens' lives.

A Sarcastic Sign-off: The Real Winners of Twitter Governance

If there's one group that thrives in this chaotic social media landscape, it's the meme creators and content aggregators. For them, every outrageous tweet is an opportunity to churn out viral content. Perhaps, in this age of Twitterfication, governance is no longer about running a country but about running a successful online brand. After all, why bother with boring things like legislation and policy when you can trend on Twitter instead?

One might sarcastically conclude that the world doesn't need leaders anymore - just influencers with a flair for hashtags and a talent for going viral. As citizens, let us hope that our politicians will someday look beyond the glare of their screens and remember that leadership is about action, not just words (or tweets). Until then, we watch the circus of clutter and bickering unfold, one notification at a time.

Feathers Fall Too

AKHOON AUBAID

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In life, power is often mistaken as permanent. But as nature teaches us, nothing lasts forever. The predator may seem invincible today, but tomorrow it could become the prey. Just like the bird that once feasted on ants, it eventually fell and was consumed by those it once oppressed.

This image is a stark reminder of humility, the impermanence of power, and the unpredictable cycles of fate. It encourages us to be kind when we are strong and to remember that arrogance in strength can lead to downfall.

Moral:Treat others with respect, for the tables can turn when you least expect it.

Harvest of Hope

AKHOON AUBAID

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"In the sacred stillness of my garden, life awakens softly – not merely as flowers, but as dreams that once trembled in the shadows.

Each bud carries the story of unseen tears, of hands that toiled with hope, and hearts that dared to believe.

Through storms and silence, I nurtured these roots with faith that never wavered, and love that never ceased.

They speak of struggle wrapped in petals, of courage climbing gently toward light.

This is no ordinary spring – it is a celebration of every silent prayer, every sleepless night, every whispered wish that bloomed quietly beneath despair.

What I've planted with care, watched with affection, has blossomed not only in soil, but in the soul itself. Every fragrance carries joy, every color holds a promise, every breeze echoes the laughter I once only longed to hear.

This garden is my testimony – of patience, purpose, and the quiet power of hope fulfilled."

DISHA meeting:MP Mian Altaf reviews progress of developmental projects in Rajouri

HT News Network

RAJOURI, APRIL 14: Member of Parliament Mian Altaf Ahmad Larvi today chaired the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) meeting here at Dak Bungalow to review the implementation of centrally sponsored schemes and development works in the district. Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma briefed the MP about the status of the ongoing developmental initiatives across different sectors. The MP took a comprehensive review of centrally sponsored schemes including MGN-REGA, PMAY (Gramin & Urban), Tribal Welfare Schemes, Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) and the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSa). He also reviewed the imple-

mentation of the Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) and the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM).

Evaluating performance under the health sector, the MP took a detailed review of the functioning of Government Medical College (GMC) Rajouri. The MP emphasized the need to improve patient care facilities and directed the Principal GMC to ensure the early functioning of the Child and Maternal Hospital. He also asked for timely estimation and construction of a Sarai in the hospital.

Expressing concern over the shortage of medical staff, he directed the concerned authorities to expedite the process of filling vacant posts of doctors across the district.

Mian Altaf also took stock of the progress under the Jal



Jeevan Mission (JJM). He directed the concerned officers to ensure that machinery for all lift water schemes is installed by December 2025 and instructed for the early commissioning of the filtration plants.

While reviewing the Power Development Department (PDD), he called for necessary

improvements to ensure uninterrupted power supply in the region.

The MP also issued strict directions to the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) to expedite work on the Rajouri-Thana- mandi-Surankote road and on the Jammu-Poonch National Highway. He further directed the PWD to ensure proper

maintenance of all roads across the district. He also assessed the status of pension schemes for old-age beneficiaries, widows, and beneficiaries under the State Marriage Assistance Scheme (SMAS), and stressed on timely disbursement of benefits to the eligible persons.

The meeting was attended by DDC Chairperson Advocate

Naseem Liaquat; MLA Rajouri Iftikhar Ahmed; MLA Budhal Javed Iqbal Choudhary; MLA Kalakote, Thakur Randhir Singh and MLA Thanamandi Muzaffar Khan.

Among the senior officers present were ADDC Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa, ADC Kalakote Tanveer Ahmed, ADC Kotran- ka Dil Mir, ADC Sunderbani Ramkesh Sharma, ADC Rajouri Chander Parkash, ACR Mohd Jahangir Khan, SDM Thana- mandi Abid Hussain, CPO Maq- sood Ahmed, ACP Sheraz Ahmed and other sectoral officers.

The MP appreciated the efforts of the district administration and urged all departments to work in coordination to ensure effective implementation of development schemes and welfare programs for the benefit of the people of Rajouri. Expressing concern over the

shortage of medical staff, he directed the concerned authorities to expedite the process of filling vacant posts of doctors across the district.

Mian Altaf also took stock of the progress under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). He directed the concerned officers to ensure that machinery for all lift water schemes is installed by December 2025 and instructed for the early commissioning of the filtration plants. While reviewing the Power Development Department (PDD), he called for necessary improvements to ensure uninterrupted power supply in the region. The MP also issued strict directions to the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) to expedite work on the Rajouri-Thana- mandi-Surankote road and on the Jammu-Poonch National Highway.

Traffic Awareness Programs Conducted Across Handwara Police District

HT News Network

Handwara April 14: In a proactive initiative to promote road safety and responsible driving, Police in Handwara organized a series of traffic awareness programs across various locations in the police District. The events witnessed active participation from students of different schools who played a vital role in spreading awareness among the general public.

The programs, held under the supervision of senior police officials,



included awareness rallies, distribution of informative pamphlets, and interactive sessions on traffic rules and regulations. Students, accompanied by their teachers and local traffic police personnel, engaged with commuters and emphasized the importance of wearing helmets, using seat belts, and avoiding mobile phone usage while driving.

The initiative aims to instill a culture of road safety among youth and create a sense of shared responsibility towards safer roads in Handwara.

Ambedkar Jayanti celebrated with great fervour at Dehma- Udhmapur Vice Chairperson DDC Calls for emulating Baba Saheb's Ideals

HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, APRIL 14: Ambedkar Jayanti was today celebrated with full fervour and enthusiasm at the Community Hall in Dehma. The event witnessed a vibrant gathering of locals to pay tribute to Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar. Speaking at the function, Vice Chairperson District Development Council Udhampur Juhi Manhas Pathania called for emulating the philosophy and core ideals of Babasaheb Ambedkar, who laid the foundation of social justice and equity in India. She emphasized Dr. Ambedkar's visionary outlook on land reforms and economic restructuring in independent India. "His thoughts formed the bedrock of a just and equitable society — ideas



that continue to inspire generations," she said. While acknowledging that certain ideas could not be fully implemented due to various constraints, she noted that they are still deeply relevant across political, social, and economic spheres. "It is time we realign with his vision. Dr. Ambedkar was a champion of the poor and underprivileged. His thoughts are

more relevant than ever, even after nearly 70 years," she added, appreciating the Centre Government's commitment to carrying forward his legacy through inclusive development programs. The event featured cultural performances and tributes to Dr. Ambedkar. A large number of locals gathered to honour the legacy of the great social reformer.

CUKashmir holds webinar on 'Dr. Ambedkar's vision of inclusive society for national dev' VC launches 'Earn While You Learn' scheme on the occasion

HT News Network

Ganderbal, Apr 14: To commemorate the 135th birth anniversary of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, offices of OBC Cell, SC, STPWD Cell, Department of Students welfare (DSW) and NSS Unit of the Central University of Kashmir (CUKashmir) jointly organised a webinar on "Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's Ideology on Inclusive Society for National Development" during which the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. A Ravinder Nath launched the "Earn While You Learn" (EWL) scheme. Addressing the participants, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. A Ravinder Nath, described the scheme as a major tribute to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's vision of educational empowerment, and said, the EWL scheme offers students from Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups, a chance to afford their education through earnings from various university-based activities and also learn by involving them in academic and outreach works. "This initiative also contributes to achieving key Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)," Prof. A Ravinder Nath said. He further said, "Dr. B. R. Ambedkar envisioned a society where development is not exclusive but empowering for every citizen. His idea of democracy—anchored in liberty, equality, and fraternity—must continue to guide our policies, institutions, and collective conscience." In his keynote address, Dr. Vijay Khare, Professor and Head DDSS,

