



"CRPF Applauded for Maintaining Peace in J&K, Country"

HM Amit Shah Sets March 2026 Deadline for Eradication of Naxalite Era, Praises Cobra Battalion

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APR 17: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday praised the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) for playing a vital role in maintaining peace in the country, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir and confining Naxalism to a few districts.

While speaking at the "86th Central Reserve Police Force Day Parade 2025" program at Neemuch district headquarters in Madhya Pradesh, Shah, according to the news agency—, said, "The CRPF is playing a major role in the Central Government's resolve to completely eliminate Naxalism from the country by March 31, 2026."

"The CRPF has left no stone unturned in maintaining the unity and integrity of the country," he said, adding, "The CRPF was also deployed during the scrapping of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir. The CRPF jawans have made a significant contribution in establishing peace and order in Jammu and Kashmir, Northeast and other parts of the country," the Union Home Minister said.

Shah made a special mention of the CRPF's Cobra Battalion and said that it has pushed Naxalites to the wall. "The Naxalites in the country have now been reduced to only four districts. These Naxalites once had the courage to go from "Pashupati to Tirupati", now they are hiding in rat holes," he said.



"When the Naxalites come to know that the jawans from Cobra battalion are moving towards them, they get frightened. It's due to their efforts that Naxalism is on its last legs," Shah said, as per.

Lauding the dedication of CRPF, Shah said, "Whether it is the Amarnath Yatra or the Vaishno Devi Yatra, whether it is the security of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi, Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi or the occasion of Maha Kumbh, everywhere the jawans of CRPF have made a huge contribution in maintaining law and order."

Shah said, "When I come to know that

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Pak desperate to keep terrorism alive in J&K: LG Manoj Sinha

'Despite being a failed state, our neighbor busy sponsoring terror'

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BHADERWAH/JAMMU, APR 17: Asserting that Pakistan is a "failed state", Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said it continuously tries to disturb peace and normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir by sending terrorists to the Union Territory.

He urged people to inform the police about individuals within society who are inim-



ical to peace and public welfare. "Whenever peace is established here, our neighbour starts having a stomach

ache," Sinha said at a function in Bhaderwah.

The police and security forces, in coordination with the administration, have launched operations to eliminate terrorism, but Pakistan continues its efforts to disrupt peace in Jammu and Kashmir, he said. The LG said Pakistan is grappling with its own internal problems. "We all know that it is a failed state. It cannot even provide basic

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Kashmir belongs to us, Pak must vacate illegally held regions: India

'Foreign occupation can't claim our jugular vein'

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, APR 17: India on Thursday firmly rejected recent remarks by Pakistan's Army Chief General Asim Munir, concerning Kashmir and the two-nation theory, stating that Jammu and Kashmir remains an integral part of India and that Pakistan's only connection with the region lies in vacating its illegally occupied areas.

Responding to a question during the weekly media briefing in New Delhi, Min-



istry of External Affairs (MEA) Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said Jammu and Kashmir is a Union Territory of India and dismissed any external claim over it.

"How can anything foreign be in a jugular vein? Jammu and Kashmir is a Union Territory of India. Its only relationship with Pakistan is that the latter must vacate the territories it continues to occupy illegally," Jaiswal said, as per the news agency—.

General Munir had recently addressed an event in Pakistan, where he invoked the

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Terrorists not present in Jammu only, Baramulla still vulnerable: SSP Baramulla

■ HT News Network



SRINAGAR: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Baramulla, Gurinderpal Singh, on Thursday said that terrorist activities in the district have not completely ceased, and cross-border drug smuggling remains a pressing concern for the security agencies.

SSP Sing, while responding to a query said, "It's not that terrorists are present only in Jammu. We continue to receive daily intelligence inputs about terrorist movements in Baramulla, especially due to its proximity to the Line of Control (LoC)."

He said the threat has not entire

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NC cheating people with double-sided narrative: BJP

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 17, Majority of people including the political parties endorse abrogation of 370 in open or secret. According to News Service, Associated News Bureau, ANB, The people of Jammu and Kashmir feel cheated with the double-sided narrative of the senior National Conference leaders. This was stated by Adv. Sunil Sethi, Chief Spokesperson, J&K BJP.

Accompanied by Arun Gupta, Spokesperson, and Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Media Incharge, J&K BJP, he was addressing a press conference at party

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CS led SLSC approves over Rs 300 cr plans for major agri schemes

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 17: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired the State Level Steering Committee (SLSC) meeting held regarding approval to the Annual Action Plans (AAP) in favour of major Centrally Sponsored Schemes being implemented by the Agriculture Production Department in the region.

The meeting besides Principal Secretary, APD, Shailendra Kumar, was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Forests, Sheetal Nanda; Secretary, Tribal Affairs, Prassana Ramaswamy; Secretary, Planning, Talat Parvez; Secretary,

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Waqf Case: Centre Says Won't Denotify Properties, SC Grants It 7 Days To Reply To Pleas

■ HT News Network/Agencies

NEW DELHI, APR 17: The Supreme Court on Thursday recorded the Centre's assurance that neither waqf properties, including "waqf by user", will be denotified nor appointments will be made to the central waqf council and boards till May 5.

The Centre strongly opposed the Supreme Court's proposal to pass an interim order against the denotification of waqf properties, including "waqf by user", aside from staying a provision allowing the inclusion of non-Muslims in the central waqf councils and boards.



"During the course of hearing, the solicitor general states that the respondent (Union of India) would like to put in a short response within seven days. He further states and assures that till the next date of hearing, no appointments

will be made to the council and boards under sections 9 and 14 (of the Act)," the bench said.

Mehta, the court recorded further, had also said that till the next date of hearing, waqf properties, including "waqf by user" already registered or declared by way of notification, shall not be disturbed and denotified.

A three-judge bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justices Sanjay Kumar and K V Viswanathan was urged by solicitor general Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, that a law passed by Parliament "with due deliberations"

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SED facing acute teaching staff shortage: Govt

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APR 17: School Education Department Wednesday said that it was facing acute shortage of teaching staff and attaching as well as deploying the teaching staff in the administrative departments was hampering the academics of students.

The department in this regard urged the administrative departments to restrict the deployment and attachment of educational teaching and non-teaching staff to ensure effective functioning of the educational institutions across

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Major Reshuffle in J&K Police: DIGs, SSPs Among 50 Officers Transferred

G.V. Sundeeep Chakravarthy Appointed New SSP Srinagar; Key Postings in CID, Traffic, and Security

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, April 17: The Government of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday ordered the transfer and posting of 50 IPS and JKPS officers, including several DIGs and SSPs, in a move aimed at streamlining policing operations across the Union Territory.

The transfer order, issued by the Home Department under Government Order No. 207-Home of 2025, resulted in notable changes in key positions across the state's police setup. Among the major appointments, Sheikh Junaid Mehmood IPS was



posted as DIG IR Kashmir, while Sarah Rizvi IPS was assigned as DIG Udhampur-Reasi Range. Rayees Mohammad Bhat IPS, who was earlier DIG Udhampur-Reasi, has now been posted as DIG CID Kashmir, a critical position linked to counter-terrorism and intelligence gathering.

The high-profile post of SSP Srinagar has been assigned to G.V. Sundeeep Chakravarthy IPS, who will be replacing Imtiyaz Hussain Mir JKPS. Ajaz Ahmad Bhat IPS has been appointed as SSP Traffic City Srinagar, a key role in managing the city's

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1.71 Kg Narcotics Seized in Kupwara; Woman Kingpin Among 3 Held

■ DR.AB QAYOOM



KUPWARA, APR 17: In A significant blow to the narcotics trade, Kupwara Police on Thursday arrested three drug smugglers, including a notorious woman kingpin, and seized 1.71 kilograms of contraband during a late-night operation. Addressing a press conference, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kupwara, Ghjeelani Wani, said the arrests were made after police intercepted a suspicious vehicle. "During the search, three individuals were apprehended, including a woman identified as Haseena Begum—a known drug trafficker with multiple FIRs across the Valley," the SSP said. Haseena, originally from South Kashmir, is believed to be a key link in the South-North

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SHAH

CRPF officers and jawans are deployed at any place, I become more relaxed because I know that success is certain in their presence.”

Shah expressed full confidence that by March 31, 2026, Naxalism will be completely eradicated from the country. “The Central Government has taken this resolution only because of the capabilities of the CRPF,” he added.

Recalling the work of CRPF jawans and officers at their duty place, Shah said, “Since the inception of the CRPF, 2264 jawans have been martyred.”

He said that the country is moving ahead with the goal of becoming a developed nation by the year 2047 and these jawans will also have a big contribution in achieving this goal—

LG

facilities to its citizens. Yet, it continuously tries to disturb peace in Jammu and Kashmir by sending terrorists here,” he said. Sinha stressed that without peace, there can be no development. “Some people in society provide shelter to terrorists and facilitate their movement,” he said.

“I want to appeal to them — while maintaining peace is the responsibility of the security forces and the administration, if anyone among you is supporting such elements, it is your duty not to shield them but to inform the police,” he said.

“Until terrorism is completely eradicated, our police personnel, security forces and administration will not rest,” he added.

“In this campaign, I seek your cooperation. I say this repeatedly — Jammu and Kashmir should have only one mantra: ‘Do not touch the innocent, but do not spare the guilty’. I repeat no innocent person should be harmed, but the one who has committed the crime must be punished,” he said.

Earlier, the LG inaugurated a week-long mega surgical camps in Doda and Kishtwar, being organised by Rotary International in collaboration with the district administrations and the department of health and medical education.

“Health for all is a top priority for me, and the J&K administration in the past few years has ensured that everyone has access to effective and quality health services. We have improved physical infrastructure and invested in essential services to provide timely and appropriate healthcare,” he said.

The camps, being held at three different locations — Associated Hospital of GMC Doda, District Hospital Kishtwar, and Sub District Hospital Bhaderwah — will witness super-specialty and general surgeries conducted by specialised doctors across various fields.

CM

and Discovery, authored by 15-year-old Laranya R Kumar, at a function held here.

The event was graced by Minister for Education, Sakeena Itoo, Vice Chancellor of University of Jammu, Prof. Umesh Rai, the young author herself, along with her parents, grandparents, family members and friends.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister congratulated Laranya on her remarkable achievement at such a young age and appreciated that the young author began writing the book at the age of 13, exploring profound questions such as whether we are alone in the universe or if there is life in another world observing us.

“She not only dared to imagine these possibilities but also translated them into a compelling narrative. At an age when many are still discovering themselves, she has gifted us with a book born out of imagination and curiosity,” he remarked.

Explaining his reason for attending the book release, the Chief Minister said, “I am here because I believe achievements like Laranya’s deserve to be celebrated. I want readers to know that what she has accomplished is truly commendable.”

He lauded Laranya for setting an inspiring example, not just for her peers but also for older generations. “She has demonstrated immense discipline and the courage to let her imagination transcend the boundaries that society often imposes,” he added.

The Chief Minister expressed his delight in learning that Laranya is already working on more books. “I look forward to reading the next one, and the one after that. I sincerely hope that her work inspires other young people to take up reading, because the habit of reading, once nurtured early, stays with us throughout life.”

He concluded by urging the younger generation to embrace reading, as it not only broadens perspectives but also encourages budding writers like Laranya to continue expressing themselves and sharing their stories with the world.

INDIA

two-nation theory and linked it to the current situation in Kashmir. He urged citizens to educate their children about the ideological basis of Pakistan’s creation, claiming fundamental differences with India.

Jaiswal also used the occasion to raise the issue of Pakistan’s continued shelter to individuals accused in the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks. He said the recent extradition of Tahawwur Rana from the United States to India serves as a reminder of Pakistan’s failure to act against known perpetrators.

He said Rana’s extradition highlights the importance of justice for the victims of the attacks. “Pakistan may try very hard, but its reputation as the epicentre of global terrorism will not diminish,” Jaiswal added.

He further said that Pakistan must bring all individuals responsible for the Mumbai attacks to justice, naming those still sheltered in Pakistan as a major concern for India’s counter-terrorism efforts—

SC

should not be stayed without hearing the government.

The bench then granted a week’s time to the Centre to file a preliminary response to the pleas challenging the validity of the contentious Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025 and posted the matter on May 5.

“If your lordships will say something about ‘waqf by user’, what will be the fall-out?” Mehta said.

He added, “We, as a government, and Parliament, are answerable to the people.” The CJ said if the registration of any waqf property had taken place under the erstwhile 1995 Act, then those properties can’t be denotified till further hearing.

The apex court, while hearing the matter on Wednesday, proposed to stay certain key provisions of the Act, including the power to denotify properties declared as waqf by courts and inclusion of non-Muslims in central waqf council and boards.

On Thursday, Mehta asked whether the court might consider staying, directly or indirectly, the Act based upon some prima facie or tentative reading of some of the sections.

“If your lordships are going to stay a statutory provision,” Mehta said, “it by itself is rare. We will have to take your lordships to the history of legislation, followed by amendment”.

He said the government received several representations, which ultimately resulted into the amended Act.

Opposing the stay, the law officer referred to certain instances and said private properties were usurped as waqf in several places.

Terming it a “considered piece of legislation”, Mehta said the pleas were filed before the Presidential assent and taken immediately by the bench.

“We are not deciding the matter finally,” the bench said.

Mehta argued staying the provisions of the Act may be a “harsh step” and said the government should be allowed to place its preliminary reply.

“Allow me to place within a week my preliminary reply with some materials, documents and statutes to show,” he said, “and in one week, nothing will change”.

Senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, representing a state government, said “heavens are not going to fall if the interim order is not passed for a week or so”.

Mehta further assured of not making appointments in the respective waqf boards even if some of the states were not before the court.

The CJ said, “We don’t want the position to change. Parliament makes laws, executive decides and judiciary interprets.” The bench has also decided to hear only five of the total number of pleas before it and titled the case: “In Re: Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025”.

While appointing three lawyers as the nodal counsel, it asked the advocates to decide among themselves who was going to argue.

The petitioners were allowed to file their rejoinders to the Centre’s reply within five days of the service of the government’s response.

“We clarify that the next hearing (May 5) will be for the preliminary objections and for an interim order,” the bench said.

The bench said a writ petition challenging the 1995 Waqf Act and the amendment made in 2013 should be separately shown in the causelist.

On Wednesday, the bench was miffed over the inclusion of non-Muslims in the central waqf council and boards and asked the Centre whether it was willing to include Muslims in Hindu religious trusts.

The CJ had proposed to issue the notice and to pass an interim order, saying it will “balance the equities”.

Observing some provisions could have “grave ramifications”, particularly those that potentially undermine judicially recognised waqf properties, the CJ proposed the order.

“The properties declared as waqfs by the courts should not be de-notified, whether they are by waqf-by-user or waqf by deed while the court is hearing the challenge to the Waqf Amendment Act 2025,” he proposed.

“Waqf by user” refers to a practice where a property is recognised as a religious or charitable endowment (waqf) based on its long-term, uninterrupted use for such purposes, even if there isn’t a formal, written

declaration of waqf by the owner.

The Centre notified the Act which received assent of President on April 5. (PTI)

BJP

headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. Sunil Sethi accused the NC of deceiving the public mandate by practicing double-sided narrative, which is chosen according to the time, place as per their suitability.

He said that new political ripples have come-up in Jammu and Kashmir with the release of a book authored by AS Dulat, in which he has made a passing reference that former CM Farooq Abdullah was not against the abrogation of Article 370.

The regional political parties favour continuation of Article 370 in the public to cheat them, but they view Article 370 was hampering the progress and the lasting peace process in J&K. Based on facts shared by AS Dulat in his book, it is clear that the political parties in the valley believe that BJP has done a favour to Jammu & Kashmir by abrogating Article 370. “accusations on AS Dulat, the NC, now is attempting to save its face and escape the public wrath”, said Sethi.

He said that some parties and leaders have supported the abrogation openly and others secretly, displaying their acceptance of the repeal of the controversial provision.

Arun Gupta said that the common people support their leaders considering them as their role models and saviours.

People expect them to be true to their words, actions and whatever is said in public should not be different from what is conceived otherwise in private.

Gupta said that before independence, even the rulers could not afford double talks and double standards. He said that this type of politics and politicians do no good to the nation.

He said that NC believed J&K as its ancestral property and did whatever they felt, without any sense of public accountability. NC has been exposed for its double standards on many occasions and the latest exposure by AS Dulat makes absolutely clear that whatever BJP has been telling about NC right from their inception was right.

People who support these types of leaders and parties feel hurt and their confidence from their work gets eroded.

It is high time, public has to understand NC’s double standard, and that their future cannot be handed over to parties and leaders who have no moral grounds. ANB

SSP BARAMULLA

ly vanished and security forces remain alert.

“We are privy to the fact that the danger is not gone. We have not lowered our guard, nor have we reduced our efforts in tracking down the terrorists who are still present,” he said.

The SSP further stated that the security agencies are working in close coordination and continuing their operations with full intensity. “We are working with 100% synergy and commitment to catch these terrorists and prevent any possible acts of violence,” he added.

Addressing the issue of cross-border drug smuggling, SSP Singh said that security forces have intensified their surveillance to ensure drugs don’t find a way into Baramulla. He revealed that there are around 1,600 families in the district with relatives across the LoC, and among them, approximately 100 families have been found to have some level of involvement in smuggling or aiding infiltrators.

“We are keeping a close watch on these families. Out of the 100, five have been identified as being actively involved in smuggling contraband, weapons, or facilitating infiltration. We have already registered cases against them and their properties are being attached,” the SSP said.

He issued a stern warning to those involved: “It’s okay to have relations and interactions with your kin across the LoC, but once you engage in illegal activities, we are after you. If someone thinks the Indian legal system won’t reach across, they must know that those aiding such acts from this side will face strict legal action.”

The SSP said that apart from the police, intelligence agencies are also working to track drug movements. Preventive detentions are being carried out based on inputs to stop the inflow of drugs at the initial stage. “If drugs do manage to slip through, then the legal process follows—FIRs are lodged, and action is taken under laws such as the PIT-NDPS Act,” he said.

The district police, he emphasized, are committed to tackling both militancy and narco-terrorism with a zero-tolerance approach—

WOMEN

drug corridor. The vehicle used in the smuggling operation has also been seized, and a case has been registered against all three accused. The SSP revealed that Hasena’s brother is a government employee and that Kupwara Police has written to the Director of CAPD to initiate strict departmental action against him. To curb the involvement of wom-

en in drug trafficking, especially in border areas like Tangdhar, the SSP announced that female personnel from the BSF and local police will be deployed to intensify frisking and surveillance. “Some female traffickers misuse their identity to evade checks. That will no longer be tolerated,” he said. Issuing a strong warning to absconders in past drug cases, SSP Jeelani stated, “Your properties will be attached. There will be no escape from the law.” Reiterating the department’s zero-tolerance policy, he said anyone found involved in the drug trade will face stringent legal action, including property attachment.

TRANSFER

complex traffic network.

The CID wing saw a major shuffle, with Peerzada Naveed JKPS posted as SSP SB CID Kashmir, while Amit Gupta JKPS was appointed as SSP HQ CID.

Other important changes include Tanushree IPS being shifted from SP SIA Kashmir to SIA Headquarters, and Bisma Qazi IPS being posted as Commandant of the 2nd Woman Battalion JKAP. Rohit Baskotra JKPS, who was handling Traffic on the National Highway, has been assigned as SSP Special Security Group.

The reshuffle also addressed vacant posts in training, armed battalions, and liaison assignments. Ramesh Kumar Angral JKPS was appointed Director Home Guards Kashmir, while Tahir Sajad Bhat JKPS was posted as Additional Director of the State Investigation Agency (SIA). (KNS)

CS

Cooperatives, Babila Rakwal; DG, A&T, Mahesh Dass; DG, Budget, M Sultan and other concerned HoDs of APD.

During the meeting, the department submitted proposed action plan for 2025-26 fiscal under the major flagship schemes like Krishonnati Yojana (KY) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) to the Chief Secretary led Committee for its approval.

For the Krishonnati Yojana, the sub-schemes focused on seeds, nutrition, digital agriculture and horticulture development. Besides, the department has projected a total financial requirement of Rs. 20,881.62 lakh, significantly exceeding the Rs. 14,923.00 lakh ceiling conveyed by the Government of India, during the upcoming fiscal.

The sub-components included Agriculture Extension ATMA with an AAP for Rs 2,500.00 lakh. The Agriculture Extension ATMA acts as a platform to integrate agricultural research, extension services and farmers.

For the sub-component of Seeds (SMSP), an action plan of Rs 750.00 Lakhs was submitted for approval. The aim of the plan is to ensure the availability of quality seeds to farmers in a timely and affordable manner.

Other sub-missions of the scheme included National Food Security & Nutrition Mission (NFSM) with a plan of Rs 875.00 lakh to increase the production of rice, wheat, pulses and coarse cereals through area expansion and productivity enhancement. Similarly, National Mission on Edible Oils–Oilseeds (NMEO–OS) with an AAP of Rs 312 lakh for 2025–26. This sub-mission aims at increasing domestic production of edible oils by increasing the productivity of oilseeds, promotion of high-yielding oilseed varieties and hybrids.

On the other hand, the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) with an AAP of Rs 11,850.50 lakh aims at enhancing the horticulture production and improve the livelihood of farmers through sustainable practices.

The Digital Agriculture Mission (DAM) had a plan of Rs 4,604.62 lakh to modernize the revenue records and agriculture by using digital technologies to improve the productivity, reduce input costs and enhance farm-level decision-making. It also included development of a unified farmers’ database and geo-tagging of assets.

The Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) for the Financial Year 2025–26 has a total proposed Annual Action Plan of Rs. 9900.00 lakh. This comes alongside the progressive implementation of the National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) across the Union Territory, showcasing a multi-pronged strategy to enhance the agricultural sustainability, mechanization and farmer empowerment. The Proposed Annual Action Plan under RKVY for 2025–26 included allocations across several key sub-schemes aimed at holistic agricultural development. The major components of the proposed plan included Soil Health and Fertility retaining its original allocation of Rs. 280 lakh, Rain-fed Area Development (Rs. 224 lakh), Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojna (PKVY) (Rs. 615.20 lakh), Per Drop More Crop (Rs. 1750 lakh), Agriculture Mechanization (Rs. 3141 lakh) and Agroforestry (Rs 116.25 lakh).

These sub-schemes are critical components of the government’s broader mission to transform agriculture into a more productive, sustainable and technologically empowered vocation.

KUPWARA

the award from Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the Civil Services Day celebration on April 21, 2025, at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Instituted in 2006, the Prime Minister’s Awards for Excellence in Public Administration aim to recognize the exceptional work done by districts and government organizations across the country in promoting good governance, innovation, and inclusive development. Kupwara’s selection under the ‘Holistic Development’ category reflects its achievements in infrastructure, education, health, livelihood, and welfare initiatives—particularly in transforming outcomes in a traditionally remote and border district. This national recognition is expected to further motivate the district administration and its stakeholders to continue their efforts toward inclusive, sustainable, and people-centric development.

TEACHERS

Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary) School Education Department Shantmanu in a communique said, “It has been observed that the teaching staff of School Education Department are being deployed and attached by the Deputy Commissioners of UT of Jammu and Kashmir in various offices for administrative works and other tasks without prior approval and information of their administrative Department.”

“It is the primary duty of teaching staff to provide quality education to students for which they have been appointed by the department and shall not divert their core role,” Shantmanu said.

The financial commissioner further said, “Attachment and deployment of the teaching staff in the offices other than educational institutions results in hampering academics of students as the department is already facing acute shortage of teaching staff.”

“It is therefore, impressed upon all the Deputy Commissioners of UT of Jammu and Kashmir to restrict the deployment and attachment of educational staff teaching and non-teaching to ensure and maintain stability, fairness and the effective functioning of the educational institutions in all the districts of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir,” Shantmanu said.

The financial commissioner also said that in case of requirement of staff, the matter should be referred to the Designated Authority viz Directorate of School Education or administrative department—(KNO)

DC Budgam conducts

Tehsil wise review of provision of revenue services, land transfer cases

BUDGAM, APRIL 17: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo, today chaired a meeting to take review of the Revenue services extended to the masses across all tehsils of the district.

DC emphasized the need for 100% digitization of Jamabandis to enhance transparency and efficiency in land records management. He directed all Revenue officials to prioritize clearing pendency under various heads, and ensure prompt service delivery to the general public at all Revenue offices across the district.

DC instructed officers to assess rejected and reverted cases under the Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA) in their respective jurisdictions. He stressed that disposal of these cases should be carried out in a time-bound manner, ensuring that citizens may not face unnecessary delays.

He also reviewed the status of work on the administratively approved infrastructure projects of Tehsil Office BK Pora and Niabats of Nagam, Soibugh and Kachwari.

DC directed the concerned officers to maintain close coordination with executing agencies to ensure completion of these projects so as to dedicate them to public.

He reiterated the importance of responsive governance, and emphasized that Revenue officials must remain proactive in addressing public grievances.

Regular monitoring and adherence to timelines were stressed to uphold the standards of service delivery.

He also reviewed the status of disposal of land acquisition & land transfer related cases, fencing of state land, disposal of cases on Revenue Court Cases, Management Portal, disposal of inheritance mutations, maintenance of stock registry and issuance of various certificates such as income, category and other related file records at Revenue offices. DC finalised earmarking of land for establishment of Fire & Emergency installations in Chrar e sharief, Khansahib, Magam & Beerwah.

He directed all Revenue officers to uphold accountability, ensure efficient service delivery, and remain committed to the welfare of the district’s citizens.

Earlier, ACR Budgam briefed the chair regarding overall scenario of the district with regard to revenue services.



DC Srinagar discusses arrangements for upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2025

Directs Officers to ensure better arrangements for smooth, peaceful conduct of Yatra

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APRIL 17: In order to review the arrangements for upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)-2025, a meeting of senior Officers of Police and Civil Administration was held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat here today at Meeting Hall of DC Office. During the meeting, DC took a comprehensive review of the arrangements to be put in place to ensure smooth and seamless conduct of the upcoming annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2025. The DC discussed threadbare the arrangements to be made at yatra transit camp at Panthachowk with regard to the supply of Power & Water, setting up of cleanliness & sanitation, disaster mitigation & fire safety measures, transportation & parking facilities, access control gates, issuance of RFID cards, medical facility and other aspects to extend better facilities to the visiting yatries. In addition, DC emphasized the need for formulating a supplementary contin-



gency to augment the accommodation for temporary halt of the yatries in wake of expected huge footfall as the yatries may travel through train service this year to pay obeisance at holy cave via Srinagar route. On the occasion, Dr Biall asked the concerned to take necessary measures to ensure all basic amenities at the transit

camps so that yatries may not face any difficulty. With regard to sanitation, SMC authorities were directed to ensure proper sanitation in and around the transit camp, beside, adequate arrangements for mobile public convenience facilities at the camp. They were also asked to keep sufficient staff at the camp to maintain sanitation and

proper cleanliness. Additionally they were asked to ensure measures to combat water logging issues, if any caused due to inclement weather. DC was informed that an adequate number of mobile toilets, bath stations and urinals are being made available at yatra transit camp Panthachowk and near Nowgam railway station to facilitate the yatries during SANJY-2025. Regarding transports & parking facilities, the concerned Officers briefed the DC about the arrangements being made for parking of buses ferrying the Yatries. Similarly, the Fire & Emergency Department was asked to take appropriate fire safety measures at the transit camp particularly near yatra langar to tackle any fire incident. DC also stressed on the installation of signages at Panthachowk yatra transit camp to provide information to the yatries regarding nearby facilities, control room contact numbers etc. Meanwhile, DC passed directions to set up an Emergency Operation Centre for inter-departmental coordination and proper management of the yatra-2025.

Waqf Board retrieved land, properties in 3 years: Darakhshan

HT News Network

Srinagar, Apr 17: Chairperson of the Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board and BJP National Executive Member, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi on Thursday said Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board has retrieved land and other properties in the last three years. Speaking during an event organised by the BJP to mark Ambedkar Jayanti at Dak Bungalow, Anantnag, Dr Andrabi, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said people who love mosques and shrines continue to visit them without any hindrance. "There is no unrest, no discomfort," she said. Dr Andrabi said the Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board has taken major steps in the past three years to revive lost properties and strengthen the institution. "We have successfully retrieved land and other property belonging to mosques and shrines, ensuring these assets remain protected," she added. Referring to political criticism, she said some people are trying to divert attention with negative commentary, but the public knows the Waqf Board is working sincerely. "People are no longer giving attention to those who are only focused on showmanship," she shared. Dr Andrabi also spoke about the importance of the Constitution, saying Prime Minister Narendra Modi has strengthened constitutional values and governance. "Congress and others have been crying foul for the past eleven years, but in fact, Modi introduced Samvidhan Divas and reinforced constitutional authority," she said.



Ex-RAW Chief's Revelations Nothing New: Mehbooba On Abdullah's 'Support' For Art 370 Abrogation

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, Apr 17: Peoples Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti on Thursday said she was not surprised by the revelations made by ex-RAW chief A S Dulat in his latest book about National Conference president Farooq Abdullah "privately" supporting the abrogation of Article 370. "Dulat's revelations are nothing new for me. This father-son duo (Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah) went to meet them (Prime Minister Narendra Modi) on August 3 (2019). Farooq Sahib did not even go to Parliament (on August 5, 2019). He stayed back. So there is nothing surprising for me," Mufti said while addressing a PDP workers' convention here. Article 370 granting special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir was abrogated by the Centre on August 5, 2019. Mufti also claimed that in 2014, Omar Abdullah met Amit Shah for government formation in Jammu and Kashmir. "He told Shah not to form a government with the PDP but to go with



the National Conference and that too unconditionally," she alleged. Dulat's book, titled "The Chief Minister and the Spy", is slated to be released on April 18. Mufti also claimed that one of the cornerstones of PDP's alliance with the BJP from 2015 to 2018 was that Article 370 will not be touched. "In those two years and 10 months, Article 370 remained untouched," she said. The PDP chief also spoke about the Waqf (Amendment) Act and "attacks" on mosques and shrines, saying graves were being dug up on the pretext that these were remnants of the Mughal empire.

"The signs of the Mughal empire are Taj Mahal, Red Fort, Qutub Minar and Fatehpur Sikri, which are flocked by millions of tourists every year. "If you are looking for descendants of Mughals, they are not among us Muslims. They are somewhere around you... Because Mughals were kings and they did not marry into ordinary Muslim households but into princely states whose descendants are sitting around you," Mufti said. Stating that the prime minister talks about the upliftment of Pasmanda Muslims, Mufti said, "I want to ask Modi, is breaking down a madrasa in Madhya Pradesh or a 100-year-old mosque in Uttar Pradesh upliftment of Muslims?" She also said that Muslims in the country should fight against the Waqf amendments peacefully. "I request my fellow Muslims in India to fight against it (Waqf law) peacefully... What happened in Murshidabad was not good," she said. On the perception that Muslims are being targeted in India, Mufti said they should not be treated in the same way as the terrorists treated Kashmiri Pandits in the Valley. (Agencies)

NC cheated in silence, PDP hugged BJP in public: Hakeem Yaseen

Says, Both NC and PDP jointly sold out Kashmiris for power, chair

HT News Network

Srinagar, Apr 17: Hakeem Muhammad Yaseen, President of the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Front (PDF) and former minister, on Thursday held both National Conference (NC) and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) responsible for the present mess in the region and stated some cheated in silence and some hugged BJP in public. Reacting strongly to the explosive revelations made by former RAW Chief A.S. Dulat, Hakeem said the people of Jammu and Kashmir had long suspected betrayal—and now the dots are connecting. "Dulat Sahab is no ordinary man. He's someone who was seen as the closest confidant of Farooq Sahab. In Delhi's political circles, he's considered the biggest advocate for Farooq Abdullah. So when he says that the abrogation of Article 370 happened with Farooq Sahab's consent and that from 2020 to 2023



Farooq was desperate to align with BJP—it carries tremendous weight," Hakeem said. "If these claims are false, then file a defamation case against Dulat. But don't try to mislead the people with emotional speeches. Silence in such matters is not innocence—it's an admission," he said. Taking the attack further, Hakeem said that let's be honest, NC betrayed people from behind the curtain—but PDP did it openly. They shamelessly

formed a government with BJP in 2014, knowing very well the ideological consequences for Kashmir. All for power. Both parties have played with the sentiments of the people, one with a dagger in the dark, the other in broad daylight." Hakeem said it's time for both NC and PDP to tender a public apology to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. "They must come forward, admit their mistakes, and apologise for decades of exploitation, lies, and political deceit. The people of J&K deserve honesty—not backroom deals and secret understandings." The PDP chief Hakeem said that the new generation will not be fooled by photo-ops, grand speeches, or crocodile tears. "Kashmiris know who stood firm and who sold out. The era of hollow promises is over," he added. "They must come forward, admit their mistakes, and apologise for decades of exploitation, lies, and political deceit. The people of J&K deserve honesty—not backroom deals and secret understandings."

Joint Skill Exchange Programme on Forest Fire Management held at PIES Fire Hqs. Srinagar

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APRIL 17: In compliance with the directions of the Director, Fire and Emergency Services, Alok Kumar, (ADGP), and in light of recent forest fire incidents, a joint skill exchange programme was organized today as part of observance of Fire Service Week 2025. The event was held at Fire Headquarters, Batamaloo, under the overall supervision of Assistant Director Command Srinagar, Aqib Hussain Mir. The primary objective of this initiative was to enhance coordination among key stakeholders viz. Fire and Emergency Services, State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), and the Forest Department. The programme aimed to promote mutual understanding, reinforce inter-departmental collaboration, and build operational synergy in responding to forest fire emergencies. The event featured expert-led training sessions delivered by experienced trainers and subject matter specialists from the participating departments. These sessions were designed to impart technical knowledge, best practices, and discuss coordinated response strategies. Following the training sessions, a joint mock drill was conducted under the guidance of Adil Zargar, Sub Officer and Parvaiz Ahmad, LFM to translate the theoretical concepts into practical application. This exercise provided an opportunity for all departments to demonstrate and refine their coordinated response mechanisms, thereby ensuring enhanced preparedness and efficiency in combating forest fires.

Vaccination for Srinagar based Hajj pilgrims to be held from April-21 to 23 at Bait-ul-Hujjaj

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APRIL 17: In view of the Hajj Vaccination programme in District Srinagar, all the selected Hajj Pilgrims of District Srinagar are asked to get vaccinated at Bait-ul Hujjaj Haj House Bemina as per the below given date and time schedule for given serial numbers. For Serial No 3-119, the vaccination shall be held on 21 April, 2025 from 11:00AM to 1:00PM. Also, pilgrims falling within Serial No 120-224 shall get vaccinated on 21 April, 2025 from 2:00PM to 4:00PM. Similarly, pilgrims from Serial No 226-1396 shall get vaccinated on 22 April, 2025 from 11:00AM to 1:00PM. Further, the pilgrims falling in between Serial No 1398-1513 are scheduled to come for vaccination on 22 April, 2025 from 2:00PM to 4:00PM. Also, pilgrims featuring in between Serial No 1514-1610 shall get vaccinated on 23 April, 2025 from 11:00AM to 1:00PM. Further, the pilgrims falling in between Serial No 1612-2048 are scheduled to come for vaccination on 23 April, 2025 from 2:00PM to 4:00PM.

J&K student body slams AMU for 'targeting' Kashmiri research scholar..

HT News Network

Srinagar, Apr 17: A student body has criticised the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) administration for issuing a show-cause notice to Zubair Altaf Reshi, a PhD scholar from Jammu and Kashmir, who reportedly flagged alleged financial irregularities involving an AMU official. In a statement issued on Wednesday, Nasir Khuehami, the national president of Jammu and Kashmir Students Association that claims to represent students from the union territory at the national level, termed the university's action "an attempt to crush dissent and curtail freedom of expression". Khuehami alleged that Reshi, who also serves as the national spokesperson of the student body, was threatened with "dire consequences" if he continued to highlight such issues. "This is not just about one student or one incident. It raises serious questions about student's rights, institutional accountability, and the right to speak up against the wrongdoings in universities," Khuehami said. The association also sought urgent intervention in the matter by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Mirwaiz Welcomes Supreme Court's Interim Relief on Waqf Amendment Act.