Savitribai Phule Pune University, said that as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Indian Constitution, Dr. Ambedkar played a pivotal role in shaping the nation's future, ensuring that the principles of liberty, equality, and fraternity were not mere ideals, but concrete Constitutional guarantees. He sought to re-examine Dr. Ambedkar's foundational ideas in the light of contemporary challenges—such as socio-economic disparities, and marginalization in education and employment. "Dr. B. R. Ambedkar was not just a constitutional expert; he was a visionary nation-builder whose commitment to justice, equality, and fraternity laid the ideological foundation for India's democracy. At the core of his philosophy was the idea that national development is impossible without the inclusion of all sections of society, particularly the historically oppressed and excluded," he added. Prof. Shahid Rasool, Dean of Academic Affairs, remarked that, "This webinar is a timely reflection on how Dr. Ambedkar's ideology must move beyond ceremonial remembrance and become a lived practice." Prof. Shahid Rasool said, "Ambedkar was not just a social reformer; he was a nation-builder who laid the foundation for modern Indian democracy. His insistence on inclusive governance, equal opportunities, and legal safeguards for the marginalized continues to resonate in contemporary discourse." He further underscored the relevance

of Ambedkar's thought in today's society. As the principal architect of the Indian Constitution, Prof. Shahid Rasool, said that Dr. Ambedkar ensured that the rights of the marginalised were not left to the mercy of social change but were firmly protected by law. "His fight was not just for the Dalits, but for the soul of India." Guest speaker, Dr. Shabir Ahmad Paswal, chief editor Rodade-Quam (a Gajari literary Magazine) revisited Ambedkar's thoughts on social justice, the annihilation of caste, and the importance of universal access to education. "Dr. Ambedkar's vision of equality cannot remain just in the Constitution—it must shape our classrooms, policies, and public attitudes," Dr. Shabir Paswal added. Dean Students Welfare, Prof. Irfan Aalam, highlighted the role of youth, particularly the students in carrying forward Dr. Ambedkar's message. "In our classrooms and communities, we must confront the remnants of discrimination—whether visible or invisible. Dr. Ambedkar's ideology compels us to speak truth to power and stand up for those pushed to the margins." He also announced the names of student beneficiaries selected for the Student Aid Fund (SAF) scheme launched by the Vice-Chancellor for variable tuition fee waiver for students under various categories. Asst Prof. Dept of Urdu, Dr. Altaf Hussain conducted the programme proceedings and Asst Prof. DCJ Dr. John Babu proposed the vote of thanks.

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار کھن پٹہ

عنوان درخواست منجانب اظہار کین میر ولد غلام احمد میر سائنس مانی پورہ کرمان پورہ پائین نسبت ایرانی نیل سیر (دارت جائز) سرٹیفیکٹ اشتہار بمراد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام ماملہ مندرجہ الصدمہ میں پٹواری طلبہ کی کچھ-مطابقت رپورٹ پٹواری وڈیٹر سرٹیفیکٹ سالک والد غلام احمد میر ولد سیر میر سائنس مانی پورہ کرمان پورہ پائین مورثہ 21-08-2022 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے متونی اسپتے پٹواری مندرجہ ذیل وارثان جائز چھوڑ گیا رشیدہ بمراد متونی

- 1... بیگم نسیم بیوہ غلام احمد بیوہ 50 سال بھر یو کلام
- 2... اظہار کین میر پسر 26 سال مزدوری د
- 3... بہانہ سائنس میر 23 سال زیر تعلیم
- 4... عمران علی میر 17 سال //
- 5... گیش میاس 15 سال

اس طور کنڈیگ (5) افراد پر مطابقت رپورٹ پٹواری مندرجہ وارثان جائز کے علاوہ اوکوئی وارثان جائز نہیں ہے سرٹیفیکٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوکوئی عور یا اعتراض ہو وہ اپنا عور یا اعتراض سائنس دان کے اندر پیش کرے معاذ کرنے کے بعد کوکوئی عور یا اعتراض قبول نہیں ہوگا

نائب تحصیلدار

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 ZEYAN S/O REYAZ AHMAD LONE R/O DOLIPORA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 08/04/2021 and event has been shown to be occurred at SDH KREERI for issuance of delay order. In this connection . If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

Executive Magistrate
1st Class KREERI

PUBLIC NOTICE

If is being informed that! Mr Mubashir Nabi bugga son of Gh Nabi Bugga residing at Kothir ANANTNAG JAMMU AND KASHMIR 192201 have lost my passport bearing number W9097093 issued on 14/02/2023 at Srinagar. It is hereby informed that I am applying for a new passport. If found, kindly contact me at 7006653313 or passport office mentioned above.

Name:- Mr Mubashir Nabi bugga
S/O:- Gh Nabi Bugga R/O Kothir ANANTNAG

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 MUBASHIR JAVID S/O JAVID AHMAD GANAI R/O NAIDKHA Tehsil HAJIN Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 16/11/2022 and event has been shown to be occurred at SDH KREERI for issuance of delay order. In this connection . if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

Executive Magistrate
1st Class KREERI

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on the name of ABDUL RASHID KHANDAY S/O SONAULLAH KHANADAY R/O LOOKWA BUDOO MOHALLAH . Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040014509 wants to be registered on the name MOHAMMAD SHAFI KHANDAY S/O SONAULLAH KHANDAY R/O KHISIPORA KREERI . If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name... MOHAMMAD SHAFI KHANDAY
S/O ... SONAULLAH KHANDAY
R/O KHISIPORA KREERI
DISTT..... BARAMULLA

Office of the Chairman

Rustum Memorial Educational Institute

Harnow Kawacheck, Baramulla, 193402

(Recognized by J&K Govt.) vide order no. 405 DSEK Zone Wagoora

List of Managing body

S. No.	Name of the Member	Parentage	Residence	Qual.	Desig.	Occupation	Contact	Photo
01	Mudasir Ahmad Mir	Ghulam Ahmad Mir	Harnow Kawacheck	12 th	Member	Student	9103527258	
02	Aijaz Ahmad Khan	Abdul Majeed Khan	Managam Baramulla	12 th	Member	Pvt. Employee	9906183381	
03	Sharik Ahmad Bhat	Ghulam Ahmad Bhat	Harnow Kawacheck	11 th	Member	Business	6006310861	

Chairman
R.M.E.I

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 AATIF MASHOOQ S/O MASHOOQ AHMAD BAHT R/O BATPORA Tehsil TANGMARG Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 28/03/2015 and event has been shown to be occurred at SDH KREERI for issuance of delay order. In this connection . if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

Executive Magistrate
1st Class KREERI

PUBLIC NOTICE

I SARTAJ AHMAD YAQUBI GANIE S/O MOHD YAQUB GANIE R/O Khirman Ganesh Raina Wanpoh 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



SSP sets up SIT as locals protest over youth's death

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, Apr 14 A massive protest was held at Thanamang village of Darhal over the tragic and mysterious death of 22-year-old Sheraz Ahmed, son of Zulfiqar Ali, a resident of Thanamang, Darhal. Sheraz, the elder son of his parents, was reportedly found dead under suspicious circumstances, sparking anger and grief among the local populace. The locals gathered in large number, demanding a fair and transparent probe into the incident and strict action against those responsible. Emotions ran high during the protest, with family members and community leaders voicing concerns over the circumstances surrounding the youth's death. Addressing the gathering, DDC Member Darhal, Mohd Iqbal Malik, expressed deep sorrow over the untimely demise of Sheraz Ahmed. "This heartbreaking loss has shocked the entire community. We demand that the truth behind this death be uncovered at the earliest. Those responsible must be brought to justice," Malik stated. He further urged the police and civil administration to act swiftly and ensure justice is delivered to the bereaved family. Responding to the public outcry, SSP Rajouri, Gaurav Sikarwar took prompt action by constituting a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the matter thoroughly. SSP Sikarwar assured that no stone will be left unturned in the investigation and anyone found involved in the incident will not be spared. "We are committed to ensuring a fair, transparent and speedy investigation. Justice will be delivered," he said. The formation of the SIT has brought relief to the protesting locals, who have now pinned their hopes on the police to uncover the truth behind the tragic death of the young man.

90 BN.CRPF Organized two day Volleyball tournament under Civics Action programme.

■ Farooq Rather



Anantnag:14, April, The 90 BN of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) successfully organized a 02 days Volleyball tournament for the youths of Kashmir under civic action Programme from 13/04/2025 to 14/04/2025 at SICOP, Bijbehara, Anantnag. 10 teams participated in the Tournament from different villages, including Jablipora, Rakhmoman U/Ps-Bijbehara, Distt-Anantnag (J&K) with great zeal and enthusiasm. Jablipora Strikers clinched victory in an exciting final match with Mahi Club (Rakh Moman). In the closing ceremony Shri Kamalendra Pratap Singh, Commandant 90 BN CRPF congratulated the winner, runner up and participants. He emphasized the importance of sports and physical activity in the modern era while distributing trophies and mementos to the winner team and players. Sh Kamalendra Pratap Singh Comdt 90, Shri S.N Meena (Second-In-Command-90Bn), Shri BRH Prasad (Second-In-Command-90Bn), Shri R. K. Maurya, Deputy Commandant, Sheikh Muddasir Ahmad Faruqi (SDPO, Bijbehara), Mujamil Ansari (Agriculture Department) and other CRPF personnel were also present. Such tournament not only foster a spirit of sports man ship but also serve to boost the moral of local youths, encouraging them to show their talents. "The CRPF has consistently highlighted the roll of sports in promoting a healthy and disciplined life style. Through such programme the CRPF continues to bridge the gap between security force and the public.

Agriculture department Kashmir organising "Buyer Seller meet" at IIKSTC Dusoo Pampore

■ HT News Network

Srinagar: The agriculture department Kashmir is organising a mega buyer seller meet on 15th of April at India international Kashmir saffron trading centre Dusoo Pampore. The meet is aiming at uplifting of agriculture sector of Jammu and Kashmir. The participants consisting of buyers from different states including jammu and kashmir and officials of agriculture department are attending the event. Sellers from farmers, FPO, S and entrepreneurs from different corners of Jammu and Kashmir would showcase their products. As per News agency Associated News Bureau ANB that The buyer seller meet would be an important step towards boosting local agriculture, economic growth and access to the national and international markets.

Doodkul Villagers Protest Decades of Neglect, Demand Road and Basic Facilities

■ DR.AB QAYOOM

Langate, Apr, 14: Residents of Doodkul village, located in the Mawar area of Langate in border district Kupwara, staged a strong protest on Sunday over the deplorable condition of roads and the lack of basic amenities in their area. The village, home to over 300 families, has reportedly been neglected for decades despite repeated appeals to authorities. Villagers said that although Doodkul has been inhabited for more than 70 years, the area continues to suffer from poor road connectivity. The 3-kilometer stretch linking the village to the main road is riddled with massive potholes, resembling mini ponds, making travel not only inconvenient but hazardous—particularly during medical emergencies or for school-going children who use the road daily. "Every day, our children risk their lives just to reach school. In cases of medical emergencies, the condition of this road has turned fatal in the past," said one protester. The villagers also raised serious concerns over the non-implementation of government schemes. "Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) is a distant dream for us. We had to jointly purchase plastic pipes from the market for drinking water supply. What kind of development is this?" asked a resi-



dent. In a scathing attack on political representatives, the villagers accused elected officials—from Sarpanchs and DDC members to MPs—of ignoring their plight post-elections. "We voted for them with the hope of change,

but they vanished after winning. Even jailed MP Engineer Rashid's son, Abrar Rashid, is busy touring Pir Panjal, while his neighboring village Doodkul is suffering," another local complained.

They also named other leaders like Irfan Pandithpori, Mir Junaid, and Shaikh Khursheed, accusing them of making lofty promises before elections and abandoning the village afterward. The villagers lamented that their elected DDC member, Khursheed Ahmad Dar, and BDC representatives have yet to conduct even a single review visit to the area. "We have been left at the mercy of God," a protester said. The aggrieved residents have appealed to the Deputy Commissioner Kupwara and the Lieutenant Governor's administration to intervene directly and ensure road connectivity, potable water, and implementation of welfare schemes. When contacted by Headlines Today, the Executive Engineer (Exn) of PMGSY stated that the road does not fall under their jurisdiction. However, the Executive Engineer of R&B Division Langate responded positively, saying, "If this road comes under our department, I assure a personal visit to the area within a few days to assess and address public grievances regarding road connectivity." The villagers now await action, hopeful that their voices will finally lead to meaningful development and long-overdue relief.

Dy CM pays homage to Dr Ambedkar

Recalls Baba Saheb's contribution in drafting Indian Constitution

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 14: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today attended two programs at village Dabber and Naniyal (Nowshera), organised to observe the 135th birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Paying homage to the legend, the Dy CM described him as one of India's foremost politicians, jurists and social reformers. The Dy CM extended greetings to the people and remarked that this day holds great significance in honouring the remarkable contributions of Baba Saheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar to our nation, particularly in the field of social justice, equality, and the drafting of the Indian Constitution.



He said that Dr. B.R. Ambedkar dedicated his life to the fight against social discrimination and worked tirelessly to secure equal rights for women, laborers and marginalized communities. His vision laid the foundation for a just and inclusive society, as reflected in the Constitution of India, which he was instrumental in drafting,

he added. The Dy CM added that Ambedkar believed in equality for every citizen, no matter which caste, religion or community they belonged to and government is committed to build J&K of Ambedkar's dreams. Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today attended two programs at village Dabber and Naniyal (Nowshera), organised to

observe the 135th birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

Paying homage to the legend, the Dy CM described him as one of India's foremost politicians, jurists and social reformers.

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Dozens of National Conference and Other Regional Party Workers Join BJP at Zadibal, Srinagar

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, April 14, 2025: In a major political development, dozens of political workers, primarily from the National Conference and other regional parties, joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) today in a function at Nigeen Lake Zadibal area in Srinagar. The joining took place in the presence of senior BJP leader Hilal Jan, who welcomed the new members into the party fold. The new entrants expressed deep dissatisfaction with their previous affiliations, stating that leaders of the National Conference and other regional parties have consistently prioritized the interests of their families, relatives, and close associates over the genuine aspirations of the people. They emphasized that their decision to join the BJP was driven by the party's commitment to inclusive development, good governance, and a transparent political culture.



Speaking on the occasion, Hilal Ahmad Jan said, "The BJP stands for justice, equality, and true representation. People across Jammu and Kashmir are increasingly reposing faith in the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the vision of the BJP. We welcome all those who wish to contribute to the betterment of the Union Territory with open arms." The joining of political workers at Zadibal marks yet another step in BJP's growing grassroots presence in the Kashmir Valley and reflects the changing political landscape of the region.

BJP remembers Dr. Ambedkar's legacy in Ladakh, pays tributes

■ HT News Network

Leh: 14:04:25 : BJP Ladakh led by Phunchok Stanzin, President Ladakh, in presence of Ashok Koul, General Secretary (organization), Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, and others paid floral tributes on the portrait Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar at Leh. Tashi Gyalson, CEC Leh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, Former MP, Padma Shri Mutup Namgyal were among the prominent who paid rich tributes to the Baba Saheb on the occasion. Gyal Wangyal, Vice President was the programme Incharge for the tributes programme.

P.T Kunzang State General Secretary, Nawang Samstan State Vice President, State General Secretary/Haj Committee Incharge Mohd Ali Majaz, Deputy Chairman Tsering

Angchuk, District Leh President Stanzin Chospel, Nominated Councillor/ State Vice President Dr Yangchan Dolma, State Mahila Morcha President Rinchen Dolkar, State Yuva Morcha President Thinless Nurboo, State Kisan Morcha President Tsering Mutup, Program co Convenor Phuntsok Nurboo, State and Districts Awardees were among other prominent present. Ashok Koul, while remembering the invaluable contributions of Baba Saheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, said that he was far ahead of his time. "We are deeply grateful for his efforts in eliminating social evils and emphasizing the importance of education," he stated. Koul added that Dr. Ambedkar's nationalistic thinking and ideology remain highly relevant even today, and that following the path he laid out will lead to the upliftment of the nation and society as a whole.

Javed Dar pays tributes to B R Ambedker; describes him as greatest social reformer

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 14: Minister for Agriculture Production Department, Rural Development Department & PR, Cooperative and Election Department, Javed Ahmad Dar, today paid floral tributes to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, describing him as one of India's greatest social reformers and the principal architect of the Indian Constitution, during an event held at Bari Brahmana, Samba. The function was organized by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar educational society which was attended by a huge gathering from Samba and adjoining areas.

While addressing on the occasion, the Minister said that Ambedkar jayanti is being celebrated as "equality day, highlighting the crucial role of Baba Saheb in fight-



ing for the rights of Women, labour and oppressed communities of India.

He extolled that the celebration is a powerful reminder of high ethos of equality, fraternity and justice that continue to inspire the generations.

"The struggle of Baba Saheb's life was not

only for the welfare of a particular community but for the whole humanity, he added. The Minister emphasised the need of ensuring unity among all segments of the society so that a collective fight can be launched against the prevailing social evils. He also stressed that Omar Abdullah gov-

ernment is committed to uplift all sections of the society and every citizen of Jammu and Kashmir is part of the government.

Professor Satnam Singh, from JNU, Rajni Bala and other prominent citizens also highlighted contribution of Baba Saheb in fighting for the rights of underprivileged especially the Dalits. He donned many hats but was above all a social reformer.

During the event, the Minister also awarded the meritorious students who had excelled in academic as well as extracurricular activities.

President Puran Chand, General Secretary Romesh Chander, Sansar Chand, Pushpa Raj, Jagdev Thappa, Chaman Khullar, Ashwani Gorkha, Manoj Kumar, Kasturi Lal, Darshan Thappa from the B.R. Educational Society were present on the occasion.





Fire Service Day :DFES pays tributes to Bombay Dock Explosion martyrs

ADGP (Director) rolls out activity plan for Fire Safety Week

HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 14: The Fire and Emergency Services Department today observed Fire Service Day, commemorating the bravery and sacrifice of firefighters who have laid down their lives in the line of duty. A solemn ceremony was held here at Fire & Emergency Services Headquarters Gandhi Nagar, where officers and jawans paid homage to the martyrs of the 1944 Bombay Dock Explosion and reaffirmed their commitment to public safety.