HT News Network

Srinagar, April, 17 + Mirwaiz Umar Farooq on Wednesday welcomed the Supreme Court's interim relief on the Waqf Amendment Act, calling it a ray of hope for Muslims seeking justice against what he termed a discriminatory law. In a post on X, Mirwaiz said the apex court's tough questions to the government regarding the Waqf Amendment Act and its interim direction — restraining the addition of new members to Waqf boards and stopping the denotification of 'Waqf-by-user' properties — was a positive step. "The Supreme Court asking some tough questions of the Government on the Waqf Amendment Act, and its interim stand... is welcome," Mirwaiz wrote, adding that the development gives hope to Muslims who see the court as their last resort for relief and justice. He expressed hope that the apex court would ultimately revoke the "biased and excessive" Act....

NC always legitimized betrayal with J&K people: Iltija Mufti

HT News Network

Srinagar, Apr 17: Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leader, Iltija Mufti on Thursday said that National Conference (NC) has always legitimized the betrayal done with the people of Jammu and Kashmir and added that they have high hopes on the judiciary with regard to the ongoing Waqf Amendment Act. Talking to reporters here on the sidelines of the function, Iltija, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said that everybody is aware of the relationship between former RAW chief A.S. Dulat and Abdullahs. Dulat has revealed that Farooq Abdullah has privately supported abrogation of Article 370, but is anguished for not being apprised on it. "There was nothing surprising at all as NC has always legitimized the betrayal done with the people. NC is the party with double standards. How the party sought votes on bringing Article 370 when they were part of its abrogation," she said, the party has already good understanding with BJP. "In 2019, Farooq Abdullah as MP has never talked about abrogation in the parliament. Today, NC having 50 MLAs is not doing its job, however, 3 MLAs of PDP are raising their voice and performing the job which NC was supposed to do," she added.

EDITORIAL

CEO Pulwama issues bizarre order about half day on Fridays

Few days back the Chief Education Officer, Pulwama issued an explanation with respect to some of the private schools operating in the district about the observance of half day on Fridays. The officer issued the explanation to the management of Hajahad Public School, Dolphin International School and Delhi Modern School. The officer asked the higher-ups of these schools to explain their position about the issue and in the same breath these schools were asked to stop the practice forthwith.

The explanation is somewhat bizarre as all the private schools operating in the Kashmir valley observe half day on Fridays as the students as well as staff have to offer Friday prayers. Since Friday is a special day for Muslims across the globe there is no harm if the schools observe half day on Friday. In most parts of the country it has been observed that private schools observe five days of the week while as in Kashmir the schools normally carry out functioning for the six days in a week.

In such a scenario the issuance of the explanation of Chief Education Officer, Pulwama is somewhat not understood and it has come as a shocker for the people of the valley especially those living in the Pulwama district. There are people who say that the officer is not competent to issue such an explanation and any such order or correspondence should come from the office of Director School Education Kashmir. Interestingly the Director School is yet to respond to this matter and no word has come from his office up to this moment of time.

The issuance of the explanation by the Chief Education Officer undermines the importance of his superior officer and also affects the credibility of Director School Education Kashmir. It is important that the Directorate comes out with an order asking the district heads not to come out with orders or explanations that don't go well with the sentiments and emotions of the people. If no such order comes out then the officers would bully their higher-ups and there would be utter confusion.

Since Kashmir is a Muslim majority area it is important that the religious aspirations and emotions of the majority community are given due preference. If officers like Chief Education Officer Pulwama come out with bizarre orders then there would be resentment among the masses. The same does not augur well at a time when the people at helm claim that everything is hunky-dory in Kashmir.

World Haemophilia Day 2025: ‘Access for All: Women and Girls Bleed Too’

KOUSAR AHMED RATHER
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World Haemophilia Day is observed annually on April 17. The World Haemophilia Day 2025 theme is “Access for All: Women and Girls Bleed Too”. The theme specifically highlights the critical need for increased awareness, diagnosis, and treatment for women and girls with bleeding disorders. They are often underdiagnosed and underserved due to misconceptions about these conditions, primarily affecting males. It's a global call to action to close the gaps in care for women and girls with bleeding disorders. This includes addressing delayed diagnoses, limited access to treatment, and a lack of understanding regarding their unique healthcare needs.

By focusing on women and girls, the aim is to improve their quality of life through proper recognition, diagnosis, treatment, and care, ultimately strengthening the entire bleeding disorders community.

Increased awareness is crucial for better diagnosis and access to care for the millions of people worldwide who remain without treatment.

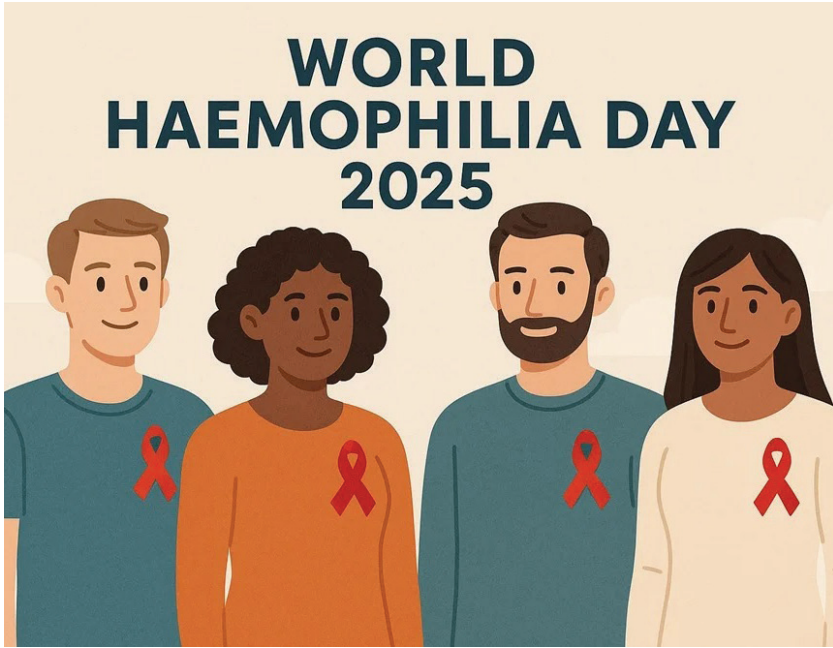
World Haemophilia Day was initiated in 1989 by the World Federation of Haemophilia (WFH). The primary objectives of this day are to raise global awareness of bleeding disorders and emphasize that many individuals are not receiving the necessary care.

Since its inception, World Haemophilia Day has served as a platform to celebrate advancements in treatment, raise awareness, and emphasise the challenges of ensuring adequate care for everyone affected by bleeding disorders.

World Haemophilia Day provides an opportunity for the global bleeding disorders community, including individuals with these conditions, their families, caregivers, healthcare providers, and advocacy organisations, to come together. It reinforces the importance of support networks, mutual understanding, and continued efforts in research and treatment.

What is Haemophilia?

Haemophilia is a mostly inherited genetic disorder that impairs the body's ability to make blood clots properly. This can lead to prolonged bleeding after an injury, easy bruising, and an increased risk of internal bleeding, especially in the joints and brain.



How Blood Clotting Works (Normally):

When a blood vessel is injured, the body initiates a complex process to stop the bleeding. This involves:

Platelets: These are small blood cells that stick together at the injury site to form a plug.

Clotting Factors: These are proteins in the blood that work in a specific sequence (the coagulation cascade) to create a stable fibrin clot that reinforces the platelet plug and stops the bleeding.

What Happens in Haemophilia:

In people with haemophilia, there is a deficiency or defect in one of the clotting factors, most commonly:

Haemophilia A: Deficiency in clotting factor VIII (factor eight). This is the most common type.

Haemophilia B (Christmas Disease): Deficiency in clotting factor IX (factor nine).

The severity of haemophilia depends on the number of clotting factors that are missing or not functioning correctly. People with severe haemophilia may experience spontaneous bleeding (bleeding for no apparent reason), while those with mild haemophilia may only bleed excessively after surgery or injury.

Symptoms of Haemophilia:

Prolonged bleeding: Bleeding for a longer time than expected after cuts, injuries, surgery, or dental work.

Easy bruising: Bruising more easily and having larger, deeper bruises.

Joint bleeding (hemarthrosis): Bleeding into the joints (knees, elbows, ankles), causing pain, swelling, stiffness, and potentially long-term damage. This is a very common complication.

Muscle bleeding: Bleeding into muscles, leading to pain, swelling, and tightness (hematoma).

Nosebleeds: Frequent and difficult-to-stop nosebleeds.

Bleeding gums: Bleeding from the mouth and gums, especially after dental procedures.

Blood in urine or stool.

Bleeding in the brain: A rare but life-threatening complication that can occur from injury or spontaneously.

In infants: Unexplained irritability, swelling, or bruising.

Causes of Haemophilia:

Inherited: The vast majority of cases are inherited, meaning the gene responsible for producing the necessary clotting factor is defective and passed down from parents to children. Haemophilia A and B are X-linked recessive disorders, meaning the gene is located on the X chromosome. This is why it more commonly affects males. Females can be carriers of the gene and may experience milder bleeding symptoms.

Acquired Haemophilia: In rare cases, haemophilia can be acquired later in life when the body's immune system attacks and disables clotting factors.

Diagnosis of Haemophilia:

Medical history: Doctors will ask about a person's bleeding history and family history of bleeding dis-

orders. **Physical exam:** To look for signs of bleeding or bruising. **Blood tests:** Specifically, clotting factor tests (also called factor assays) are used to measure the levels of factor VIII and factor IX in the blood.

Treatment of Haemophilia:

The main goal of haemophilia treatment is to prevent and treat bleeding episodes. This is primarily done through replacement therapy, where the missing clotting factor is replaced in the bloodstream.

Clotting factor concentrates: These are commercially prepared products containing concentrated factor VIII or IX. They can be derived from human plasma (screened and treated to prevent virus transmission) or manufactured using recombinant technology (not derived from human blood).

Replacement therapy:

Prophylaxis: Regular infusions to prevent bleeding episodes, especially in severe haemophilia.

On-demand: Infusions given to treat a bleed that has already started or before surgery or other procedures.

Desmopressin (DDAVP): A synthetic hormone that can stimulate the release of stored factor VIII in some people with mild haemophilia A. It can be given intravenously or as a nasal spray.

Emicizumab (Hemlibra): A newer non-factor therapy for haemophilia A that mimics the function of factor VIII. It is given by subcutaneous injection.

Clot-preserving medications (antifibrinolytics): Such as tranexamic acid, can help prevent blood clots from breaking down, especially useful for mouth and nosebleeds.

Fibrin sealants: Applied directly to wounds to promote clotting.

Physical therapy: To manage joint damage caused by bleeding.

Gene therapy: An emerging treatment that aims to provide the body with a functioning gene to produce the missing clotting factor.

With proper diagnosis and treatment, people with haemophilia can often lead relatively normal and active lives. Management focuses on preventing bleeds and treating them promptly when they occur to minimise long-term complications.

The writer is a teacher at Higher Secondary School, Nehalpora, Pattan

Radio Waves of Community Led Social Change

DR BRIJENDER SINGH PANWAR & NIKITA JOSHI

In today's digital world of hashtags, GIFs and reels, communication has expanded across a variety of mediums. Large parts of India today cannot think of a world without the internet and the quick communication it has enabled. Yet one would be misinformed to imagine that effective communication is restricted to unilateral means. A study of target audiences and their cultural contexts allows one to explore the different communication mediums that have been initiated and adopted by individuals and communities to suit their circumstances. The Community Radio is one such creative medium that is flourishing in different parts of the country today including educational institutes and rural heartlands. A radio set is the most frugal commodity often owned and operated by even those at the bottom of the pyramid. At the heart of this communication medium lie the values of community led ownership and grass root expression. It is a platform which allows communities to express themselves

in their language and discuss issues that lie at core of their existence. Mediums such as these therefore not only create partnerships and develop communication and management skills but also become catalysts of social change. Governments hence play an important role in recognizing and encouraging these local communication efforts that also help build robust communities.

The Community Radio is set to truly make 'Radio Waves' at the "World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES), 2025" which is to be held in Mumbai from May 1 to 4, 2025. WAVES is being organized with the vision of connecting India's Media & Entertainment (M&E) industry with the global markets, fostering growth, collaborations and innovations. The key objectives of WAVES is to drive industry growth, nurture innovation, empower young talent and promote cultural exchange. The Community Radio Association of India (CRAI), the registered, elected organization of Community Radios, in collaboration with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of

India is organizing an array of initiatives at WAVES focusing on creating awareness and encouraging the development of Community Radio Stations in India.

The Community Radio Content Challenge is one among 32 Create in India Challenges. Each of the 32 Challenges under this initiative is designed to test skills and inspire youth to showcase their talents on a distinguished platform spanning diverse fields such as animation, gaming, esports, comics, filmmaking and more! The Community Radio Content Challenge is designed to highlight the diverse skills and unique voices that Community Radio Stations bring to the airwaves and inspire them to experiment with new formats, genres and storytelling techniques. This hopes to create opportunities for Community Radios to share knowledge, learn from each other and build connections. The Challenge will recognize and reward programs that make a real difference in their communities. Entries for the challenge have been sought from five categories namely - Public Health and Safety, Education and Literacy, Women and Child Development/ Social

Justice and Advocacy, Agriculture and Rural Development and Cultural Preservation. A panel of experts, including renowned media personalities and representatives from the CRAI, will evaluate the entries, shortlist participants and finally select and award winners.

Apart from this a Community Connect Zone will be created by the CRAI at the CreatoSphere in WAVES. The Community Connect Zone aims to showcase the essence of Community Radio Stations and their significant contributions to various communities. The key elements of the Community Connect Zone are a Community Radio Stations Compendium Display Flip Book, the CRS India Map or Radio Garden, a Live Radio Set Up and a Newsletter.

The Community Radio Stations Compendium Display Flip Book is a visually appealing, interactive flip book that will contain a comprehensive compendium of Community Radio Station initiatives across India. Attendees can browse through this digital compendium to understand the evolving landscape of community radio and its pivotal role in shaping local

and regional narratives and learn of success stories.

A large, interactive map of India will be displayed to showcase the location of active Community Radio Stations across the country. Alternatively, a Radio Garden concept will be used, where visitors can virtually explore and listen to different community radio stations broadcasting from various parts of India. This will help visitors understand the diversity of voices and issues that Community Radio Stations represent.

A Newsletter that captures the most recent developments, activities and initiatives arising from the Waves Community Radio Content Challenge will be prominently displayed. This will include insights into the creative challenges faced by Community Radio Stations and their responses. The newsletter will keep visitors updated on trends in radio broadcasting and innovative community-led programs.

A dedicated space to celebrate Community Radio Station awardees for their exceptional contributions to community radio will be earmarked. This corner will showcase profiles of Community Radio Stations, pro-

ducers and volunteers who have won awards for their impact on society. Visual displays and multimedia presentations will highlight their stories, emphasizing the influence of community radio in areas like education, health, social justice, tribal welfare, women empowerment, environmental sustainability and more.

In order to provide an immersive experience, a Live Radio Set Up will be established within the Zone, where visitors can interact with radio hosts, community broadcasters and engage in live discussions. The setup will allow visitors to participate in real-time broadcasts, ask questions, share experiences and engage with experts in the field of community radio.

A section dedicated to showcasing the "Mann Ki Baat" series will feature episodes aired via Community Radio Stations. This compilation will allow visitors to listen to key episodes that have resonated with diverse communities, reflecting important issues, national milestones and initiatives. The focus will be on how such broadcasts have connected the masses and empowered local communities.

Along with this more than 530 Community Radios from across the country are also participating in the deliberations at WAVES between the 1st to 4th of May 2025.

Engaging with Community Radios has time again proved that there is no dearth of talent and enthusiasm within communities in areas beyond Metropolitan and Tier 1 cities. WAVES aims to bring to fore the skills and potential of all such efforts in the media and entertainment sector and provide them with a global platform to connect and collaborate. The ultimate beneficiaries of such an initiative it is hoped, are the communities that these radio stations represent!

Dr Brijender Singh Panwar is a senior journalist and at present Director, M.S.Panwar Institute of Communication & Management, Solan, and Station Director of 16-year-old Hamara MSPICM Community Radio, Solan.

Ms. Nikita Joshi (IIS 2019) is currently posted as Assistant Director, Press Information Bureau, Mumbai, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India.

Chalk-pricked exploitation: The private schoolmaster and his mute suffering

PRIYANKA SAURABH

There was a time when couplets like "Guru Govind dono khade, kake lagoon paay" were on the tongues of children. Today, the situation is such that if the teacher picks up a mobile, it is said, "If you have so much free time, why don't you take care of the children?" Times have changed; now the word 'teacher' has become a symbol of tolerance, not purity. And the most cruel form of this tolerance is seen in the world of private school teachers.

A palace of appearances, a swamp of despair inside

If you look from outside, a private school looks no less than a five-star hotel—AC classrooms, high-tech boards, English-speaking children, and bus attendants wearing white gloves. But if you look inside, there is a master sahab sitting there who can neither drink tea on time nor have lunch. If there is a complaint about a child not doing his homework, the master's class is held. If a child fails the exam, the management asks, "Why did you not teach him properly?"

Salary: What's on paper, not in pocket

The salary system in private schools is so confidential that even secret agencies would feel ashamed. Rs 25,000 is written on the appointment letter, but only Rs 8,000 is transferred to the bank. The rest is either given in cash or never given. And the funny thing is—if a teacher is asked for salary details, his answer is, "Tell me, do you want the job or not?"