The observance began with a solemn wreath laying ceremony at the Martyrs' Memorial, where the Director of Fire and Emergency Services, along with senior officers and jawans, paid floral tributes to the brave firefighters who lost their lives in the line of duty. Two minutes



silence was observed in their honour, and the ceremonial salute was offered as a mark of respect. The event served as a poignant reminder of the selfless courage and sacrifice made by fire service personnel in protecting lives and property, often at great personal risk.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director of Fire and Emergency Services J&K (ADGP) Alok Kumar highlighted the

department's growing capabilities, rapid response readiness, and ongoing modernization efforts. "We are proud to say that our force is not only ready for prompt and quick response in case of any emergency with advanced equipment and training but also deeply committed to promote a culture of fire safety across all sectors of society," the Director stated.

Alok Kumar further highlighted the

department's focused initiative regarding fire safety public awareness programmes being conducted regularly and continuously in educational, healthcare institutions, industrial units and other establishments under "Har Ghar Fire Fighter" programme since August 2022 throughout the UT of J&K. The programmes aim to educate students, teachers, medical staff, and support personnel on fire prevention, safe evacuation procedures, and first aid response actions in case of a fire to act as first responders in case of domestic fires. The Director informed that under this programme the department, upto ending March 2025, has covered 3949 educational institutions, 1057 health institutions, 2555 other establishments by conducting 7551 public awareness programmes in which 8.23 lac persons have been given training of fire prevention, protection and first aid firefighting.

GCW Parade Observes Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's Birth Anniversary with a series of events

HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 14: To commemorate the Birth Anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, NSS Units of Government College for Women, Parade Ground, in collaboration with the Equal Opportunity Cell and the Department of Political Science, organized a series of impactful academic and awareness activities from April 10 to 14, 2025.

The five-day program included the screening of the film "Jai Bhim" in the college auditorium, which powerfully portrayed themes of justice, dignity, and constitutional values. On the following day, students and faculty participated in a Preamble Pledge Ceremony, reaffirming their commitment to uphold the ideals of the Indian Constitution. A major highlight of the observance was an invited lecture on "Ambedkar and the Constitution" delivered by Dr. Sushil Kamble, Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Public Administration, Central University of Jammu. Dr. Kamble shared deep insights into Dr. Ambedkar's role as a visionary leader and chief architect of the Constitution of India. The concluding day featured a Pad Yatra, symbolizing a march for social justice, which ended with a floral tribute at the statue of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. A total of 100 NSS volunteers participated in the activities with dedication and enthusiasm under the guidance of NSS Programme Officers – Dr. Gurpreet Kour, Prof. Anuradha Kalsi, Dr. Atiya Syed. The event series was successfully organized with support of Prof. Renu Angurana, Convener, Equal Opportunity Cell, and Prof. Jasneet Kour, Head, Department of Political Science. The others members of Equal Opportunity cell included Prof. Renu Bala, Prof. Usha Devi, Prof. Tishu Devi, Prof. Shakeel Ahmad. Dr. Ravender K. Tickoo, Principal of the College, addressed the students and volunteers, emphasizing the timeless relevance of Dr. Ambedkar's ideals.

Dy CM convenes public darbar at Lam Nowshera

Flags off bus service from Kalakot to Jammu via Nowshera

HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 14: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today held a public darbar in village Lam Nowshera to listen to the grievances and genuine concerns of the general public.

The interactive session witnessed a significant turnout of people from various walks of life, highlighting issues ranging from infrastructure development to basic amenities.

The Dy CM patiently heard the concerns of the attendees and assured them of swift redressal. While emphasising the unwavering commitment of the government to address the pressing issues faced by the common people, Surinder Choudhary remarked that the government has always been at the forefront of championing the cause of the people. He asserted that under the leadership of CM Omar Abdullah, the government is dedicated to deliver effective governance



and ensuring that public grievances are addressed on priority. Surinder Choudhary also highlighted several key initiatives undertaken by the government, including measures to improve road connectivity, strengthen the healthcare system and promote educational opportunities

in Jammu and Kashmir. The Dy CM exhorted that public darbar is not just a platform to voice grievances but a reflection of our commitment to participatory governance. "We believe in creating direct channels of communication between the government and the public to foster trust

and accountability," he added. Earlier, reaffirming government's commitment towards hassle free connectivity to the public, the Dy CM flagged off a bus service from Kalakot to Jammu via Nowshera.

He said that it was long pending demand of local residents and expressed satisfaction that Government is proficient to fulfil their aspirations.

Surinder Choudhary exhorted that the government is committed to improve transportation in J&K, especially far flung and border areas with the aim to enhance mass mobility, providing increased safety and sustainability along with greater access and convenience for commuters. The Dy CM exhorted that public darbar is not just a platform to voice grievances but a reflection of our commitment to participatory governance. "We believe in creating direct channels of communication between the government and the public to foster trust and accountability,"

Javed Rana visits Press Club Udhampur; interacts with media persons

HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, APRIL 14: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment, and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today visited the Press Club Udhampur and had an exclusive interactive session with the media persons.

The Minister, while talking to the media members, emphasised the crucial role of journalism in highlighting the genuine developmental and social issues affecting the people. He urged the media fraternity to uphold the ethics and principles of journalism, ensuring that the voices of the marginalised and underprivileged are heard. He appreciated media's efforts in bringing attention to critical issues and encouraged them to continue their watchdog role in promoting transparency and accountability in governance.

Rana stressed the significance of adhering to journalistic ethics while reporting on sensitive issues. He encouraged the media persons to



focus on developmental and social issues that impact the lives of ordinary citizens. He reaffirmed the government's commitment towards addressing the public grievances promptly and efficiently.

Sumit Sharma, President and Ashish Dutt, General Secretary, along with other members, thanked the Minister for accepting their invitation. They appreciated his insights and commitment towards transparency in governance.

The interaction served as a platform for meaningful dialogue between the Minister and the media fraternity, highlighting the importance of collaboration in promoting the welfare of the people.

MLA Udhampur West dedicates 2 transformers to residents of Jib, Kambal Danga

HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, APRIL 14: Member Legislative Assembly Udhampur West Pawan Kumar Gupta inaugurated two power transformers, each with a capacity of 30 KVA, involving a cost of around Rs. 10 Lakh.

The initiative aims to upgrade the power supply to the Jib and Kambal Danga localities, benefiting numerous households that have faced frequent power disruptions and low voltage issues for several years.

The project was prioritized with the intervention of the MLA and the pressing demands of the people, conveyed through DDC Ashu Sharma and former PRI members. The upgradation of power supply was undertaken as a priority, fulfilling a promise made to people by the MLA.

On the occasion, the MLA assured the public that he would continue to strive to address all other long standing issues. He emphasized that after the release of funds for the current year, he would take all necessary steps to improve the sectors of education, water supply, and power, which remain his priorities. The event was attended by several notable individuals Raj Kumari (Ex-Panch), Shashi Bala (Ex-Panch) and Purshotam (Ex-Panch) and local residents. On the occasion, the MLA assured the public that he would continue to strive to address all other long standing issues. He emphasized that after the release of funds for the current year, he would take all necessary steps to improve the sectors of education, water supply, and power, which remain his priorities.

JMC, JSCL organise plantation drive at Tawi Ghat to commemorate 135th Birth Anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 14: To mark the 135th Birth Anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), in collaboration with Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL), organized a plantation drive on the left bank of the Tawi Riverfront today.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from civic officials, environmental volunteers, and local residents, all united in their commitment to promoting green and sustainable urban development. Commissioner Municipal Corporation Jammu and Chief Executive Officer Jammu Smart City Limited, Dr. Devansh Yadav graced the occasion and led the plantation drive.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Yadav highlighted the importance of honoring Babasaheb's legacy through actions that foster environmental conservation and social well-being. "This plantation drive is a humble tribute to the visionary who championed the values of equality and progress. Greening our urban spaces is a step forward in building a more inclusive and sustainable future," he said. Referring to the grand Tawi Aarti that was held yesterday on the serene banks of the Tawi river, the Commissioner shared that the event witnessed an overwhelming response, with over 5,000 enthusiastic participants coming together to take part in the spiritual ceremony. He further elaborated that this sacred Aarti would now be established as a regular feature, especially during the annual Amarnath Ji Yatra, which attracts devotees from across the country and beyond.

Highlighting the importance of such events, the Commissioner emphasized that the Tawi Aarti would not only serve as a major spiritual attraction for pilgrims and tourists but would also significantly contribute to the cultural vibrancy of the region. In addition to its religious significance, he expressed optimism that regular organization of the Aarti would play a pivotal role in boosting local business activities along the riverbank, providing new opportunities for vendors, artisans, and small businesses. By transforming the Tawi riverfront into a hub of devotion and commerce, the initiative is expected to bring lasting benefits to the local community, fostering both economic growth and cultural enrichment. The Commissioner concluded by stating that efforts would be made to enhance the infrastructure and amenities around the river to accommodate the growing number of visitors in the future, ensuring that the Tawi Aarti becomes a landmark event that people look forward to year after year. Among others, Joint Commissioner (A), Krishan Lal, Deputy Commissioner (South), Lal Chand, Health Officer, Dr. Vinod Sharma, and other senior officers and officials from JMC, JSCL, and the Forest Department actively participated in the drive.

Machail Mata temple reopens for pilgrims after winter in J-K's Kishtwar

HT News Network

Jammu, Apr 14 : The revered shrine of Shree Machail Mata in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district has been reopened for pilgrims after winter, heralding the commencement of the annual Yatra season, officials said on Monday.

The temple was thrown open on the occasion of Baisakhi on Sunday with Jammu divisional commissioner Ramesh Kumar reviewing the arrangements for the annual pilgrimage, the officials said. The event marked the shifting of the idol of Goddess Machail Mata (Durga) from the house of local priest Pehalwan Singh to the temple amid religious rituals and a grand fair. The reopening of the temple was also attended by BJP MLA from Padder-Nagseni Sunil Sharma and Kishtwar deputy commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan, the officials said. During his visit, the divisional commissioner took a comprehensive review of the arrangements being made for the smooth and safe conduct of the annual Yatra. The review included assessment of security protocols, provision of electricity, water supply, sanitation, accommodation, transportation, and healthcare facilities for the convenience of the visiting devotees, the officials said. Deputy commissioner Shavan apprised the divisional commissioner about the arrangements being made by the civil and police administrations, besides the local stakeholders, to ensure a smooth and coordinated pilgrimage experience for the visiting devotees.

Thousands throng Devika Baisakhi Mela on Day 2

HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, APRIL 14: A vibrant cultural celebration marked the second day of the historic Devika Baisakhi Mela, held on the sacred banks of the Devika rivulet in Udhampur town.

The District Centre of Department of Information and Pub-

lic Relations organized a mega cultural programme that enthralled the audience with scintillating performances showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the region.

DDC Member Panchari Jasvir Singh graced the occasion as the chief guest, while Rajinder Digra, District Information Officer and Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council

Udhampur was the guest of honour. Swatantra Dev Kotwal, a Civil Defence Volunteer and noted social activist, attended as the special guest.

A large number of people from all walks of life gathered to witness the cultural bonanza. The audience was treated to captivating Dogri music and folk dances performed by local artists and enthusiastic stu-



dents. The performances received thunderous applause and were highly appreciated by one and all.

Thousands of visitors and devotees from within and outside the district thronged the Devika Ghat to take a holy dip in the sacred river, continuing the age-old spiritual tradition associated with the Baisakhi festival. Adding to the festive

spirit, numerous temporary stalls offering sweets, toys and accessories witnessed heavy footfall, making the mela a lively and joyful experience for visitors of all ages.

The event was attended by the Officer/Official of the Information Department which includes Jiwan Singh, Rajesh Gupta, Amit Kumar, Rakesh Kumar, Abhishek Gupta.





Waqf Amendment Act necessary step to protect rights of Muslim women, Dalits: PM Modi

AGENCIES

HISSAR, APR 14 (UNI)

Amid the ongoing violent anti-Waqf Amendment Act protests in Murshidabad, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said today that bringing in the amendment was necessary for the protection of the rights of Muslim women, Dalits and Adivasis.

Speaking on the occasion of the foundation laying ceremony of the new terminal building in Hissar, the PM lashed out at the previous Congress regimes, saying that the national party had, through the 'Waqf' act, handed over the lands of the poor, Dalits, Adivasis to the mafias.

The PM claimed that his government had made necessary amendments to the act so that no one could snatch land from an Adivasi. He added that the step (Waqf Amendment Act) was necessary for the protection of rights of Muslim women, Dalits and Adivasis.

His comments came as Murshidabad in West Bengal has seen three deaths due to widespread



protests and arson over the Waqf Amendment Act, prompting the Centre to rush in added paramilitary forces to quell the situation.

The Prime Minister also lashed out against the Congress, and said the party has violated the spirit of the Constitution and insulted Dr BR Ambedkar.

The PM said the Congress has time and again violated the spirit of the Constitution and insulted Dr Ambedkar. He said that it was the Congress which stopped Dr. Ambedkar from entering the Parliament on two occasions and his ideas were sidelined.

He accused the Con-

gress of bringing in religion-based reservation to appease its vote bank, whereas Dr Ambedkar was against the same.

He said that the holy land of Haryana, associated with Lord Krishna and the Mahabharat period has been connected with the land of Rama, Ayodhya.

Modi, who also saw off the inaugural flight from Hissar to Ayodhya, said the new terminal building was not only about flight connectivity but a symbol of faith, culture and national unity.

The PM said that this was India, which started with the dream of enabling people wearing slippers

to sit in an aeroplane, and that dream was now being fulfilled.

He said that cities like Hissar were connected with those religious and cultural places where it took days to reach.

"This initiative will boost pilgrimage, tourism, trade and investment," Modi asserted.

He said that the new terminal building would increase the passenger capacity. Initially flights to Ayodhya, Chandigarh, Ahmedabad and Jammu would operate and in future other cities will be added.

He said that the airport would serve 21 lakh passengers per annum. Modi said that till 2014, there were only 74 airports in the country but today it has crossed 150, adding that 500 new routes were operative under the Udan scheme and the connectivity of small cities has improved.

Earlier, Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini welcomed the PM traditionally and said that Hissar airport was a historic move in the direction of the development of the state.

Kharge demands caste census alongside general census to assess social conditions

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, APR 14 (UNI)

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday emphasised the importance of conducting a caste census and demanded to be carried out alongside the general census, to accurately assess the true condition of different sections of the society. In a video message, while paying his tribute to Dr BR Ambedkar on his 134th birth anniversary, Kharge said, "The central government is currently formulating plans based on data from the 2011 census, while there's still no clarity on when the 2021 census will take place".

While advocating for a caste census along with general census, the Congress President claimed that such a census would reveal the actual condi-



tion of various social groups and also highlight the extent of their progress in terms of social justice - including areas like education, employment, housing, land ownership and others.

He said that in 1976, the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi implemented the SC-ST Sub plan to ensure justice for these communities, but "unfortunately, the Modi government discontinued it in 2015".

Claiming that there are

no states except Tamil Nadu where reservation is secured, Kharge demanded, "reservations of states be included in Schedule 9 so that they can be secured by removing the ceiling of 50 percent".

The Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha said, "Amendments made in 2006 to provide reservations to SC, ST, OBC in private colleges by amending the Constitution in Article 15 (5), this law was upheld by the Supreme Court in

2014. Today 55 percent of higher education institutions are in private hands. How will our children study?"

He accused the Modi government of "sleeping" on the issues and also demanded that this be made legal right and implemented immediately stating that "this will be the true tribute to Babasaheb".

In his message, the Congress President, while mentioning about women's reservation bill said, "Two years ago, this bill was passed. The Congress party had demanded that the Act be implemented immediately and at the same time one third reservation under it should be ensured for SC, ST and OBC women".

Kharge said that the party will fight for the demands it made both inside and outside the Parliament.

EAM Jaishankar speaks on phone with Omani FM amid Iran-US nuclear talks

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, APR 14 (UNI)

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar spoke on the phone with Oman's Foreign Minister Badr bin Hamad al-Busaidi and discussed "recent regional developments", amid the Omani-mediated nuclear talks between the US and Iran.

In a post on X, the EAM said:

"Appreciate the telecon with FM @badrbusaidi of Oman today.

"Discussed recent regional developments."

On Saturday, President Donald Trump's Mideast envoy Steve Witkoff and Iranian Foreign Minis-



ter Abbas Araghchi held talks in Muscat – the first time the two nations have done that since the Obama administration.

The indirect talks ended with the parties agreeing to continue the talks next week.

The talks were medi-

ated by al-Busaidi, who said that the nuclear talks between Iran and the US took place in a friendly atmosphere.

"I am proud to announce that today in Muscat we hosted Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. Seyed Abbas Araghchi and US

Presidential Envoy Steve Witkoff and mediated to begin a process of dialogue and negotiations with the shared aim of concluding a fair and binding agreement," the top Omani diplomat said in a post on X after hosting the indirect talks.

"I would like to thank my two colleagues for this engagement which took place in a friendly atmosphere conducive to bridging viewpoints and ultimately achieving regional and global peace, security and stability."

"We will continue to work together and put further efforts to assist in arriving at this goal," al-Busaidi said.

NASA, ISRO reviewing dates for launch of INDO-US joint NISAR mission

AGENCIES

CHENNAI, APR 14 (UNI)

US Space Agency NASA and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) are reviewing potential dates for the launch of INDO-US joint NISAR Satellite Mission.