'Double exploitation' of women teachers

At home she is a daughter-in-law, mother, and wife. At school she is madam, teacher, and sister. Women teachers have to live with dual responsibilities. Take care of

In private schools, expectations from teachers are sky-high, but they get neither proper salary nor respect nor leave nor security. Women teachers shoulder dual responsibilities, while on Teachers' Day they get only symbolic respect, while their exploitation continues throughout the year. Parents, school management, and the government all ignore this exploitation. No one talks about the rights of teachers, nor is there any regulatory body to protect their interests. Teachers must get legal protection, an organized platform, and social respect so that the education system can become truly inclusive and equitable. If the nation is to be educated and empowered, then first of all the teacher must be freed from exploitation—because every letter written with chalk shapes the future of the country.



the house from 5 am, then go to school and take care of 40 children there. On top of that, if the husband is also in the private sector, then the household budget has to be mortgaged even before the monthly salary.

Vacation? That's a dream!

The government calendar says, 15th August is a holiday, 26th January is a holiday, but the private school says, "Come, hoist the flag, give a speech, then mark attendance and go." Attendance is compulsory even on holidays. If you fall ill, HR will say, "There is no holiday; a deduction will be made." Even when the teacher's throat is hoarse, it is said, "You have to take the class; there is no one else."

Work overload and emotional abuse

Today, a teacher does not just teach; he is the class teacher, examination controller, parent communication officer, WhatsApp group admin, sports day organizer, and

editor of the weekly selfie video. But when it comes to salary, it is said, "You teach only two periods."

Master's tears and principal's press conference

If the child tops, the principal holds a press conference—"The environment of our school is like this." And if the child fails, the teacher is held accountable—"You did not teach properly." The school wins, the teacher loses. The principal's photo is on the banner; the teacher's hard work is done.

Parents' Expectations: Teacher or Magician?

Nowadays parents want teachers to make their child an IAS in 3 months, and if this does not happen, they say, "What difference would it have made if we had put him in a government school!" Even the child's mistake is now the teacher's responsibility. The teacher gets the most scolding in the parents' meeting.

Student and teacher: A one-sided relationship

Today, students talk about their rights—not getting beaten, getting less homework, and getting good results. But who talks about the rights of teachers? Can anyone file an RTI to find out how much salary a teacher is getting? No. Because talking about teacher rights is still considered "unbearable."

Solution: We need movement, not silence.

Now the time has come for teachers to break their silence. The government should form a regulatory body that decides the salaries, working hours, holidays, and workload of private schools.

Private teachers' unions should be formed in every district that speaks in one voice. Parents also need to understand that a teacher is not just a salaried employee but the creator of their child's future.

A little respect, a little authority—that's it.

If the country wants to move ahead, then first of all we have to take care of that hand that creates the future with chalk on the blackboard. We have to listen to that voice that teaches the child to start the day by saying "Good morning" every day. The smile of the country is hidden in the smile of the teacher, but no one knows how much pain is behind that smile.

In the end, that's it.

"If the child fails, the teacher is responsible. If the child tops, the school is to be blamed." This balance has to be broken. If private schools are to be made temples of education, then first the teacher should be worshipped in them—at least his exploitation should stop.

Author is an Research Scholar in Political Science, Poet, freelance journalist, and columnist

PARENTHOOD, AN ETHICAL TORTURE (Unseen and Unheard Tale)

ER. HAYA ALJAZ

RESEARCH SCHOLAR

Parenthood is one of the most profound responsibilities a human being can undertake. It is a role that extends far beyond the act of raising a child—it is about nurturing, guiding, supporting, and preparing a young soul to find their place in the world with confidence and dignity. When rooted in love, understanding, and mutual respect, parenthood becomes a beautiful journey of growth for both the parent and the child.

However, in many households, especially within rigid cultural or social frameworks, this journey is often tainted with unrealistic expectations, imposed decisions, and emotional neglect. Instead of becoming a source of security, the parental role sometimes transforms into a burden for the child.

This often happens when parents misuse their position of authority under the guise of discipline, tradition, or protection.

Children are frequently silenced in matters that directly impact their lives. They are considered too young or too inexperienced to make choices, and their voices are often dismissed without consideration. While it's true that parents possess more life experience, it's equally important to allow children to express themselves, to feel heard and valued. A child who is encouraged to speak up, even when wrong, grows up to be more emotionally secure and self-aware.

Unfortunately, this freedom is often denied. Parents, in their attempt to do what they believe is "right," end up imposing life-changing decisions—like choosing a career path or even a life partner—without acknowledging the

child's interests or emotional readiness. Marriage, for instance, is one of the most critical decisions in life, yet in many families, children are pushed into it at the will of their parents. This disregard can leave deep emotional scars that may manifest later in the form of anxiety, emotional withdrawal, or depression.

Moreover, in a bid to maintain social image, many parents choose to discipline their children publicly. Scolding or embarrassing a child in front of guests or relatives is more about showcasing control than correcting behavior. Such acts don't instill discipline—they instill fear, shame, and a sense of worthlessness.

In today's world, another growing trend is the over-dependence on daycares and creches. While these services are a necessity for working parents, an increasing number of stay-at-home mothers are opting to send children as young as 18 months to these centers, merely to find relief from caregiving duties. This detachment during the early formative years can affect a child's ability to form secure attachments.

The obsession with boarding schools is another area of concern. Some parents choose to send their children away at a very young age, not necessarily for better education but to control or "fix" behaviors. The child, however, suffers emotional loneliness, robbed of essential parental warmth, bedtime stories, and spontaneous hugs.

In the modern digital age, parenting has also shifted toward gadgets. Instead of storytelling or engaging with children emotionally, many parents place smartphones or tablets in their little hands.

While it keeps them quiet, it also distances them from the parent, replacing

love and bonding with artificial stimulation.

Comparison culture further adds to the burden. Statements like "Look at your cousin, he's so good at studies," or "She never talks back to her parents," create self-doubt and feelings of inadequacy.

Every child is unique, and expecting them to mirror someone else's achievements crushes their individuality.

What's even more heartbreaking is the cyclical nature of this detachment. Parents who distanced themselves from their children emotionally or physically often find themselves lonely in old age.

Children, who never felt truly loved or accepted, fail to form strong attachments to their parents. The same hands that once pushed them into hostels are left empty when they seek companionship in their later years. Consequently, many of these elderly parents find themselves sent to old age homes—ironically craving the very care, love, and presence they had once denied their own children.

To break this cycle, parenthood must shift from control to connection. It must evolve from authority to empathy. It's about guiding with love, not fear. It's about listening without judgment, allowing mistakes, and building mutual respect.

A child raised in such an environment becomes emotionally strong, more connected to family, and less likely to seek validation from the outside world. And when the time comes, they return that love with loyalty and care.

Because ultimately, what we sow in a child's early years is exactly what we harvest in our old age.

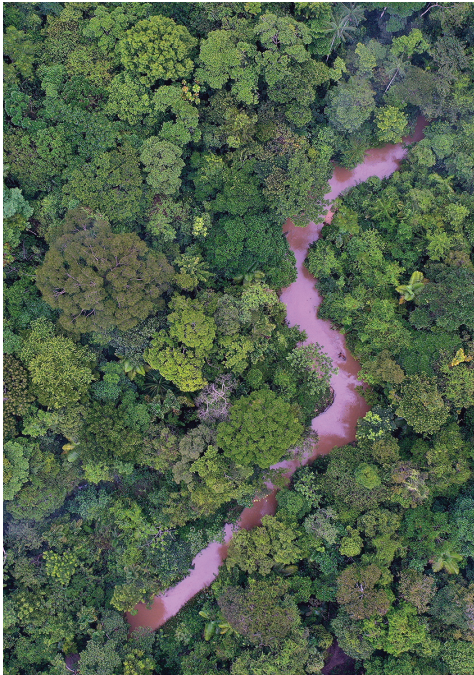
Email: haya.wani87@gmail.com

Eyes the world's forests from space



VIJAY GARG

The tropical forests of the world play an important role in protecting the earth from some of the worst effects of global warming, as they absorb a lot of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. According to an estimate they take about eight billion tonnes of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. These deforestation are often described as the green lungs of the earth, but deforestation and environmental degradation are weakening the role of deforestation. Carbon which was ever stored in very high amounts in forests is being poured back into the atmosphere. This is increasing the level of greenhouse gases. To tackle the effects of global warming in the future we need to know about the health of our tropical forests. For this, scientists plan to create detailed Udi maps of the world's most remote and most dense tropical forests. This work will be done by deploying a special radar scanner in space. This scanner is mounted in a spacecraft called the European Space Agency's Biomass, which will be launched from French Guyana to Earth's orbit on April 29. The radar of biomass is known as the P-band synthetic aperture radar. This type of radar has never been blown into space before. The spacecraft weighing 1.25 tonnes for the next five years will monitor the tropical rainforests of Africa, Asia and South America and study the vegetation below through the long wavelength signals of the radar. Data collected by Biomass will be used



to create unique 3D maps of forests. The large part of these forests is hidden from human sight. In these areas less than two per cent of sunlight reaches the forest floor. Yet Biomass will study these amazing forests in detail from a height of more than 600 kilometers. More importantly, this mission will help scientists calculate how much carbon is deposited on trees dunes and branches in forests. The mission will find out how the changes are taking place in the levels of carbon deposited in forests due to humans cutting trees and increasing the levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. It will also provide data about the rate at which biodiversity is being destroyed by clearing forests for mining and agriculture. Biomass will help us understand forests better.

Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational Columnist Street kour Chand MHR Malout Punjab



Sakeena Itoo emphasises wider awareness, improved accessibility at AIIMS Jammu Reviews functioning of AIIMS Jammu, hails institution's potential as model healthcare hub

■ HT News Network

VIJAYPUR (SAMBA), APRIL 17: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today emphasised on improving public accessibility and aggressive outreach campaign to aware people about wide range of medical care services being offered at AIIMS Jammu. The Minister made these remarks while chairing a meeting held to review the functioning of AIIMS Jammu. Deputy Commissioner, Samba, Rajesh Sharma; Executive Director and CEO AIIMS Jammu, Dr. Shakti Kumar Gupta; Director Coordination New GMCs, Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad; HoDs of different departments of AIIMS Jammu, Professors, doctors and other concerned officers were present in the meeting. During the meeting, Sakeena

assessed the current operational status of AIIMS Jammu besides reviewing progress on several ongoing works at the facility. She also discussed strategies for maximising awareness among the public about the facilities available at this premier health institution. Addressing the officers, the Minister emphasized on the transformative role that of AIIMS Jammu in the healthcare landscape of the region, adding that it is one of the finest institutes in terms of healthcare in North India after AIIMS Delhi. "AIIMS Jammu is not just a hospital or an academic institution, but it is a symbol of hope, a beacon of advanced healthcare for the people of Jammu and Kashmir", Sakeena stated. "Aware public about facilities and services available here so that they can utilize them to the fullest without moving outside for treatments", she said.



The Minister added that from state-of-the-art diagnostic labs to specialized treatment units and digital patient care systems, AIIMS Jammu is equipped to handle complex medical needs, yet maximum people are unaware of how to access the ser-

vices being offered here. Highlighting the role of AIIMS in acting as guiding force for other medical institutes of J&K, Sakeena Itoo called upon the Principals of all GMCs, including SKIMS Soura and other hospitals to maintain synergy with AIIMS Jammu for sharing ideas in terms of advanced medical care facilities for the benefit of common masses. The Minister, on the occasion, also assured the administration of AIIMS of all possible support and assistance from the government. She assured the CEO AIIMS that all the new proposals will be looked into for necessary approvals in due course of time. Earlier, in his presentation, Executive Director and CEO AIIMS Jammu, informed the Minister that this institute is providing advanced medical care facilities to the people of J&K. He informed that till date, AIIMS Jammu has successfully catered to healthcare needs of over 1,70,000 patients and the daily footfall of patients currently stands at approximately 1200 to 1500. He also informed the Minister that a Poison Information and Management Centre has been estab-

lished in the institute to provide round the clock poisoning and Management services to the people. He added that Centre for Advanced Genomics and Precision Medicine has also been established here which is a first of its kind facility in Northern India. It was also given out that AIIMS Jammu is equipped with 20 Specialty Departments and 12 Super-Specialty Departments besides the institute has implemented advanced systems like Patient Navigation System, Patient Referral System, Walk-in Patient Services, Swasth App Integration for seamless healthcare and other advanced facilities for the ease of common people. It was also informed in the meeting that the Blood Bank at AIIMS Jammu is being developed as a state-of-the-art facility, envisioned to be one of its kind in the region, with cutting-edge, high-end technology.

Mega awareness programme under Nasha Mukht Abhiyan held at Kulgam

Admin. adopting multipronged approach to curb this menace: DC Athar

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, APRIL 17: Municipal Council Kulgam, in collaboration with the District Administration Kulgam, today organized a mega awareness programme under Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan at the Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat Kulgam. The event was presided over by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan. Addressing the occasion, DC said that drugs not only ruin individual lives but also disrupt families and communities. He further highlighted various initiatives undertaken by the district administration to curb the menace of drug addiction, adding that a fully functional Drug De-addiction Centre is operational in Kulgam to provide support and rehabilitation to affected individuals. Resource persons also deliberated on the theme and shared valuable



insights on the psychological, social and legal aspects of substance abuse, as well as strategies for prevention and community engagement. Adding a creative touch to the programme, artists from Yadgar Music and Art presented a thought-provoking skit on drug abuse and its impact on youth and society. The perfor-

mance was well-received and left a strong impression on the audience. The event saw active participation from officials, students, civil society members, and the general public. ADC Viqar Ahmed Giri, JDP Zahid Sajjad, SDM, Bashir Ul Hassan and other officers also attended the programme.

Jammu region sees restoration of 95% power supply post windstorm

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 17: In the wake of a severe windstorm that disrupted the power supply across various parts of the Jammu region, the Managing Director (MD), Jammu Power Development Corporation Limited (JPDC), springing into action, launched a vigorous restoration drive, ensuring around the clock works to bring back the shattered power scenario on track. Soon after the storm subsided, the MD JPDC conducted a detailed assessment and directed the Chief Engineer and concerned Executive Engineers to initiate urgent restoration measures across all affected areas. The MD was apprised of major outages including the tripping of 220 KV Salal Circuit-1&2, 220 KV Jatwal Transmission line feeding Grid Station Gladni, 220 KV burn Kishanpur feeding grid station Burn, thereby affecting almost all 132KV/33KV Grid stations including 132KV Rajouri Grid, 132KV Canal Grid, 132KV Gladni Grid, Samba Ckt-2, Manwal Grid and a technical snag at the 220/132/33KV Grid Station in Ramban. To keep the public informed, the MD instructed all the concerned officials to actively update the restoration status of their respective areas through local awareness channels. He also coordinated with the Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, to mobilise the necessary machinery for clearance of uprooted trees obstructing the restoration works. Further, instructions were issued to all field teams to conduct physical patrolling to check line snapping and initiate restoration wherever possible, without waiting for complete restoration of the 220/132KV systems.

Key milestones achieved during the night included re-energising of 132KV Canal Grid, 132KV Kalakote Grid and 132KV Karra Grid, along with all lines from Kathua Grid, restoration of 132KV line from Udhampur, charging of one circuit of the Gladni Grid and restoration of nearly 90% of the transmission lines by around 12.30 pm.

SIM Card Vendors Under Scanner in Handwara to Curb Misuse

■ DR. AB QAYOOM



Handwara, Apr. 17: In a proactive measure to prevent the misuse of SIM cards and strengthen public safety, Handwara Police on Thursday carried out a comprehensive inspection of SIM card vendors across the district. The inspection drive focused on enforcing strict adherence to Know Your Customer (KYC) norms and verifying the authenticity of documentation provided during SIM issuance. Police teams visited multiple outlets to ensure that vendors were complying with all legal and regulatory requirements. A police officer emphasized that SIM vendors play a vital role in securing communication networks and must operate responsibly. "Any lapse in following KYC procedures can have serious security implications. Violators will face legal action, including fines, cancellation of licenses, and prosecution," the officer said. The police also urged the public to stay alert and report any suspicious activities involving SIM cards or unauthorized sales. The ongoing drive is part of a broader initiative to enhance community safety and prevent the misuse of digital communication channels.

Subject: Grant of registration of the proposed travel unit under the name and style M/S SNOW TRAILS TOUR AND TRAVELS SITUATED AT USMAN ABAD SHALTENG SRINAGAR

PUBLIC NOTICE

WHEREAS, I MR ZAHID SHAFI SHEIKH S/O MOHAMMAD SHAFI SHEIKH R/O USMAN ABAD SHALTENG LANE NO 3 SRINAGAR INTENDS TO APPLY IN THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM FOR REGISTRATION OF MY PROPOSED TRAVEL UNIT UNDER THE NAME AND STYLE M/S SNOW TRAILS TOUR AND TRAVELS SITUATED AT USMAN ABAD SHALTENG SRINAGAR KASHMIR UNDER TOURIST TRADE ACT 1978/82/2011-12.

WHEREAS, I WILL SUBMIT STATE SUBJECT/DOMICILE CERTIFICATE/QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATE/PAN CARD/ EXPERIENCE CERTIFICATE/CHARACTER CERTIFICATE [POLICE DEPARTMENT] BANK STATEMENT [MINIMUM BALANCE OF RS 10000] SITE PLAN AFFIDAVIT / RENT DEED DULY ATTESTED BY SUB REGISTRAR, PRINTING MATERIAL [LETTER HEAD/VISITING CARD], PHOTOGRAPH OF UNIT INDOOR AND OUTDOOR, AND 2 PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM AS PER PRESCRIBED CHECKLIST PRIOR TO REGISTRATION OF MY UNIT AS AN EXCURSION TOURISM [ADVENTURE TOUR OPERATOR.

NOW, AS PER REGISTRATION OF TOURIST TRADE ACT 1978/82/2011, BEFORE MY CASE IS PROCESSED FOR REGISTRATION BY THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY, THE MATTER IS HEREBY NOTIFIED FOR INFORMATION OF GENERAL PUBLIC / FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS / BANKS / ORGANISATIONS ETC. FOR OBJECTION, IF ANY, AND THE SAME SHOULD REACH TO THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR TOURISM REGISTRATION (EMAIL ID: DDTREG123@GMAIL.COM) WITHIN A PERIOD OF 07 DAYS FROM THE PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE IN LEADING LOCAL NEWSPAPER / NEWSPAPER OF THE VALLEY. NO OBJECTION BEYOND A PERIOD OF 07 DAYS SHALL BE ENTERTAINED.

آہ! غلام نبی بٹ نہ رہے
یہ خبر انتہائی دکھ کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ غلام نبی بٹ ولد غلام محمد بٹ
ساکنہ مائسم گاؤ کدل نزدیک جامع مسجد الجدیث گاؤ کدل سرینگر
مورخہ 16 اپریل 2025ء اپریل
بروز بدھوار اس دار فانی سے رحلت کر گئے۔ اللہ تعالیٰ مرحوم کو جنت الفردوس نصیب کرے۔ اس سلسلے میں تعزیت پڑی تین یوم تک
مائسم گاؤ کدل میرتج ہال میں ہوگی اس کے علاوہ کوئی اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی نہ ہوگی۔
المشیر
سوگواراں
7006086324

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my name FAYAZ AHMAD SHEIKH S/O LATE AB AHAD SHEIKH R/O AUTHOORA PAYEREN. Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040015729 wants to be transferred on my Mother's name MUKHTI BEGUM W/O LATE AB AHAD SHEIKH R/O AUTHOORA PAYEREN. 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...MUKHTI BEGUM
S/O...LATE AB AHAD SHEIKH
R/O AUTHOORA PAYEREN
DIST..... BARAMULLA

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR, KREERI
(Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer WAGOORA)/ chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of TARIQ AHMAD LONE S/O MOHD MAQBOOL LONE R/O SALOOSA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 10/03/2022 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

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 SAFAN RATHER & MOHAMMAD IRFAN RATHER S/O MOHAMMAD RAFI RATHER R/O WAGOORA Tehsil WAGOORA Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 02/11/2020 & 13/03/2019 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, Zainab Banoo, D/O Mohd Sarwar Wani, R/O Badwan Wanpora, Gurez, bearing Roll No. FW-II/551, appeared for the examination conducted by the Government AMT School, Srinagar in the year 2003. As per Notification No. SMF/31567-77, dated 20/10/2003, I successfully passed the said examination, securing 178 marks out of 350. However, I would like to bring it to the notice of the concerned authorities and the general public that I have not yet received my Diploma Certificate, despite the passage of several years. I have only been issued a Provisional Certificate. I kindly request the concerned authorities to take appropriate action regarding the issuance of my Diploma Certificate at the earliest.

Name: Zainab Banoo
D/O: Mohd Sarwar Wani
R/O: Badwan Wanpora, Gurez
Roll No.: FW-II/551

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that i have applied for my daughter's dob certificate Namely, Merhat Lateef D/O Lateef Ahmad Mir r/o Baghatpora Handwara. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection at Municipal committee Baramulla within a period of 07 days after that no objection will be accepted.

Name: MERHAT LATEEF DOB 07/09/2024
D/O LATEEF AHMAD MIR
R/O: BAGHATPORA TEHSIL HANDWARA DIST KUPWARA

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is inform to all general public through the medium of notice that i mohammad abass ganie s/o mohd akbar ganie R/o kripal pora payeen matipora that my daughter namely yasmeena abass is born on 20-11-2022 now i want to obtain dob certificate if any body have any objection regarding issuance of dob certificate he she the context of bdo singpora with in period of seven days

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
JAMMU AND KASHMIR SERVICES SELECTION BOARD (JKSSB)**
CPO Chowk, Panjtirthi, Jammu/Zamzam Complex Rambagh Srinagar.
www.jkssb.nic.in

NOTIFICATION

Subject: Result/Score-sheet of Written Test for the post of Tabla Assistant conducted 04.02.2025 - regarding.

Whereas, the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) conducted the OMR based Written Examination for the post of Tabla Assistant, advertised vide Notification No. 06 of 2020 under Item No. 181 on 04th February, 2025; and

Whereas, the Revised/Final Answer Key in respect of written examination held for the said post has been notified vide No. JKSSB-COEEXAM(UT)/6/2025-06 (7644391) dated: 16.04.2025; and

Now, therefore, in view of the above, the Result/Score-sheet, based on the performance of candidates who appeared in the Written Test for the post of Tabla Assistant, is hereby notified as Annexures "A" to this notification.

It is further notified that:

mere figuring in the result/score sheet shall not entitle a candidate to be called for document verification or figure in the select list and that he/she has to fulfil other eligibility conditions, as laid down and decision of the Board in this regard shall be final.

Jammu & Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) will call candidates falling in the consideration zone, based on the merit obtained by them for Document Verification. The schedule for Document Verification shall be notified separately.

Dated: 17-04-25
DIPK-489/25

Sd/-
(Reyaz Ahmad Malik) JKAS
Controller of Examinations
J&K Services Selection Board



DC Budgam inspects progress on 13-Km Sitharan-Tosamaidan Road, new building of PHC Lassipora Drang

■ HT News Network

BUDGAM, APRIL 17: In order to ensure better healthcare facilities and connectivity infrastructure in the district, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo today undertook a comprehensive tour of the Khag area where he inspected the newly constructed PHC building at Lassipora Drang area and reviewed the ongoing work on the vital 13-km Sitharan-Tosamaidan road project. During his visit to Lassipora Drang, DC inspected the shifting of the Primary Health Centre (PHC) to its

newly constructed permanent building. The new PHC building is equipped with essential healthcare facilities including OPD, dental section, laboratory, general wards and a registration section. Speaking on the occasion, DC said that the operationalization of the new healthcare infrastructure is a step forward in ensuring improved and accessible healthcare for the local population. He said the district administration is committed to completing all approved and sanctioned projects within stipulated timelines and dedicating them for public use at the earliest.



He directed the concerned authorities to ensure robust functioning of the new health centre and the delivery of quality health services to the patients. Later, DC interacted with a local deputation, attentively listened to their issues, and assured that all genuine demands would be taken up with relevant departments for prompt redressal. The tour also included an on-site inspection of the ongoing Sitharan-Tosamaidan road project, a 13-km stretch being constructed under NABARD funding. While reviewing the project, DC emphasized the transformative

potential of the road, stating that it will significantly enhance tourism opportunities in the picturesque Tosamaidan meadows and open up new livelihood avenues for the youth of Khag and adjoining areas. "The completion of this crucial road will not only improve local connectivity but also serve as a catalyst for tourism growth and economic upliftment of the region," the DC noted. He further observed progress made on the works including protection and drainage works at various stretches. He also said macadamization of the 7-km stretch will be started soon.

Pr. District & Sessions Judge chairs 2nd UTRC meeting at Ganderbal

■ HT News Network

GANDERBAL, APRIL 17: To ensure timely review and release of under-trial prisoners, promoting their rights and access to justice, Principal District & Sessions Judge (Chairman, District Legal Services Authority) Ganderbal, Abdul Nasir, chaired a 2nd meeting of the Under Trial Review Committee (UTRC) for the year 2025, in his office chamber here, today.



The meeting was attended by District Magistrate Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore; Senior Superintendent of Police, Ganderbal, Ragav S; Secretary DLSA, Ganderbal, Sheikh Babar Hussain; Public Prosecutor, Sessions Court, Ganderbal, DySP DAR Ganderbal, DySP, Central Jail Srinagar, Public Prosecutor, Additional Sessions Court, Ganderbal, Incharge Subsidiary Jail, Dignibal Ganderbal, Medical Officer, Central Jail, Srinagar, Deputy Legal Aid Defense Counsel and other concerned.

The Under Trial Review Committee (UTRC) convened a meeting to review the case of an under-trial prisoner shortlisted by the Secretary, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Ganderbal. After thorough consideration, the committee decided not to recommend the Under Trial Prisoner (UTP) for release based on the medical report and owing to the fact that the said under-trial is allegedly accused of NDPS Act involving commercial quantity. Despite the decision, the committee recommended constituting a Medical Board to further

examine the UTP's health condition and submit a report within one month as to whether the said UTP falls within the category of terminally ill or not. The committee suggested informing the Learned Trial court to direct the concerned hospital/ Central Jail Srinagar authorities to constitute a special Medical Board. This board will assess the UTP's health condition and provide a report to both the trial court as well as DLSA Ganderbal within a month's time for further action.

DC Kulgam visits District Hospital; urges executing agencies for early completion of projects

■ HT News Network

KULGAM, APRIL 17: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan today visited District Hospital Kulgam to take stock of ongoing health projects there. During the visit, DC passed instructions for expediting work in District Hospital including time bound completion of 50 bedded critical care unit, IHIP laboratory, additional block for maternity and child health, repair and renovation and face lifting of old portion of District Hospital building, New Ticketing counter and autopsy room and DNB hostel. He also interacted with patients and enquired about the facilities being provided in the hospital.

It is worth mentioning that under District Capex budget upgradation plan 2024, works (civil and allied) at an estimated cost of 2.61.72 lacs are currently going on in full swing to fill the infrastructural gaps. The DC was accompanied by ACR Kulgam, Tehsildar Hq, M.S.D.H Kulgam, DEIC team, Executive Engineer PWD Kulgam, AEEs and administrative staff of DH Kulgam. He also interacted with patients and enquired about the facilities being provided in the hospital. It is worth mentioning that under District Capex budget upgradation plan 2024, works (civil and allied) at an estimated cost of 2.61.72 lacs are currently going on in full swing to fill the infrastructural gaps. The DC was accompanied by ACR Kulgam, Tehsildar Hq, M.S.D.H Kulgam, DEIC team, Executive Engineer PWD Kulgam, AEEs and administrative staff of DH Kulgam.

DSEK Launches Mega Plantation Drive in Collaboration with J&K Social Forestry Department at GHSS Behnipora Rajwar

■ HT News Network



Kupwara | April 17, 2025: In a significant move towards promoting environmental consciousness and infrastructure development in far-flung areas, Director School Education Kashmir (DSEK), Dr. Gh. Nabi Itoo, inaugurated a Mega Plantation Drive at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Behnipora Rajwar, Handwara. The drive was organized in collaboration with the J&K Social Forestry Department, District Kupwara, Range Handwara. The initiative witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, faculty, civil society members, and government officials. Dr. Itoo was accompanied by Joint Director Hakeem Tanveer, Chief Education Officer Kupwara Mehraj ud Shah, District Education Planning Officer Mohd Iqbal Shah, Tehsildar Zachaldara Syed Basharat Hussain, Range Officer Handwara, EJCC Leader Gh. Rasool Geelani, ZEO Handwara, ZEO Rajwar, among others. As part of the plantation drive, Dr. Itoo personally planted a Chinara sapling within the school premises, symbolizing growth, longevity, and the cultural heritage of Kashmir.

A large gathering of parents, civil society members, and PRI representatives added to the grandeur of the event, expressing strong community support for such developmental initiatives. A key highlight of the day was the cultural and environmental awareness program presented by students. The program featured impactful skits and performances, organized under the guidance of NSS Unit Head, Pir Nisar Ahmad, who was appreciated for his efforts in engaging and inspiring the students. To encourage student participation, Dr. Itoo awarded a cash prize of 5,000 to the students who presented the best skit on plantation and environmental awareness. During his address, Dr. Itoo acknowledged receiving a detailed memorandum from local residents and parents regarding the developmental needs of the institution. He responded with a firm assurance. I personally commit to giving 100% to ensure that all genuine demands of this institution are fulfilled at the earliest.

Three MI Cases Handled Successfully at PHC Boniyar on 14/04/2025 by team

■ HT News Network

BONIYAR — Alarming Rise in Heart Attack Cases On 14th April 2025, Primary Health Centre (PHC) Boniyar faced a critical situation as three separate patients presented with symptoms of Myocardial Infarction (MI) within a span of a few hours. Swift and coordinated action by the dedicated medical team ensured timely stabilization, administration of DAPT (Dual Antiplatelet Therapy), and prompt referral to higher institutions for advanced management.

Case 1: A 58-year-old male reported to PHC Boniyar at 11:30 AM with severe chest pain and discomfort. ECG and other relevant tests were conducted as per protocol, confirming inferior wall MI. The patient was immediately administered the loading dose of DAPT, stabilized, and referred to a tertiary care facility for further treatment.

Case 2: Around 5:00 PM, a 46-year-old male from Trikanjan arrived at PHC Boniyar with complaints of giddiness and chest uneasiness. He was vitally stable, but ECG showed T wave inversions in anterior leads along with incomplete Left Bundle Branch Block (LBBB). Although the troponin test was initially negative, the patient was referred to GMC Baramulla and later shifted to SMHS Hospital, where he was diagnosed with anterior wall MI and 50% stenosis in the Left Anterior Descending (LAD) artery.

Case 3: At approximately 9:00 PM, a 48-year-old chronic smoker from Ahtishampora, Boniyar, presented with multiple episodes of vomiting and excessive sweating (diaphoresis). ECG confirmed anterior wall ST elevations. The patient was immediately treated with DAPT and supportive care and then referred for specialized cardiac treatment. Currently, one patient remains admitted at SKIMS, while another is undergoing treatment at SMHS Hospital. All patients were shifted via the free 108 ambulance service, ensuring timely and safe transport. These cases were handled efficiently by the committed team at PHC Boniyar, led by Dr. Syed Raza and Dr. Ayaz Mohi-U-Din Wani, under the overall supervision of Block Medical Officer (BMO) Boniyar, Dr. Raqia Shokat. BMO Boniyar commended the efforts of Tem Boniyar for their quick and skilled response and also extended gratitude to the public for their trust and cooperation. She noted that patients in the Boniyar region are highly cooperative, which plays a vital role in successful outcomes. Expressing concern over the increasing trend of heart-related cases, BMO Boniyar urged the public to prioritize their health by engaging in regular physical activity, avoiding self-medication, and reporting any symptoms — including chest pain, abdominal discomfort, or giddiness — without delay. She stressed that such symptoms should never be taken lightly. Dr. Raqia also highlighted that Medical Block Boniyar currently operates 36 health institutions, serving a population of approximately 75,000, with full dedication and a robust interlinked communication system to ensure timely treatment and diagnosis.

Road safety awareness programmes organised in various Higher Secondary Schools of Shopian

■ HT News Network

SHOPIAN, APRIL 17: In a significant step towards promoting road safety and responsible driving habits, a Road Safety Awareness programme was organized across three prominent educational institutions of District Shopian viz. GHSSs of Sedow, Kellar and Kanjiullar. The initiative aimed to sensitize students about traffic rules, safe commuting, and the life-saving importance of following road norms. Students, staff, and local stakeholders participated enthusiastically in the programme, which included awareness sessions, speeches by officials, and student-led rallies in their respective localities. Carrying banners and placards with powerful messages, students took to the streets to engage the local community. These rallies garnered strong support from residents, who appreciated the proactive involvement of students in spreading awareness. School authorities and invited officials addressed the gatherings, emphasizing the trans-



formative role of youth as ambassadors of change. They urged students to practice road safety personally and to act as influencers within their families and peer circles. This multi-school initiative forms a crucial part of the broader district-level campaign aimed at fostering a culture of safety, discipline, and responsibility among the younger generation.

Mission YUVA: Two-day Training programme for YUVA DOOT concludes at Kupwara

■ HT News Network

KUPWARA, APRIL 17: On the instructions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara and in collaboration with the district administration Kupwara, District Employment and Counseling Centre (DE&CC) Kupwara successfully conducted a two-day training programme under Mission YUVA.

The event aimed to empower and equip the nominated YUVA DOOTS with essential knowledge and skills to guide youth in career development and employment opportunities effectively. The programme commenced with a comprehensive overview of the training agenda provided by Arshid Qadir Bhat, Assistant Director Employment, Kupwara. He emphasized the significance of Mission YUVA in fostering youth employment and entrepreneurship in the district. An overview of various components of Mission YUVA, including skill development initiatives, job placement support, and government employment schemes



was presented by Employment Officer Kupwara. Career Counselling Officer, Kupwara deliberated on IEC techniques to cater to the underserved and un-aware populace of the district who want to start their own enterprises under Mission YUVA. Nodal Officer, JKEDI (Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute) highlighted entrepreneurial opportunities, startup support, and financial

assistance available under the Mission YUVA scheme which can be availed through the Mission YUVA App. The training included hands-on workshops, group discussions, and Q&A rounds to ensure active participation and practical understanding among the YUVA DOOTS. Participants were encouraged to collaborate with DECC Kupwara to implement learning at the grassroots level,

ensuring maximum outreach and impact. Functional Manager, DIC Kupwara and officials/officers from Agriculture Department Kupwara were also present at the training programme. Asstt Director DE&CC Kupwara urged YUVA DOOTS to serve as catalysts in bridging the gap between job seekers and employment opportunities. The event aimed to empower and equip the nominated YUVA DOOTS with essential knowledge and skills to guide youth in career development and employment opportunities effectively. The programme commenced with a comprehensive overview of the training agenda provided by Arshid Qadir Bhat, Assistant Director Employment, Kupwara. He emphasized the significance of Mission YUVA in fostering youth employment and entrepreneurship in the district. An overview of various components of Mission YUVA, including skill development initiatives, job placement support, and government employment schemes was presented by Employment Officer Kupwara.



Mission YUVA: Orientation Training imparted to Yuva Doots at Poonch

■ HT News Network

POONCH, APRIL 17: An Orientation-cum-Training Programme for Yuva Doots was successfully conducted under the auspices of Mission YUVA at the Multipurpose Hall of SKC GDC Poonch today. The event was chaired by District Development Commissioner Vikas Kundal.

In his address, the DDC underscored the critical importance of strategic planning and active coordination in fostering an entrepreneurial spirit among the youth. He urged the Yuva Doots to serve as effective communicators and facilitators, bridging the gap between the administration and aspiring young entrepreneurs at the grassroots level.

Deputy Director Employment Mohd Rafiq emphasized the vital role that Yuva Doots can play in identifying potential entrepreneurs, raising awareness about various self-employment schemes, and assisting them in accessing benefits under Mission YUVA.