The satellite, to be placed in a Low Earth Orbit, has been tested at ISRO facility in Bengaluru and will be transported to the spaceport of Sriharikota, about 110 km from here.

The launch is likely either in May or June depending upon the launch window availability after undergoing further tests of satellite at the SHAR Range.

In an update, NASA in its website said Work on the NISAR satellite has been completed at the ISRO Satellite Integration and Testing Establishment in Bengaluru, and prepa-



rations are underway to transport it to the launch site at the agency's Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on India's southeastern coast.

NASA and ISRO now are reviewing potential launch dates for the NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) mission.

Launch services are provided by ISRO, using the Geosynchronous Launch Vehicle Mark-II rocket that will carry the spacecraft into a Low

Earth Orbit.

The launch readiness date for the mission will be determined by the two agencies in the coming weeks, NASA said. .

In fact, the Satellite was already shifted to Sriharikota from Bengaluru for the launch but has been taken back due to some technical glitch in reflector antenna, which is a crucial part of NISAR's radar system. .

"The NISAR satellite, a joint venture between NASA and ISRO, was

indeed taken back from Sriharikota for further testing, specifically for the reflector antenna, which is a crucial component of the NISAR's radar system".

It experienced an issue that required a thermal coating to be applied, leading to its return to the US for rectification.

This delay has pushed the launch date of NISAR to later in the year.

The issue pertained to the NISAR satellite is the reflector antenna, which is 12 meters in diameter, was found to have a potential overheating problem during flight.

"To address this, the reflector antenna was returned to the US for a special thermal coating to prevent overheating. After the coating was applied, the antenna was returned to India for reintegration with the NISAR satellite and further testing", NASA said.

Prez, VC, PM Modi and other leaders pay flora tribute to BR Ambedkar on his birth anniversary

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, APR 14 (UNI)

President Droupadi Murmu, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and other dignitaries on Monday paid floral tributes to Dr BR Ambedkar on his 134 birth anniversary at Prerna Sthal in Parliament premises.

Union Ministers Kiren Rijiju, Arjun Ram Meghwal, Piyush Goyal, Lok Sabha MP and Leader of opposition Rahul Gandhi, Congress parliamentary party chairperson Sonia Gandhi, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Delhi CM Rekha Gupta, and other leaders paid flora tributes.



Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his post on X said, "On behalf of all the countrymen, I bow down to Bharat Ratna Pujya Babasaheb on his birth anniversary."

"It is due to his inspiration that the country is dedicatedly engaged in realizing the dream of social justice today. His principles and ideals

will give strength and momentum to the creation of a self-reliant and developed India," he added.

Ambedkar Jayanti is observed on 14 April to commemorate the memory of B. R. Ambedkar, Indian politician and social reformer.

Babasaheb Dr Ambedkar worked steadfast

throughout his life to end social and caste discrimination against the marginalised sections of the society. From a humble beginning, he went on to become the first law and justice minister of independent India. He was awarded India's highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna posthumously in 1990.

Kalash installed atop Ram temple, Yogi expresses joy

AGENCIES

AYODHYA (UP), APR 14 (UNI)

The construction of the grand Shri Ram temple at Shri Ram Janmabhoomi in Ayodhya marked a significant milestone with the installation of the 'Kalash' atop the temple on Monday.

The sacred ritual, performed with full Vedic traditions in the presence of Brahmins, began at 9:15 AM and concluded at 10:30 AM. A wave of devotion and celebration swept through Ayodhya, as residents hailed the moment as truly historic.

General Secretary of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust Champat Rai said that a significant milestone in the temple's construction was achieved on the auspicious occasion of Vaisakhi and the birth anniversary of Baba Saheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar. "The next phase will see the installation of the 'Dhwajand' on the temple's main shikhar (peak). The overall construction work is progressing steadily," he said.

Sharing his sentiments on this achievement, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that the construction of the Ram Mandir stands as a powerful symbol of not just spiritual devotion, but also cultural



and social harmony. "The grand temple of Lord Shri Ram in Ayodhya reflects the collective faith and unwavering resolve of the people of India and will serve to reinforce India's Sanatan values on the global stage," he said.

He lauded the Trust and all individuals contributing to the construction, calling it a defining step toward building a 'New India'. He reiterated the state government's commitment to transforming Ayodhya into a world-class spiritual and tourism destination.

Yogi said, "Infrastruc-

ture projects encompass-

ing road, rail, and air connectivity are being rapidly developed, alongside expanded amenities for pilgrims and visitors." Meanwhile, Rai said that the construction machinery will now be removed from the temple premises, marking a significant shift in the phase of development. He said that the consecration of idols in the temples of Raja Ram, Parakota and the Saptarishis on the first floor will begin shortly.

The timely progress of the construction has filled devotees with a deep sense of joy and enthusiasm.

Mehul Choksi, wanted in PNB loan fraud case, arrested in Belgium: Reports

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, APR 14 (UNI)

Fugitive Indian diamondaire Mehul Choksi, wanted in the PNB loan fraud case, has been arrested in Belgium on India's extradition request, according to reports.

The 65-year-old was detained on Saturday and is currently in a Belgian jail, news reports said, quoting sources in the CBI, which had put out a Red Corner Notice against him.

India has an extradition treaty with Belgium.

However, Choksi is expected to seek bail and an immediate release, citing health reasons, as he is suffering from cancer.

Choksi, along with his nephew Nirav Modi—who is in London awaiting extradition—is accused of defrauding Punjab National Bank (PNB) of Rs 13,850 crore.

The case, which shook the Indian banking sector in 2018, involved fraudulent Letters of Undertaking (LoUs) and Foreign Letters of Credit (FLCs), allegedly issued through collusion with bank officials.

Maternal diabetes may raise babies' risk of autism, ADHD: Lancet

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

A large study of 56.1 million pregnancies, published in The Lancet Diabetes and Endocrinology on Tuesday, has reinforced the link between maternal diabetes and the risk of neurodevelopmental disorders such as autism, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

Researchers from the Central South University in China conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis of 202 studies, involving 56,082,462 mother-child pairs.

The results showed that maternal diabetes was associated with increased risks of all types of neurodevelopmental disorders as well as lower intelligence and psychomotor scores.

Children exposed to maternal diabetes had an increased risk of any neurodevelopmental disorder



including autism spectrum disorder, ADHD, intellectual disability, specific developmental disorders, communication disorder, motor disorder, and learning disorder, compared with unexposed children. "Maternal diabetes is associated with an increased risk of neurodevelopmental disorders and impaired neurodevelopmental performance in children," said the researchers.

Maternal diabetes which includes both pre-gestational diabetes (also

known as preexisting diabetes) and gestational diabetes -- high blood sugar during pregnancy -- has become increasingly prevalent, affecting millions of pregnancies worldwide.

The global prevalences of pre-gestational diabetes and gestational diabetes have also steadily increased over the past four decades, with pre-gestational diabetes affecting about 2-4 per cent and gestational diabetes affecting 27-6 per cent of pregnancies worldwide.

Obesity and metabolic syndrome -- a cluster of

conditions, including hypertension, diabetes, excess abdominal fat, and abnormal cholesterol levels -- are known to be the major drivers.

Besides negative impacts such as caesarean section, macrosomia (excessive birth weight), and neonatal jaundice, affecting both mothers and neonates, previous studies have shown maternal diabetes might alter foetal brain development.

Notably, pre-gestational diabetes was more strongly associated with the risk of most neurodevelopmental disorders in children than gestational diabetes.

The findings also emphasise "the importance of proactive interventions for women at risk of developing diabetes and continuous monitoring of children with a history of in-utero exposure to maternal diabetes", the researchers added.

Eating only during daytime may prevent heart problems due to night shift: Study

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

While shift work is a known risk factor for cardiovascular events, a new study on Tuesday showed that eating only during the daytime may prevent the risks.

Sleep timing has been a major area of focus, but researchers from Mass General Brigham, US, and the University of Southampton, UK, stated that food timing could be a bigger risk factor when it comes to cardiovascular health.

Previous studies have shown that working the night shift is associated with serious health risks, including to the heart, due to circadian misalignment -- the mistiming of our behavioural cycle relative to our internal body clock.

The researchers found that cardiovascular risk factors including autonomic nervous system markers, plasminogen



activator inhibitor-1 (which increases the risk of blood clots), and blood pressure increased after night work.

However, the risk factors stayed the same in the participants who only ate during the daytime.

"Avoiding or limiting eating during nighttime hours may benefit night workers, those who experience insomnia or sleep-wake disorders, individuals with variable sleep/wake cycles, and people who travel frequently across time zones," said the team, in the paper,

published in the journal Nature Communications.

The study included 20 healthy young participants. For two weeks they had no access to windows, watches, or electronics that would clue their body clocks into the time.

The participants followed a "constant routine protocol," a controlled laboratory setup that can tease apart the effects of circadian rhythms from those of the environment and behaviours (for example, sleep/wake, light/dark

patterns).

During this protocol, the participants stayed awake for 32 hours in a dimly lit environment, maintaining constant body posture and eating identical snacks every hour.

After that, they participated in simulated night work and were assigned to either eat during the nighttime (as most night workers do) or only during the daytime.

Importantly, both groups had an identical schedule of naps, and, thus, any differences between the groups were not due to differences in sleep schedule.

"Our study controlled for every factor that you could imagine that could affect the results, so we can say that it's the food timing effect that is driving these changes in the cardiovascular risk factors," said lead author Sarah Chellappa, an associate professor at the University of Southampton.

US researchers develop simple blood test to predict preeclampsia during pregnancy

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

A team of US researchers has developed a simple blood test that can predict preeclampsia -- a serious pregnancy complication characterised by high blood pressure.

Preeclampsia, which occurs usually after 20 weeks of gestation, is a leading cause of maternal morbidity and mortality as well as preterm birth.

Despite the use of general maternal characteristics to identify pregnant women at increased risk for preeclampsia, rates of the disease have nearly doubled in the last decade. The new blood test, which uses RNA signatures, showed that it can identify the risk of preeclampsia in 91 per cent of pregnancies.

"By the time a patient is symptomatic, it's a race against the clock to try to get the baby to term and not risk the mother's



health," said Dr. Kara Rood, a maternal-foetal medicine physician, one of the principal investigators of the study at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Centre.

The new test could identify the risk, months ahead of symptoms, in women aged over 35 and without pre-existing high-risk conditions.

It could predict preeclampsia early, at 17.5 to 22 weeks gestational age, in pregnancies without any pre-existing high-risk conditions.

Those with a low-risk result have a 99.7 per cent probability of not developing preterm preeclampsia.

"Current guidelines are not helping us identify which patients are

truly at high risk and we need better tools. This preeclampsia risk prediction test can now improve risk assessment, helping women and their care teams be informed and take actions with the potential to delay the onset of or prevent the disease," Rood added.

The study, published in the journal Nature Communications, demonstrates that relying on molecular signals from the underlying biology is far more effective in determining whether the risk of preeclampsia is high or low.

To develop the blood test, the team used data from more than 9,000 pregnancies within the multi-centre prospective study to discover and validate RNA signatures capable of distinguishing between severe and mild hypertensive disorders of pregnancy, including preeclampsia, months before symptoms occur.

Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver: Causes, Symptoms & Ways to Prevent the Silent Epidemic

According to a report released on World Health Day, observed annually on April 7, fatty liver disease, once primarily associated with alcohol consumption, has emerged as a silent epidemic. Among 257,199 individuals screened, 65% were found to have the condition, with 85% of them being non-alcoholic.

What is Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD)?

Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD) affects individuals who consume little to no alcohol. It is caused by the accumulation of fat in the liver. Obese or overweight individuals are most likely to be diagnosed with NAFLD.

NAFLD ranges in severity from hepatic steatosis, also known as fatty liver, to a more severe form called Non-Alcoholic Steatohepatitis (NASH). NASH leads to liver inflammation



and damage due to fat deposits. Severe NASH may cause scarring of the liver, known as cirrhosis, and can even result in liver cancer.

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them being non-alcoholic.

Symptoms of NAFLD

NAFLD often presents with no obvious symptoms. The recent health report emphasized the need to move towards a preventive healthcare model, rather than seeking medical intervention only after symptoms appear.

Some symptoms to watch for include:

Fatigue
Pain and discomfort in the upper right side of the

abdomen

According to the Mayo Clinic, possible symptoms of NASH and cirrhosis (severe scarring) include:

Itchy skin
Abdominal swelling (ascites)
Shortness of breath
Swelling of the legs
Spider-like blood vessels just beneath the skin's surface
Enlarged spleen
Red palms
Yellowing of the skin and eyes (jaundice)

What Causes NAFLD?

While the exact cause of fat buildup in the liver is unknown, both NAFLD and NASH are linked to several factors:

Genetics
Overweight or obesity
Insulin resistance (when your cells don't take up sugar in response to insulin)
Type 2 diabetes (high blood sugar)
High levels of fats in the blood, especially triglycerides

NITI Aayog to conduct workshop to boost assistive tech in India

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

NITI Aayog on Tuesday said it will conduct a workshop to boost assistive technology in India.

The one-day workshop, in collaboration with the Government of Maharashtra, will be held on the theme "Developing Ecosystem for Assistive Technology in India" on Wednesday in Pune.

Assistive technology includes devices, software, and equipment that are designed to help people with disabilities maintain, increase, or improve their functional capabilities.

"The requirement for assistive devices and products in India is becoming critical, given the rising number of persons with disabilities, older persons, and persons who have chronic health conditions. These assistive devices and products enhance their quality of life and help



develop a more equitable and inclusive society," Niti Aayog said.

The country has taken significant strides in making technological advancements and a vibrant start-up ecosystem, which promises an immense potential for India to become an assistive technology manufac-

turing hub not only for meeting domestic demand but also cater to other countries.

The workshop is expected to witness participation from around 200 delegates. It will provide a platform for different stakeholders, such as senior officials in the Central and State Governments, Inter-

national organisations, research organisations, and assistive technology industry or startups to deliberate upon the present and future scenario of assistive technology in India.

It will provide suggestions for developing an ecosystem for promoting assistive technology in the country.

The workshop will also have deliberations on the themes, of improving access to assistive technology in India, State initiatives in assistive technology, assistive technology manufacturing, and global collaborations.

The suggestions and deliberations of the workshop will contribute towards formulating a framework for developing an ecosystem for assistive technology in India and true implementation of 'leaving no one behind' and building an inclusive society, the Niti Aayog said.

Ayush Ministry to hold two-day homeopathic convention in Gujarat

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Ayush Ministry is set to hold a two-day homeopathic convention in Gujarat that will endorse traditional and complementary systems of medicine.

The event, to be held on the occasion of World Homeopathy Day, will be inaugurated by Prataprao Jadhav, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge).

Organised under the aegis of the Ministry of Ayush, the convention will be jointly hosted by the Central Council for Research in Homeopathy (CCRH), the National Commission for Homeopathy (NCH), and the National Institute of Homeopathy (NIH) on April 10-11, at the Mahatma Mandir Convention and Exhibition Centre in Gandhinagar.

The theme this year is 'Education, Practice, and Research'. It "highlights



the three foundational pillars for the growth of Homoeopathy," said the Ministry.

The event is expected to witness participation from about 10,000 delegates from across the globe, making it the largest gathering in the history of homeopathy.

"The aim of World Homeopathy Day 2025 is to strengthen global access to homeopathic research advancements, its practical applications,

and its growing impact in both healthcare and industry," the Ministry said.

"The convention will not only cater to academics and researchers but will also bring together policymakers and industry experts on one unified platform," it added.

The event will also hold India's largest-ever 'Live Materia Medica' competition and organise separate, thought-provoking sessions by the three col-

laborating organisations for exhaustive deliberations.

"This year's celebration will witness the largest representation from the education sector, paving the way for future generations of homeopathy professionals. We will also use the platform to sensitise the students about the new courses introduced by NCH," Dr. Pinakin N. Trivedi, Chairperson-in-Charge, NCH.

The event will provide a monumental platform for homeopathy to celebrate, collaborate, and chart the course for the future of traditional medicine.

With being home to the WHO's first Global Traditional Medicine Centre in Jamnagar, this large-scale event will further position Gujarat as a frontrunner in endorsing traditional and complementary systems of medicine, the Ministry said.



SRH sting fuels PBKS fire ahead of KKR clash

AGENCIES

CHANDIGARH, APR 14 (UNI)

A high-voltage contest is on the cards as Punjab Kings (PBKS) prepare to face Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in the 31st match of the Indian Premier League 2025 at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh Cricket Stadium here on Tuesday evening.

Punjab's last outing was nothing short of a spectacle – a 491-run slugfest in Hyderabad, where they posted an imposing 245/6, only to be stunned by Sunrisers Hyderabad, who chased down the target in 18.4 overs. The loss has sent alarm bells ringing in the PBKS camp, especially concerning their bowling unit's inability to close out high-scoring games.

Despite the defeat, Punjab's batting remains their strongest suit, with skipper Shreyas Iyer emerging as the backbone of the lineup. Iyer has already amassed 250 runs from five innings at a strike rate of 208.33 and will be eyeing another big knock against his former side, whom he once led to an IPL title. He also boasts a stellar record against KKR, having scored 456 runs in 14 matches at an average of 41.45.