The programme featured a comprehensive presentation delivered by Resource Persons from the Employment Department, who detailed the specific responsibilities of the Yuva Doots within the mission framework. The presentation provided valuable insights into the various components of Mission YUVA, including its objectives, expected outcomes, and key features such as: Interest Subvention Schemes: Financial incentives to support new businesses, Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC): A one-stop E-commerce marketing platform aimed at enhancing online business opportunities, District Level Small Business Development Units: Support units designed to assist small businesses at the district level, Sub-Divisional Level Business Help Desks: Local help desks to provide guidance and support to entrepreneurs. The session was designed to sensitize Yuva Doots about their roles and responsibilities in this ambitious initiative, which aims to promote entrepreneurship and self-employment among the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

The event concluded with an interactive Q&A session, encouraging Yuva Doots to engage actively and seek clarifications regarding their roles in implementing Mission YUVA.

Four Indian Grey Wolves trans-located from Gujarat to Jambu Zoo

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 17: Department of Wildlife Protection is delighted to announce the successful translocation of two pairs of Indian Grey Wolves to Jambu Zoo. The wolves were donated by Sakkarbaug Zoological Park, Junagadh, Gujarat in exchange for one pair of leopard cats from Jambu Zoo. The transportation was facilitated by Indian Railways, ensuring a smooth and safe journey for the wolves via Veterinary Passenger Units (VPU). Throughout the transit, utmost care was taken to minimize stress and ensure the well-being of the animals.

TSWOOI Provides Life Saving Insulin Kits To Diabetic Patient In Bhadarwah

■ HT News Network

Bhadarwah, April 17: As a Goodwill gesture and to play a role crucial to prove as a helping hand to the poor and needy, 'The Social Welfare Organisation Of India' (TSWOOI), a Non-Governmental Organization demonstrated its unwavering commitment by supporting a person suffering from diabetes. Belonging to an underprivileged family, the patient namely Salman Shah S/O Abdul Samad Shah R/O Village Thanala is inflicted with a life threatening disease Diabetes. Unbelievably financially not able to meet the expenses incurred on daily basis the cost of the life saving medicine, the family of the patient had lost the hope to survive the fatal disease. "By delivering essential medical aid to a diabetic patient in the remote village of Thanala, Bhadarwah, the patient has heaved a sigh of relief," Zaffar Hussain Wani-State Vice President TSWOOI informed. "The poor patient has received the much-needed insulin injection Kits at his doorstep, a gesture that underscores TSWOOI's dedication to serving those in dire need," he further added.

Pertinently, TSWOOI's initiative was spearheaded by the organization's state Vice President Zaffar Hussain Wani. He was accompanied by senior volunteer Umar Tak and other team members. "The group navigated challenging terrain to reach the Jammu and Kashmir's last backward village Thanala that lies on the border between Himachal Pardesh and J&K to ensure that Salman received his prescribed medication," Wani said and emphasized the organization's mission to reach out to the most vulnerable, especially those facing significant health challenges. It is equally worthwhile that Salman has been battling severely high blood sugar levels exceeding 450, a condition that necessitates twice-daily insulin injections as per medical advice. However, the financial constraints faced by Salman's family have made it increasingly difficult for them to afford this lifesaving treatment. Living in poverty, the family has struggled to keep up with the continuous medical expenses.

DDC Rajouri reviews development works amid whirlwind tour of Khawas Block

Assures relief to nomad family affected by thunderstorm

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, APRIL 17: District Development Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today conducted an extensive tour of Khawas Block to inspect ongoing developmental works and assess the status of public facilities.

During the visit, the District Development Commissioner inspected Government Higher Secondary School Khawas and the local hospital to review infrastructure and service delivery. He interacted with staff asking them to put in extra efforts to provide quality education and efficient healthcare services in remote areas.

The DDC also inspected the ongoing construction work of the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) Hostel in Khawas. Expressing satisfaction over the progress,



he directed the executing agency to complete the remaining work at the earliest and shift the students to the new facility soon after its completion to ensure better

accommodation and learning environment. Later, the District Development Commissioner took stock of the Khawas-Baila road project and emphasized timely

execution with adherence to quality standards to ensure improved road connectivity for the people of the area.

The DDC also visited the office of the Block Development Officer to review administrative functioning and public grievance redressal mechanism.

In a humanitarian gesture, the Deputy Commissioner met a nomadic resident whose livestock perished due to lightning amid recent Thunderstorm. Expressing sympathy, he assured the affected individual that the loss would be duly compensated in accordance with government norms. The visit reflects the administration's continued commitment to development, welfare, and responsive governance in far-flung areas. The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Kotranka Dil Mir, SP Operation Wajahat Hussain.

Chairman DDC, MLA Jammu North inaugurate AWAS PLUS 2.0 Workshop at Bhalwal

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 17: A one day block level workshop cum awareness programme on Awas Plus 2.0 (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Gramin) was today organized by the Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj at Block HQ Bhalwal to provide people valuable insights into the features, benefits and implementation strategies of the scheme (AWAS Plus 2.0). The Workshop was jointly inaugurated by Chairman District Development Council Bharat Bhushan and Member Legislative Assembly Jammu North Sham Lal Sharma. Ex PRI members of Block Bhalwal and a large number of PMAY-G beneficiaries of



Block Bhalwal participated in the workshop.

Block Development Officer, Dr Sunil Sharma, in his welcome address informed that 221 PMAY-G houses have been constructed in Block Bhalwal upto 31 March 2025 and 931 households in all the 24 Panchayats of Block Bhalwal have been surveyed by the surveyors (Panchayat Secretaries & Panchayat Account Assistants). Assistant Commissioner

Development Jammu, Dr Vikas Sharma presented a detailed overview of PMAY-G of District Jammu in general and Block Bhalwal in particular and informed the participants that April 30, 2025 is the last date for registration under AWAS Plus 2.0 (Both Self & Assisted Survey).

MLA Sham Lal Sharma, who was guest of honour, in his address congratulated 221 PMAY-G beneficiaries of Block Bhalwal for

getting their houses constructed and also thanked Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi for providing huge funds for homeless households. The MLA stressed upon the holistic development of the rural areas by providing them benefits under SBM-G, LPG under PMUY and provision of functional tap water (Har Ghar Jal) under Jal Jeevan Mission. He appealed to the Ex PRIs to involve themselves for identification of eligible PMAY-G beneficiaries in their respective Halqa Panchayats and no houseless person should be left over. He also applauded the working of officers and officials of Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj District Jammu in general and Block Bhalwal in particular.

SSP Jammu inaugurates 'Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System Lab cum training centre' at DPO Jammu

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 17: Senior Superintendent of Police Jammu Joginder Singh on Thursday inaugurated 'Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System Lab cum Training Centre' here at DPO Jammu.

Deputy SP Hqrs Jammu Farha Nishat, Senior Prosecuting Officer DPO Jammu Altaf Hussain, PA to SSP Jammu Inspector MK Chowdhary, and members of the Range Technical team, including ASI Dheeraj Kumar Magotra, Sgt Anil Raina, Sgt Vishal Bhandral and District Rollout Manager IRAD Jammu Mohit



Ahluwalia were present on the occasion. The SSP stated that the Lab is uniquely equipped and fully furnished with the latest equipment to control the CCTNS Project in Jammu District, as well as to impart training on various CCTNS related software. The SSP further

stated that the newly established lab will greatly facilitate the smooth functioning of CCTNS Projects in Jammu District by enabling efficient tracking of case disposals and records from various police stations. Furthermore, it will contribute to the digitization of policing by incorporating modern technologies such as e-Sakshya, e-FIRs, e-Summons, and electronic record-keeping. He said that the Lab was essential for the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System, which would provide training for IOs and CCTNS operators, and on the first day, 23 IOs and operators received.

ADGP Director F&ES (J&K) inaugurates Free Multi speciality Medical camp at Fire and Emergency Services HQRS Gandhinagar

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 17: Directorate of Fire and Emergency Services J&K Jammu, in collaboration with People's Hut Foundation and with support of Ujala Cygnus JK Medcity, organised a Day long medical camp here today at the Headquarters of Fire and Emergency Services Gandhi Nagar to provide essential medical check-ups and medicines to the Jawans, local population, particularly elders, women, and children. The camp was held as a part of ongoing Fire Service Week activity and under the "Mobile Health Clinic Program" of the People's Hut Foundation aimed at providing healthcare accessibility to citizens in the country, specifically J&K. Director Fire and Emergency Services J&K (ADGP) Alok Kumar inaugu-



rated the Camp. He appreciated the coordinated efforts of R.K Raina, Deputy Director Fire and Emergency Services and Dr. Manju, Medical Officer Gandhinagar Hqrs F&ES Jammu and Kanwal Peshin Divisional Fire Officer for making it grand and result oriented. A total of 218 Patients were treated in the camp and diagnostic services were availed by 184 Patients. The initiative was widely appreciated by the communities.

Shri Amarnathji Yatra-2025 Labour Department commences registration of Service Providers

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 17: The Labour Department of Jammu and Kashmir today commenced the registration process for service providers participating in the Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2025. The registration process was formally launched by the Labour Commissioner of Jammu and Kashmir, Charandeep Singh.

The programme was attended by Deputy Labour Commissioner Central/Jammu/Kashmir, Assistant Labour Commissioners (ALCs) virtually along with a large number of service providers, who connected from their respective designated locations across the Union Territory. The registration drive is specifically meant for essential support personnel involved in the Yatra, such as pony wallas, palkiwallas, pithuwallas and hawkers, who play a crucial role in assist-



ing pilgrims during the sacred journey. The registration process is being conducted online through the portal of the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board, in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Board. The entire process is fully digital

and streamlined, ensuring transparency and convenience for all stakeholders. During the session, the Labour Commissioner engaged directly with the service providers, who brought forth several concerns and suggestions related to their work

and welfare. The Labour Commissioner assured them that all genuine grievances would be addressed on priority, and that the department is committed to ensuring fair and efficient facilitation of their services.

"This registration process is a key component of our operational readiness for the Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2025," Commissioner said and added "The contributions of these service providers are invaluable, and we aim to ensure their voices are heard and their needs are met."

The Labour Commissioner has appealed to all eligible service providers to complete their registration at the earliest through their respective ALC offices. He also urged for early registration to avoid any last-minute rush or procedural inconvenience, ensuring a smooth and hassle-free experience for both service providers and the administration.



DDC assesses progress of Jal Jeevan Mission Projects in Reasi district

HT News Network

REASI, APRIL 17: District Development Commissioner Nidhi Malik, who is also Chairperson of the District Jal Jeevan Mission, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) initiatives in the district.

The meeting focused on physical and financial progress, status of completed works, Har Ghar Jal Certifications, number of water quality tests conducted, geo-tagged documentation, and submission of Action Taken Reports.

A detailed presentation was delivered, highlighting that out of 121 Water Supply Schemes sanctioned under JJM in Reasi district, 73 have been completed. A scheme-wise and subdivision-wise analysis was conducted to identify implementation bottlenecks and track progress. The DDC emphasised the importance of



timely and quality execution of all works. She issued strict directives for action against contractors causing unwarranted delays and instructed all Executive Engineers to conduct regular field visits for inspection and monitoring. She further

directed the Superintending Engineer and concerned Executive Engineers to submit detailed status reports for each scheme.

Special instructions were given to Executive Engineer Jal Shakti, Dharmari, to

coordinate closely with SDM Mahore to address local challenges and ensure early completion of pending and non-functional schemes in the Mahore sub-division.

The DDC sought written explanation from both Executive Engineers for their failure to commission the water supply works under the Jal Jeevan Mission. Despite repeated meetings, clear directions, and multiple extensions of the target deadlines, the work remains incomplete, depriving local residents of access to safe and adequate drinking water. The DDC has expressed serious concern over the continued inaction and has demanded a prompt and satisfactory response from the concerned officer.

The DDC highlighted that the meeting underscored the administration's commitment to achieving 100% functional tap water connections under the Jal Jeevan Mission in a timely and efficient manner.

DDC reviews implementation of PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana in Kishtwar District

HT News Network



KISHTWAR, APRIL 17: A review meeting to assess the implementation and progress of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana was held today here with District Development Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan in the chair. At the outset, the Executive Engineer JPDCL briefed the District Development Commissioner on the current status of applications received and consumer registrations under the scheme. While reviewing the progress, the District Development Commissioner directed all Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) of the government departments to actively publicize the scheme. He emphasized seamless access to loan services by facilitating the interested persons in registrations and linking with banks. The DC also laid special emphasis on achieving visible results, including in cases of slackness. Furthermore, he instructed the Executive Engineer to widely circulate the step-by-step procedure for availing the scheme from registration to vendor selection, bank linkage, and finally installation and commissioning. The meeting was attended by CPO Shahnawaz Bali; ACR Idrees Lone; SDM Marwah Mohd. Ashraf; SDM Chatroo Nayeem Ur Rahman; DSWO Zubair Ahmed; Dy. Registrar Cooperative/EO Municipality Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal; AD FCS & CA Shafqat Ali Keen; Executive Engineer JPDCL Er. Latif Wani besides others. The meeting was attended by CPO Shahnawaz Bali; ACR Idrees Lone; SDM Marwah Mohd. Ashraf; SDM Chatroo Nayeem Ur Rahman.

National Tobacco Control Programme Divisional Level sensitization Workshop organized for District Programme Managers cum Consultants of CSSs

HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 17: Divisional level Sensitization workshop for District Programme Managers cum Consultants of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes was today organized here in Conference Hall Directorate of Health Services under the aegis of National Tobacco Control Programme.

The workshop, held under the supervision and guidance of Director Health Services Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar, was attended by 40 government functionaries from across Jammu Division. The participating officials were sensitized regarding the Epidemiology and Burden of Tobacco, Tobacco Control Laws including COTPA 2003, WHO FCTC and PECA 2019.

The deliberation further focused on Tobacco Free Educational Institutions and Tobacco Free Villages initiatives of Govern-



ment of India which aim to reduce the tobacco use at grassroots level. The speakers were Divisional Nodal Officer, National Tobacco Control Programme Dr. Mridula Singh and Divisional Coordinator Shweta Raina. National Tobacco Control Programme is being implemented in all Districts of J&K, with the

aim to reduce environmental exposure to Tobacco, reduce the tobacco consumption in the masses and promote quitting amongst the youth and masses. Tobacco Cessation services are being provided to all desirous of quitting, free of cost in all District Hospitals in Jammu Division. Divisional level Sensitization

workshop for District Programme Managers cum Consultants of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes was today organized here in Conference Hall Directorate of Health Services under the aegis of National Tobacco Control Programme.

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DDC Udhampur hands over keys of e-rickshaws to progressive fishermen under PMMSY

HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, APRIL 17: District Development Commissioner Saloni Rai today handed over keys and ice boxes of three-wheeler e-rickshaws to progressive fishermen of the district under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana.

While interacting with the beneficiaries, the District Development Commissioner congratulated them and highlighted the Government's continued efforts to support the fisheries sector. She informed that the Department of Fisheries, besides generating employment through the construction of carp ponds, trout Raceways and Backyard Mini-RAS units, is also extending financial and logistical assistance to fish farmers and fishermen by providing them with three-wheeler e-rickshaws.

She added that this initiative aims to strengthen the marketing and transportation infrastructure for



fish and fish products. The provision of e-rickshaws will enable the fishermen to transport their produce more efficiently to nearby markets, while the ice boxes will ensure the freshness and quality of the fish is maintained during transit, the DC added. The beneficiaries expressed heartfelt gratitude to the government and the District Administration for this support, which will significantly enhance their income-generating capacities and improve livelihoods. The beneficiaries expressed heartfelt gratitude to the government and the District Administration for this support.

DDC reviews patient care scenario at Raja Sukhdev Singh District Hospital Poonch

HT News Network

POONCH, APRIL 17: District Development Commissioner Vikas Kundal reviewed the ongoing progress and activities at Raja Sukhdev District Hospital at a meeting held today in the Meeting Hall of the DC Office complex.

The DDC initiated the meeting with a comprehensive evaluation of achievements under various health schemes, focusing on the hospital's functioning, addressing issues and grievances related to the department, upgrading infrastructure, and enhancing healthcare services for patients.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) and Medical Superintendent (MS) of the Hospital provided a detailed briefing on the health services and achievements recorded by the hospital.

The Deputy Commissioner assessed different operational aspects, including services offered in outpatient (OPD) and inpatient departments (IPD), major and minor surgeries, laboratory tests, institutional deliveries, 108 ambulance services, and staff rationalization. The meeting also addressed issues projected at different platforms with a commitment to bring in further improvement in the services. The DDC directed to submit a monthly report on the 108 ambulance services provided by health institutions in the district by tomorrow. He further instructed doctors to prescribe only generic medicines with names written in capital letters. To rationalize staff, the DDC asked for proposing a rotation-wise system for underserved areas and instructed the cancellation of any staff attachments.

ADC reviews arrangements for Hajj Pilgrimage 2025 at Kishtwar

HT News Network



KISHTWAR, APRIL 17: A meeting to review the arrangements for the Hajj Pilgrimage 2025 was held today under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Pawan Kotwal. The Hajj Incharge apprised the ADC that a total of 33 pilgrims from District Kishtwar will be undertaking the Hajj pilgrimage this year. The pilgrims are scheduled to depart from Kishtwar to Hajj House Srinagar on May 12, 2025.

The meeting deliberated on various logistical and administrative aspects related to the smooth conduct of the pilgrimage. The ADC urged the Police Authorities to ensure adequate security arrangements for the pilgrims.

It was informed that vaccination for the pilgrims is scheduled from April 20, 2025 to April 25, 2025. The Chief Medical Officer was directed to provide an ambulance along with a doctor to accompany the pilgrims to the Hajj House Srinagar.

The ADC also reviewed other necessary arrangements including currency exchange facilities, transportation, and boarding arrangements at Islamia Faridia School.

The ADC emphasized coordinated efforts among all departments to ensure hassle-free and safe travel for the pilgrims.