Young openers Priyansh Arya and Prabhsimran Singh have been effective in the Power-play, while Marcus Stoinis and Shashank Singh have added firepower to the lower-middle order. However, the form of Nehal Wadhwa and Glenn Maxwell remains a concern, prompting discussions around the possible inclusion of Australian keeper-batsman Josh Inglis to strengthen the middle overs. In the bowling department, Arshdeep Singh has led the charge with seven wickets, but the rest of the attack, including Marco Jansen, Yuzvendra Chahal, and an injury-hit Lockie Ferguson, has lacked consistency. With Ferguson's fitness still uncertain, PBKS might be forced to turn to a domestic pacer or bring Inglis in as a fresh overseas option.



Kolkata, on the other hand, come into the match high on confidence after an emphatic 8-wicket win over Chennai Super Kings. Sunil Narine continues to be their X-factor, contributing with both bat and ball – his 44 off 18 and 3/13 in the previous match being a testament to his allround value. Ajinkya Rahane has anchored the KKR innings at No. 3, accumulating 204 runs at a strike rate of 154.54. The promotion of Rinku Singh to No. 4 paid dividends, while Venkatesh Iyer and Andre Russell remain threats despite patchy form. Quinton de Kock's inconsistency at the top is a concern, but the inclusion of Moeen Ali has bolstered their spin attack. KKR's bowling, particularly their spinners, has found rhythm – Narine and Varun Chakravarty have choked oppositions with their control, and Harshit Rana and Vaibhav Arora have provided solid

pace options upfront. With both teams locked in the mid-table – Punjab at sixth with three wins and two losses, and KKR in fourth with three wins and three defeats – this match could prove crucial in shaping the playoff race. The Mullanpur surface has favoured teams batting first, with totals in excess of 200 proving difficult to chase. The toss, therefore, will be critical, with both captains likely to opt for setting a target under the lights.

The weather is expected to be hot and hazy, with no chance of rain, ensuring an uninterrupted contest. Predicted XIs: Punjab Kings: Priyansh Arya, Prabhsimran Singh (wk), Shreyas Iyer (c), Marcus Stoinis, Nehal Wadhwa, Glenn Maxwell, Shashank Singh, Marco Jansen, Arshdeep Singh, Lockie Ferguson/Josh Inglis, Yuzvendra Chahal. *Impact Player:* Yash Thakur/Vijaykumar Vyshak.

Kolkata Knight Riders: Quinton de Kock (wk), Sunil Narine, Ajinkya Rahane (c), Venkatesh Iyer, Rinku Singh, Moeen Ali, Andre Russell, Raman-deep Singh, Harshit Rana, Vaibhav Arora, Varun Chakravarty. *Impact Player:* Angkrish Raghuvanshi.

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IPL: Axar Patel fined Rs 12 Lakh for maintaining slow over-rate

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, APR 14 (UNI)

Delhi Capitals captain Axar Patel has been fined after his team maintained a slow over-rate during Match No. 29 of the TATA Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 against Mumbai Indians at the Arun Jaitley Stadium here on Sunday night.

As this was his team's first offence of the season under Article 2.22 of the IPL's Code of Conduct,



which pertains to minimum over-rate offences, Patel was fined INR 12 lakhs, an IPL statement said.

Earlier, Mumbai Indians (MI) held their nerves to script a dramatic 12-run win over Delhi Capitals (DC) here. Despite Karun Nair's sensational 89 off 40 balls, the hosts fell short in a high-scoring thriller, undone by Karn Sharma's timely 3-fer and a bizarre hat-trick of run-outs in the penultimate over.

Hockey India announces 26-member Women's squad for Australia tour

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, APR 14 (UNI)

Hockey India on Monday announced a 26-member Indian Women's Hockey Team squad for the upcoming tour of Australia, scheduled to take place from April 26 to May 4 at the Perth Hockey Stadium.

The five-match series will see India take on Australia A in the first two games, followed by three matches against the senior Australian team.

The squad will be led by dynamic midfielder Salima Tete, with experienced forward Navneet Kaur serving as the Vice-Captain. The tour will be a crucial preparatory assignment ahead of the team's European leg of the FIH Pro League 2024-25, set to be held in June.



Seasoned goalkeeper Savita and young talent Bichu Devi Kharibam will share responsibilities between the posts, providing a strong last line of defence.

The defensive line-up features a mix of experience and promising young talent, comprising Jyoti Singh, Ishika Chaudhary, Sushila Chanu Pukhrabam, Sujata Kujur, Suman Devi Thoudam, Jyoti, Ajmina Kujur, and Sakshi Rana.

In the midfield, captain Salima Tete will marshal the

centre with support from Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke, Neha, Sharmila Devi, Manisha Chauhan, Sunelita Toppo, Mahima Tete, Pooja Yadav, and Lalremsiami, bringing depth and creativity to the side.

The forward line looks sharp and attacking with Navneet Kaur, Deepika, Rutaja Dadaso Pisal, Mumtaz Khan, Baljeet Kaur, Deepika Soreng, and Beauty Dungdung.

Notably, five players – Jyoti Singh, Sujata Kujur, Ajmina Kujur, Pooja Yadav, and Mahima Tete – have earned a call-up to the senior team and will be eager to make their senior team debut.

Bangladesh win thriller against Ireland in ICC Women's Cricket World Cup Qualifier

AGENCIES

LAHORE, APR 14 (UNI)

Ritu Moni sealed a stunning two-wicket victory for Bangladesh over Ireland in the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 Qualifier here. This means Bangladesh now have two wins from two, while Ireland have been on the wrong end of three narrow defeats. Orla Prendergast's all-round performance looked set to hand Ireland a first win of the tournament, but an unbroken 54-run stand for the ninth wicket saw Bangladesh chase down a target of 236. Prendergast scored a valuable 41 as Ireland made 235 for eight batting first, before taking two wickets in her first three overs to derail the Bangladeshi chase.

However, Bangladesh never panicked in their chase, and after skipper Nigar Sultana Joty made a half-century, they were seen home by a brilliant 67 off 61 from Ritu, who clinched the win with a six in the penultimate over.

Having lost their first two matches, Ireland needed to triumph in this one, and chose to bat first after winning the toss.

Sarah Forbes was run out for four in the fourth over, but Gaby Lewis (24) and the in-form Amy Hunter (33) responded with a 50-run stand.

The skipper succumbed, caught and bowled by Jannatul Ferdus before Hunter was the second run-out victim of the innings, leaving Ireland on 77 for three.

That brought Prendergast and Laura Delany



together, with the duo adding 72 in 16 overs to set the platform.

Prendergast was trapped in front by Rabeya Khan before Delany fell for 63, stumped by Nigar Sultana Joty off the bowling of Fahima Khatun.

Rabeya bowled Leah Paul for 19 before having Christina Coulter Reilly caught behind for 10 to finish with impressive figures of three for 39.

A handy, unbeaten 24 from Arlene Kelly helped Ireland to 235 for eight from their 50 overs.

Bangladesh's reply got off to the worst possible start, Fargana Hoque falling to Prendergast (2/14) off the third ball of the innings, with opening partner Ishma Tanjim joining her soon after to leave them two for two.

Sharmin Akhter and Nigar started to rebuild, putting on a half-century before Sharmin was dismissed leg before for 24.

Nigar brought up her own fifty, but she and Sobhana Mostary fell in quick succession to leave Bangladesh 94 for five.

Fahima (28) helped keep Bangladesh in the hunt alongside Ritu Moni but when she departed, followed by Jannatul (19) and Rabeya (5), they looked to be out of it.

From 186 for eight however, Ritu and Nahida Akter (18 not out) paced their partnership perfectly, with Ritu sealing the win with a six leaving eight balls still remaining.

In the first game of the day, Kathryn Bryce produced a captain's knock before Rachel Slater's miserly bowling helped Scotland to a 58-run win over Thailand.

Bryce made an important 60 for Scotland before Megan McCol's 57 helped them to 206 all out from 41 overs.

Slater then made important breakthroughs at the top of the innings in reply, finishing with figures of three for nine from her six overs.

Despite an opening stand of 41, Thailand could not maintain the pressure on the Scots, despite 63 from Natthakan Chantham.

As well as Slater, Abtaha Maqsood (3/26) and Katherine Fraser (3/28) also picked up three wickets to wrap up a second win from three games.

Scores in brief Bangladesh v Ireland - Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore Ireland 235 for eight 50 overs (Laura Delany 63, Orla Prendergast 41; Rabeya Khan 3/39, Fahima Khatun 2/50)

Bangladesh 240 for eight in 48.4 overs (Ritu Moni 67 not out, Nigar Sultana 51; Orla Prendergast 2/14, Arlene Kelly 2/53)

Result: Bangladesh won by two wickets

Scotland v Thailand - Lahore City Cricket Association Ground, Lahore

Scotland 206 all out in 41 overs (Kathryn Bryce 60, Megan McCol; Thipatcha Putthawong 3/28, Onnichia Kamchomphu 3/34)

Thailand 148 all out in 31.3 overs (Natthakan Chantham 63, Nattaya Boochatham 20; Rachel Slater 3/9, Abtaha Maqsood 3/26)

Result: Scotland won by 58 runs.

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