The meeting was attended by ACR Idrees Lone; SDM Chatroo Nayeem Ur Rahman; Dy. Registrar Cooperative Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal; Tehsildar Nirbhay Sharma; Dy. SP Headquarters Dr. Ishan Gupta; Hajj Incharge, members of the Hajj Committee and officials from banks and other concerned departments.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Awareness Programme on Menstrual Hygiene held at G&B Girls Hostel Doda

HT News Network

DODA, APRIL 17: An awareness programme on Menstrual Hygiene was today organised at Gujjar and Bakarwal Girls Hostel by Mission Shakti, Social Welfare Department under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative.

The programme was graced by Gender Specialist at the Hub for Empowerment of Women, Dr. Sanya Khan and Centre Administrator at One Stop Centre (OSC) Sandiya Thakur along with the warden and staff of the hostel.

Dr. Sanya Khan sensitised adolescent girls about the biological and emotional changes during puberty, especially menstruation. She emphasized the importance of maintaining proper menstrual hygiene to prevent long-term health issues and stressed the need to normalise menstruation and eliminate the social taboos attached to it. She also highlighted the significance of nutrition and recommended iron-rich foods and regular physical activity for better menstrual health. Sanitary pads were distributed among the girls during the session.

Sandiya Thakur elaborated on the importance of personal hygiene and health awareness during adolescence and briefed the participants about the objectives of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. She discussed its role in combating gender discrimination, improving the sex ratio, and ensuring the safety and education of the girl child.

She also spoke about the services offered by the One Stop Centre (OSC), which was established in 2017 to provide 24-hour support to women, including police assistance, medical aid, temporary shelter, counselling, and legal support.

Sandiya Thakur also threw light on sensitive issues such as teenage pregnancy and underage marriages, stressing the legal consequences of marrying a girl under 18 years of age, even with her consent. She encouraged the use of emergency helpline numbers and urged the attendees to spread awareness about the various government schemes and support systems available for women's empowerment and welfare.

Empowering MSMEs at the grassroots: JKTPO hosts 2nd District-Level RAMP Awareness Workshop at Reasi

HT News Network

REASI, APRIL 17: The Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) today successfully conducted the second district-level awareness workshop under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme at DC Office, Reasi. The workshop underscored the J&K Government's resolve to build a robust MSME ecosystem and drive inclusive economic growth at the grassroots.

The event was held under the guidance of Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department, Vikramjit Singh and Managing Director, JKTPO Sudarshan Kumar. It was organized in collaboration with the Grant Thornton-led State Project Implementation Unit (SPIU) and District Industries Centre (DIC), Reasi. General Manager, DIC Reasi Kishor Singh Karoch addressed the participants, emphasizing the vital role of MSMEs in the district's economic develop-



ment. He encouraged MSME units and stakeholders to actively leverage the RAMP scheme's support mechanisms for enhancing productivity, market access, and institutional linkages. This workshop is part of a series of outreach programs planned across the Union Territory to build awareness and capacity among MSMEs, stakeholders and implementing agencies under the RAMP initiative. Jammu and Kashmir has been allotted 74.03 crore under the RAMP

scheme, comprising 66.63 crore from the Central Government and 7.40 crore from the UT's contribution. The Department of Industries and Commerce is steering the implementation, with JKTPO serving as the Nodal Agency for seamless coordination and execution. During the event, the SPIU team delivered a comprehensive presentation outlining the approved interventions under RAMP in J&K. Key highlights included the formalization of MSMEs through Udyam.

**Vadra appears before ED for third day in alleged land grab case; says govt misusing central agencies****AGENCIES**

NEW DELHI, APR 17 (UNI)

For the third consecutive day on Thursday, businessman Robert Vadra appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) here for questioning in connection with the alleged land grab case in Haryana.

He was accompanied by his wife and Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

Speaking to the media, Vadra said, "These are the same questions I was asked back in 2019, and I've already provided all the answers. There's nothing new here."

Alleging that the government is misusing the central agencies, he added, "This is how the government runs its campaigns – by misusing agencies. But we have the strength to tolerate it, and we will continue to stand strong."

704 climbers permitted to climb Nepal peaks this spring**AGENCIES**

KATHMANDU, APR 17 (UNI)

Nepal has issued permits to 704 climbers, including 156 females, for ascending 21 mountains in the country during the spring climbing season which runs through May, an official said on Thursday.

Among them, 253 males and 58 females were allowed to scale Mount Qomolangma, the world's tallest peak at 8,848.86 meters, which straddles Nepal and China.

"We have been receiving applications daily, mainly for Mount Qomolangma," Liladhar Awasthi, director at the Department of Tourism, told Xinhua.

Nepal has earned 3.84 million U.S. dollars in revenues by issuing the permits, with 3.38 million dollars from Mount Qomolangma alone.

The Nepali government is to raise foreign nationals' climbing fee for Mount Qomolangma from 5,500 dollars to 7,500 dollars from September 1, when the autumn climbing season starts.

Over 5,500 Afghan refugees return from Pakistan, Iran in single day**AGENCIES**

KABUL, APR 17 (UNI)

A total of 1,072 Afghan families comprising 5,671 people returned to their homeland from neighbouring Iran and Pakistan on Wednesday, Afghanistan's High Commission for Addressing Returnees Problems said in a statement Thursday.

According to the statement, the refugees returned home via the Torkham border crossing in eastern Nangarhar province, the Spin Boldak border crossing in southern Kandahar province, and the Islam Qala border point in western Herat province.

Reportedly, about seven million Afghan refugees, most of whom are undocumented migrants, are currently living abroad, with most living in Afghanistan's neighbouring Pakistan and Iran.

The Afghan interim government has been repeatedly calling upon Afghan refugees to end living abroad as refugees and return home to contribute to the rebuilding of their war-torn homeland.

Kharge distances himself from Karnataka caste survey**AGENCIES**

KALABURAGI, APR 17 (UNI)

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday distanced himself from the ongoing controversy surrounding the caste survey in Karnataka, stating that the matter falls within the purview of the State Government.

Speaking to reporters here, he said, "It is left up to the State Government. In every state, they will decide on their own. I have not seen the report or what was discussed in the Cabinet."

Kharge's remarks come amid a political row over the caste-based population survey conducted by the Siddaramaiah-led government, with the Opposition demanding greater transparency and accusing the ruling Congress of using the data for electoral gains.

While the State Government has maintained that the survey aims to ensure equitable distribution of resources and representation, the final report has yet to be officially released, sparking speculation and criticism from various quarters.

CRPF role vital in eliminating Naxalites : Amit Shah**AGENCIES**

NEEMACH, APRIL 17 (UNI)

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Thursday that the Centre has resolved to completely eliminate Naxalites from the country by March 31, 2026 and that the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) would play an important role in achieving the objective.

Shah participated in a parade marking the 86th Central Reserve Police Force Day at Neemuch district headquarters of Madhya Pradesh. Chief Minister Dr Mohan Yadav, CRPF Director General Gyanendra Pratap Singh and other senior officers were also present at the



event.

In his address, Shah referred to the glorious history of CRPF officers and jawans. He thanked the personnel of CoBRA force (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action), saying Naxalites were now confined to only four

districts in the country because of the force's bold actions. He expressed confidence that the Left-wing insurgency would be completely wiped out by March 31 next year. The Centre's confidence stemmed from the CRPF capabilities, he said.

India's defence sector moving ahead on path of self-reliance: Rajnath**AGENCIES**

NEW DELHI, APR 17 (UNI)

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday said India's defence sector is moving ahead on the path of self-reliance, and the country is also ready to play a very important role in making global supply chains resilient.

Speaking at a Defence Conclave here, he said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the revival and strengthening of the defence sector has been one of the biggest priorities for the government.

He stated that the government's first and foremost challenge was to change the mindset that India would



simply import to meet its defence needs. "India will reduce its dependency on imports and create a defence industrial complex that will not only meet India's needs but will also strengthen the potential of defence

exports," he emphasised. "Today, while India's defence sector is moving ahead on the path of self-reliance, it is also ready to play a very important role in making global supply chains resilient," the Minister emphasised.

SC issues Interim Order on Waqf Amendment Bill: Union assures no appointments under Section 9 and 14**AGENCIES**

NEW DELHI, APR 17 (UNI)

In a significant development during the ongoing constitutional challenge to the Waqf (Amendment) Act, the Supreme Court on Thursday recorded the Union Government's assurance that no appointments will be made to the Waqf Council or Waqf Boards under Sections 9 and 14 of the Act until further notice.

Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta appearing for the Union sought time to respond to the writ petitions and assured the Court that no appointments would be made under the contested



provisions in the interim period.

The Supreme Court took this assurance on record.

A Bench comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna, Justice Sanjay Kumar and Justice K.V. Viswanathan also passed interim directions that no existing waqf, including those regis-

tered, declared by notification, or established by long-standing user shall be denotified or subjected to change of Collector until the next date of hearing.

The Chief Justice clarified that this blanket protection also includes "waqf by user," as urged by senior advocate Kapil Sibal during the hearing.

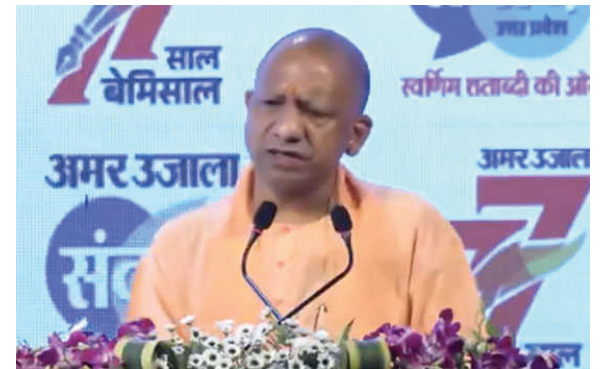
Yogi slams opposition over 'silence' on Bengal's Murshidabad**AGENCIES**

LUCKNOW, APRIL 17 (UNI)

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday severely criticised opposition parties over their "silence" on recent incidents in Murshidabad in West Bengal following violent protests against the Waqf Act and other communal incidents in Bangladesh.

While speaking at an event titled 'Uttar Pradesh: Towards a Glorious Century' at Indira Gandhi Pratisthan here, the CM said that the Opposition's "lack of response" has completely exposed their double standards.

He hit out at opposition for issues such as corruption, casteism and mafia rule during previous



regimes. "The people who were involved in scams and built hotels in London using public money are the ones who looted the state and divided people along caste lines," he said.

"Those who built their political empires on corruption, casteism, mafia power and dynastic politics are now silent on incidents like Murshidabad,"

said the Chief Minister.

Highlighting the progress made under his leadership in UP, he said infrastructure development and the elimination of mafia rule were the thrust areas of the BJP rule. The state is much safer and more peaceful, he added.

The CM alluded to the years when he alleged mafias controlled districts.

Mamata expresses relief after SC order**AGENCIES**

KOLKATA, APR 17 (UNI)

West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday expressed relief after the Supreme Court-keeping students' interests in mind - ruled that assistant teachers who were not 'tainted' but lost their jobs following an earlier court order can continue teaching.

"We are relieved that the Supreme Court has given us time till December 31. We were really worried about the salary of the teachers but in this present condition they will continue to get their salary. We had also talked about an alternative way," the chief minister said in a press conference at the state secretariat.

"I had said that we would ensure those who



lost their jobs do not face any hardship. We have gained some time. The matter won't drag on until 2026. I hope it will be resolved within this year. I also hope we won't make any mistakes," she added.

The chief minister was referring to the court directive that instructed the state government to begin a new recruitment process by May 31 and to

complete it by December 31. Earlier the apex court had given three months to complete the recruitment process.

However, this order is limited to assistant teachers. The bench clarified that in the recruitment of Group C and D staff, there was widespread malpractice, making those appointments ineligible for similar relief.

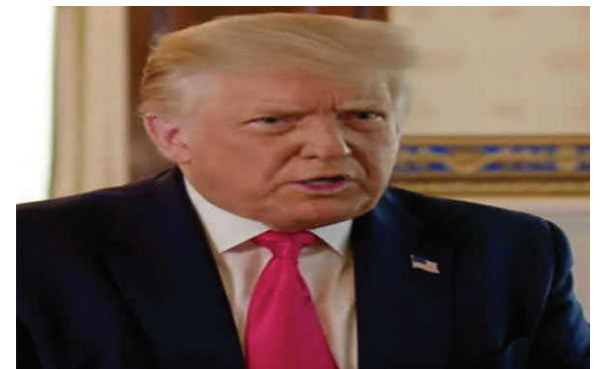
EU expects Trump-Meloni meeting to clear US tariffs demands: Reports**AGENCIES**

MOSCOW, APR 17 (UNI)

European Union (EU) trade negotiators hope that Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's trip to Washington and her meeting with US President Donald Trump can shed light on the US tariffs demands, The Financial Times reported on Thursday.

The bloc's negotiators reportedly complained that they had not been provided with US demands and are now hoping that Meloni's trip will bring some clarity, the paper said.

At the same time, Italy's former ambassador to NATO, Stefano Stefanini, believes that Meloni "has an advantage on the



EU mediators" as she is talking to "the decider," and is on good terms with Trump.

Unnamed diplomats from four EU states told the paper that Italy's soft stance on reciprocal tariffs is criticized by some member states, but pointed out that Meloni's good relationship with Trump can be valuable.

The Italian prime minister publicly supported Brussels' offer to drop all tariffs on industrial goods if Washington does the same, however the diplomats briefed on the talks reportedly said that the US was not interested in reducing the tariffs and that the declared 10% tariff rate is likely to stay.

Pakistan COAS Gen Asif Munir expresses staunch support for Two Nation Theory**AGENCIES**

ISLAMABAD/NEW DELHI, APR 17 (UNI)

Spouting the usual anti-India rhetoric, Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff Gen Asim Munir expressed his staunch support for the 'Two Nation Theory', and described the Indian territory of Jammu and Kashmir as Pakistan's "jugular vein".

In his address to overseas Pakistanis, the COAS expressed his support for

the 'Two Nation Theory' which led to the Partition of India in 1947 on the premise that Hindus and Muslims can't co-exist, leading to the creation of Pakistan.

"We are two nations, not one. Our forefathers thought we are different from Hindus in every possible aspect of life – our religions, customs, traditions, thoughts and ambitions," Munir said.

While the Two Nation Theory was debunked in



1971 upon Bangladesh's liberation from Pakistan, Islamabad continues to use it as a tool of governance and its ideological identity to distract the masses from the econom-

ic instability plaguing the nation.

Munir also reiterated Islamabad's usual line regarding J&K, calling Kashmir the country's "jugular vein" and pledg-

ing Pakistan's unwavering support to what he described as the "heroic struggle" of Kashmiri people. "It was our jugular vein, it will be our jugular vein, we will not forget it," he said, adding that Pakistan will never abandon its support for Kashmir.

The COAS' comments came days after India's UN envoy Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish termed Pakistan's statements on Kashmir as "unwarranted", and reiterated New

Delhi's position on J&K, saying that the region "was, is, and will always remain an integral part of India".

The Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal today dismissed Gen Munir's statement on Kashmir, and said: "How can anything foreign be in a jugular vein? This is a union territory of India. Its only relationship with Pakistan is the vacation of illegally occupied territories by that country."

Blood test could detect Parkinson's disease before symptoms emerge

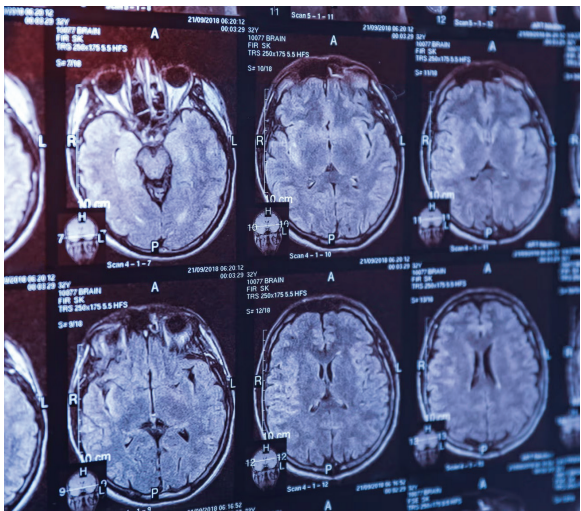
AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Researchers have developed a simple and "cost-effective" blood test capable of detecting Parkinson's disease long before symptoms emerge, according to a study.

About 153,000 people live with Parkinson's in the UK, and scientists who undertook the research said the test could "revolutionise" an early diagnosis of Parkinson's disease, "paving the way for timely interventions and improved patient outcomes".

Parkinson's is a progressive neurological condition in which nerve cells in the brain are lost over time. This leads to a reduction of the chemical dopamine which plays an important part in controlling movement.

This new test, which the Times reports costs £80, analyses small pieces of



genetic material known as transfer RNA fragments (tRFs) in the blood, focusing on a repetitive RNA sequence that accumulates in Parkinson's patients.

It also looks at a parallel decline in mitochondrial RNA, which deteriorates as the disease progresses. Mitochondria exist inside cells and generate energy.

By measuring the ratio

between these biomarkers, researchers said the test "offers a highly accurate, non-invasive, rapid and affordable diagnostic tool, providing hope for early interventions and treatments that could change the course of the disease".

On a scale where a score of 1 indicates a perfect test while 0.5 shows the test is no better than flipping a

coin, the test scored 0.86, the Times reported.

The best clinical tests presently used on patients showing early signs of the disease scored 0.73, according to the study published in the journal Nature Aging.

The test uses the same PCR technology used during the pandemic to confirm Covid cases. It works by amplifying the genetic material being targeted, which allows it to be detected.

"This discovery represents a major advancement in our understanding of Parkinson's disease and offers a simple, minimally invasive blood test as a tool for early diagnosis," said Prof Hermona Soreq of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, who supervised the study. "By focusing on tRFs, we've opened a new window into the molecular changes that occur in the earliest stages of the disease."

Common respiratory condition fuels death risk by 3x in adults up to a year: Study

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Adults with respiratory syncytial virus-associated acute respiratory infection (RSV-ARI) are likely to be at a 2.7-fold higher risk of death within one year, warned a study.

RSV-ARI refers to a group of illnesses caused by respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) -- a common and highly contagious virus that primarily affects the respiratory tract.

The study presented at the Congress of the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID Global 2025) in Austria, is based on an analysis of data from 5,289 adults (over 18 years) diagnosed with RSV-ARI between 2011 and 2022 in Denmark. They were compared to 15,867 matched controls from the general population and followed up to a year after RSV-ARI onset. "One of the most striking



findings from this study was the prolonged and significant impact of RSV-ARI," said lead study author, Maria Joao Fonseca, a researcher.

"Even after the acute phase, patients continued to experience worse outcomes compared to the general population. This underscores just how serious and enduring the

effects of RSV-ARI can be," she added.

While the impact of RSV on infants and young children is well-documented, it can also lead to serious complications in adults, including pneumonia and chronic respiratory disease.

The findings underscore the significant, yet often under-recognised,

long-term health and economic burden of RSV-ARI in adults, particularly among those with underlying conditions such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and asthma.

In addition to the increased risk of death, the study showed that adults with RSV also experience exacerbations of COPD and asthma, with increases in hospitalisation and intensive care unit.

"Exacerbations of COPD and asthma were the most common adverse clinical outcomes. These pre-existing conditions are already challenging in themselves, and RSV-ARI exacerbates their severity," Fonseca said, noting that the condition also raised healthcare costs.

She urged healthcare to pay "closer attention to patients with these underlying conditions to prevent further, potentially life-threatening complications".

Doctors should lead Fit India Movement, promote wellness, preventive care: Union Minister

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Doctors are torchbearers of the Fit India Movement, said Union Minister of Labour and Employment, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, asking them to promote wellness and preventive care in the country.

Mandaviya said this at the second graduation ceremony of ESIC Medical College and Hospital, Faridabad, held at Bharat Ratna C. Subramaniam Auditorium in New Delhi.

Addressing the graduating medical students, Mandaviya emphasised the importance of healthcare professionals in the development of a healthy nation.

"A healthy citizen is the foundation of a healthy society, and hence, a healthy nation," he said.

"Doctors are the torchbearers of the Fit India Movement, playing a critical role in promoting wellness, preventive care, and



healthy habits among the population," he added.

The Union Minister also advised the graduate students on dedication, ethical practice, and service to the community, urging them to continue their journey with passion and integrity.

Further, he reminded them that medals are only milestones, but the true

reward lies in the lives they will touch.

"Even in moments where you don't 'win,' learning itself becomes a form of victory," Mandaviya said.

He also urged the new doctors to serve in rural and underserved areas, understand ground realities, and ensure healthcare remains accessible,

affordable, and ethical.

Launched in August 2019 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Fit India Movement aims to make fitness an integral part of citizens' daily lives by integrating behavioural changes and moving towards a more physically active lifestyle.

Reminding the country's aim to be Viksit Bharat by 2047, Mandaviya noted that "the vision is not just the Prime Minister's dream, it is the shared duty of 140 crore Indians". He also highlighted the central role doctors will play in this transformation. Every consultation and every life saved, he noted, contributes to national productivity and progress.

During the graduation ceremony, a total of 447 students including 100 students each from the 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 batch, and the first batch of 47 postgraduate students graduated.

New strategy may enable accurate cancer monitoring from blood tests alone

AGENCIES
NEW YORK

US researchers have found a new method that may help in monitoring cancer from blood tests more easily and accurately.

The study, led by researchers from Weill Cornell Medicine and the New York Genome Center, in the US, showed that the method may be useful for monitoring disease status in patients following treatment.

The method, based on whole-genome sequencing of DNA, also represents an important step toward the goal of routine blood test-based screening for early cancer detection.

"We're now entering an era of low-cost DNA sequencing, and in this study, we took advantage of that to apply whole-genome sequencing techniques that in the past would have been considered wildly impractical," said Dr. Dan Landau, Pro-



fessor of Medicine, at Weill Cornell Medicine.

In the study, published in the journal Nature Methods, the team focussed on an error-correcting method in a low-cost commercial sequencing platform.

The error-correction method makes use of the redundant information in natural two-stranded DNA.

The researchers found it enabled a very high "depth" of coverage -- a measure of the sequencing

data quality -- allowing the team to detect extremely low concentrations of circulating tumour DNA. It also greatly improved the accuracy of the technique.

Blood-test-based "liquid biopsy" technology for early cancer detection and monitoring of cancer burden in patients could revolutionise cancer care, said the researchers.

The team demonstrated the potential of the high-sensitivity, low-error approach by using it to detect and assess very low cancer levels in patients with bladder cancer and melanoma from blood samples alone.

"We were able, for example, to see increases in circulating tumour DNA levels after treatment in patients with cancers that progressed or recurred and declines in those levels in patients whose cancers had full or partial responses," said Dr. Alexandre Cheng, a postdoctoral researcher.

Study shows Covid infected kids, adolescents more likely to have heart disease

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

While the risk of cardiovascular outcomes following SARS-CoV-2 infection has been reported in adults, a new study showed that children and adolescents are also likely to develop multiple cardiac signs and symptoms.

The evidence of heart disease post-Covid infection in children and adolescents is limited.

The study, led by researchers from the University of Pennsylvania, revealed children and adolescents remained at risk of cardiovascular disease, including higher odds of high blood pressure and heart failure, between one to six months after Covid-19 infection.

The team analysed electronic health records (EHR) data from 19 children's hospitals and health institutions in the US between March 2020 and September 2023.



The study involved 297,920 children and adolescents with Covid infection and 915,402 without infection -- all of them were followed up for at least six months.

The results showed that "children and adolescents with prior SARS-CoV-2 infection are at a statistically significant increased risk of various cardiovascular outcomes"

This includes "hyperten-

sion, ventricular arrhythmias, myocarditis, heart failure, cardiomyopathy, cardiac arrest, thromboembolism, chest pain, and palpitations, compared to uninfected controls," said the researchers in the paper published in the journal Nature Communications.

Notably, the team said that the findings remained consistent among patients with and without child-

hood heart defects (CHDs). However, children with CHD showed a higher risk of atrial fibrillation -- an irregular heartbeat condition.

Further, the study observed a positive association between obesity and increased risks for certain severe cardiovascular outcomes, coupled with lower risks for cardiovascular symptoms, in children and adolescents.

"While these findings were not substantial, they highlight the complexity of obesity-related cardiovascular health in paediatric populations," said the team

"Awareness of the heightened risk of cardiovascular disorders after SARS-CoV-2 infection can lead to timely referrals, diagnostic evaluations, and management to mitigate long-term cardiovascular complications in children and adolescents," they added.

UK researchers find promising biomarker for early sepsis detection

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

A team of UK researchers has found the potential of interleukin-6 (IL-6) as a powerful diagnostic biomarker for the early detection of sepsis in high-risk patient groups, including neonates, children, and pregnant women.

Sepsis, a life-threatening condition resulting from the immune system's overreaction to infection, remains a leading global cause of mortality, accounting for an estimated 11 million deaths annually.

Young children, especially those under five, and pregnant women are highly vulnerable due to immunological changes and increased susceptibility.

The study analysed serial blood samples from 252 patients (111 paediatric, 72 maternity, and 69 neonatal cases) with suspected sepsis.



The results showed that IL-6 consistently outperformed traditional biomarkers in distinguishing bacterial from non-bacterial infections.

"IL-6 also effectively stratified sepsis severity, distinguishing between mild infection, sepsis, and septic shock, a critical capability for guiding timely and appropriate treatment," the study showed.

The team explained how IL-6 has significant advantages over traditional biomarkers.

"IL-6 secretion rises within one to two hours, peaks at six hours, and decreases by 24 hours, whereas CRP and PCT peak much later at 48 and 24 hours, respectively. This faster, steeper response makes IL-6 a promising biomarker for earlier sepsis detection,"

said lead author Dr. Sean Whelan.

C-reactive protein (CRP) is a protein in the blood that indicates inflammation. PCT refers to Procalcitonin -- a biomarker for bacterial infections.

"Our findings reinforce the potential of IL-6 as a promising biomarker in sepsis diagnosis," Whelan said.

"With wider adoption and in combination with clinical assessment, IL-6 could significantly improve clinical decision-making and support timely, targeted treatment for high-risk patients," the expert added.

The study, presented at the annual Congress of the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID Global 2025) in Austria, is the first to evaluate IL-6's diagnostic performance in a real-world cohort across all three populations.



RCB count on Kohli to rub Salt as PBKS seek resurgence

AGENCIES

BENGALURU, APR 17

As Royal Challengers Bengaluru gear up to face Punjab Kings in their seventh match of the IPL 2025 season at Chinnaswamy Stadium on Friday, all eyes will be on the in-form opening duo of Virat Kohli and Philip Salt, whose combined tally of nearly 500 runs has been the bedrock of RCB's campaign so far.

The hosts, led by Rajat Patidar, will enter the contest with momentum on their side, having secured a comprehensive nine-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals in their previous outing. Their dominance at home and a superior head-to-head record – three wins in the last three meetings against Punjab – makes them strong favourites to clinch two more points and move to the top of the points table.

Punjab Kings, who also have 8 points from six games, will have their task cut out. The team, captained by Shreyas Iyer, pulled off a stunning 16-run victory against Kolkata Knight Riders, thanks largely to their bowling unit. Yuzvendra Chahal's magical spell of 4/28 and



Marco Jansen's 3/17 saved the day after the batting lineup collapsed, a concern Iyer must address ahead of the Bengaluru clash.

Kohli and Salt's aggressive opening stands have regularly given RCB a flying start. In the last match, Salt hammered a blistering 37 off 17 balls, while Tim David and Patidar ensured a smooth chase. With Devdutt Padikal, Liam Livingstone, and Jitesh Sharma forming the middle order, RCB have both experience and firepower.

Their bowling unit has clicked in tandem, with Bhuvneshwar Kumar leading the charge with the new ball. He has been ably supported by left-arm pacer Yash Dayal and spinners Krunal Pandya

and Suyash Sharma, all of whom have adjusted well to the flat Bengaluru surface. Josh Hazlewood's presence adds bite to their pace attack.

Punjab's top order has struggled for consistency. Priyansh Arya and Prabhsimran Singh showed promise with quick cameos in the previous game, but the middle order, comprising Josh Inglis, Nehal Wadhwa and Shashank Singh, has not fired consistently.

The lower-middle order boasts match-winners like Glenn Maxwell and Suryansh Shedge, but Punjab's over-reliance on their bowlers remains a worrying trend. Jansen and Bartlett have been effective with the new ball, while Chahal and Arshdeep Singh have handled

the middle and death overs with skill.

The Chinnaswamy Stadium is known for its batting-friendly conditions, fast outfield, and short boundaries. The average first-innings score at the venue is 173, but with the current form of top-order batsmen on both sides, totals in excess of 200 cannot be ruled out.

The weather forecast indicates warm and humid conditions with a high cloud cover in the evening, but rain is unlikely to disrupt play.

Given the recent trend at this venue, where four of the last five matches have been won by chasing teams, the toss-winning captain is expected to bowl first. Both sides have recent success while chasing and will look to exploit any dew factor in the second innings.

While Punjab Kings come into the contest on the back of a morale-boosting win, their poor record at Chinnaswamy and inconsistent batting lineup tilt the balance in RCB's favour. Kohli and Salt's form, the advantage of playing at home, and a settled bowling combination give Royal Challengers Bengaluru the edge.

Epic Victory Cricket League to kick start inaugural season in Kashmir this Sept

AGENCIES

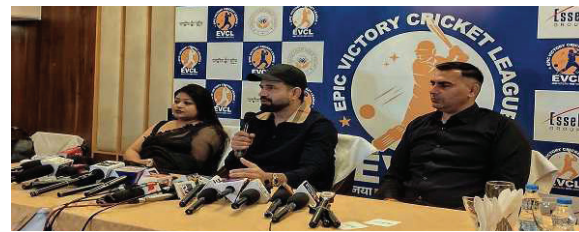
SRINAGAR, APR 17

The Epic Victory Cricket League, a franchise based T20 tournament is set to launch with its first edition of the tournament starting in the month of September.

Launched in Srinagar, by former cricketer Irfan Pathan, the league will include an equal balance of local Indian players with international stars and ex-Ranji cricketers from the region of J&K.

The franchise-based tournament, will feature a pool of over 200 players, which will get decided after a month and a half of trials across 20 cities.

"Epic Victory Cricket League is looking forward to bringing cricket to Kashmir once again and show-



case the talent... We are very excited to also be playing in Jammu and Kashmir for the inaugural season. This is a huge opportunity for the people of Kashmir to come to the stadium and watch live cricketing action. I urge all the cricketers to register and join the EVCL for the opportunity of a lifetime," said Pathan while addressing a press conference.

Registrations will begin in the coming week on the official EVCL online portal for the trials held across 20

cities for a duration of 45 days.

The trials will kick off in Srinagar on June 15 and conclude in Uttar Pradesh on July 31.

The eligibility for these trials are simply any male cricketers from the ages of 17 to 39 which will showcase their talent under the watchful eyes of a selection committee consisting of selectors from the state cricketing associations and the apex council of the EVCL.

"This isn't just about

another competition. It's about providing a stage to the people who have missed the opportunity for many reasons and showcasing the incredible depth of cricket talent in India." Vikas Dhaka, League Owner, Epic Victory Cricket League said "We are going to see some stunning matches, unexpected heroes rise, and inspire a whole new generation of players around the world".

The league is set to broadcast on one of the leading OTT platform with coverage in over 7 languages that will include English, Hindi and in a first of its kind, Kashmiri and Dogra to include the vast population of the region that would enjoy cricketing action in their own language for the first time ever.

India win 10m air pistol mixed team gold at ISSF World Cup

AGENCIES

LIMA, APR 17 (UNI)

India's Suruchi Inder Singh and Saurabh Chaudhary claimed the 10m air pistol mixed team title at the ISSF World Cup Lima leg, while two Chinese pairs settled for silver and bronze.

China and India faced off in both mixed team bronze and gold medal deciders on Wednesday. In the gold medal match, China's Hu Kai and Yao

Qianxun were off to a rocky start against Singh and Chaudhary, trailing 2-0 after the first series.

The Chinese pair rallied with six consecutive points to force the Indian team to timeout at 6-2. Hu and Yao held a narrow 9-7 lead after both teams tied the eighth series at 20.7 points each.

The match pivoted dramatically in the ninth series as the Indians unleashed a 10-point

streak to overtake the Chinese pair, sealing a 17-9 victory for their second gold of the Lima leg.

Earlier, China's Zhang Yifan and Ma Qianke dominated the bronze medal contest against India's Ravinder Singh and Manu Bhaker.

The Chinese duo raced to an 8-0 lead in the first four series. Though Singh and Bhaker narrowed the gap to 8-4, Zhang and Ma regrouped with a series of

10-plus scores to rebuild a 10-4 advantage.

After conceding two points, Zhang and Ma dominated the closing stages with a six-point streak to claim bronze 16-6.

In the women's skeet final, three-time Olympic champion Kimberly Rhode of the United States captured her 26th World Cup gold after edging teammate Samantha Simonton in a shoot-off following a 56-hit tie.

No cuts to Afghanistan Cricket Board funding planned by ICC

AGENCIES

KABUL, APR 17 (UNI)

The Afghanistan Cricket Board will not see any of its funding from the International Cricket Council cut or diverted to its exiled women's cricketers. An initiative to support the displaced Afghan players was announced by the ICC following its board meeting in Zimbabwe last weekend.

However, as reported by ESPN Cricinfo, cricket's global governing body will not reduce or siphon off money earmarked for the ACB, even though part of the criteria for full membership of the ICC is to support women's cricket, the BBC reported.

The ICC will support the Afghan women through a



separate funding mechanism, while the ACB will continue to receive a payment believed to be in the region of £13m per year.

All of that funding will go towards men's cricket in Afghanistan, with women's sport outlawed in the country since the Taliban returned to power in 2021.

The ACB is the only full ICC member not to field a women's team.

Instead, Afghanistan's women's cricketers will be funded by the ICC in conjunction with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), Cricket Australia and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

An Afghanistan Women's XI played an exhibition match in Melbourne in January and want to be recognised as a refugee team.

But the ICC is understood to have acknowledged that the prospect of Afghanistan's women playing official international matches in the near future is a distant one as it would need to be sanctioned by the ACB.

Afghanistan's women have been promised a robust high-performance programme offering "advanced coaching, world-class facilities and tailored mentorship" which the ICC hopes will "help them reach their full potential".

Afghanistan's men's team have retained their Test status, reached the semi-finals of last year's T20 World Cup and participated in the Champions Trophy earlier this year.

Australia reveal contract list for 2025/26 season

AGENCIES

SYDNEY, APR 17 (UNI)

Georgia Voll's remarkable recent rise has continued with the in-form opener Tess Flintoff winning a national contract for the first time as Australia revealed their list of 18 contracted players for the 2025/26 season.

Voll only made her international debut in December, but the 21-year-old already has an ODI century to her name and was earlier this week named the ICC Women's Player of the Month for March due to her efforts with the bat in New Zealand.

Georgia Voll named ICC Women's Player of the Month for March 2025

While Voll received a contract upgrade after making her debut at the end of last year, this is the first time the hard-hitting



right-hander has been named on the initial contract list by Cricket Australia.

While the inclusion of Voll was expected, the decision by Australia to include all-rounder Tess Flintoff on the list of 18 players with contracts was somewhat of a surprise given the 22-year-old is yet to feature at international level.

Flintoff wins a contract

on the back of some good performances for Australia A during the recent series against England A, while the seamer has always been on the radar of selectors given she was also called into Australia's squad during their tour of Ireland in 2023, an ICC report said.

The biggest exclusion from the contract list was the surprise omission of veteran all-rounder Jess

Jonassen, who hasn't played for Australia since the end of 2023 despite the fact she is a six-time World Cup winner and has regularly performed well at domestic level around the world.

Australia selector Shawn Flegler said the promotion of Voll and Flintoff for the first time was well deserved and noted that there is still opportunities for Jonassen and those players outside the contract list to feature for Australia.

"Tess is an exciting young player who we can see having a long future in the green and gold," Flegler said.

"Having overcome injury we're looking forward to seeing her fit and firing throughout summer which adds further depth to our pace-bowling stocks.

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