



RAMBAN TRAGEDY : All Possible Support will be Provided to Victims : CM Omar Assures from Ground Zero

Not A 'National Disaster': CM Abdullah After Reviewing NH Situation In J&K's Ramban

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

RAMBAN, APR 21: In a swift response to the devastation caused by the cloudburst in Ramban district, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today undertook a visit to the affected areas to personally assess the ground situation.

Accompanied by the Deputy Commissioner Ramban and senior civil and police officials, the Chief Minister travelled by road from Srinagar to reach Marog, one of the worst-hit villages. Demonstrating the deep concern and commitment of his government, he trekked several kilometres on foot

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Centre Will Provide Financial Help To Those Affected By Ramban Landslides: LoP Sunil Sharma

■ HT News Network

GANDHINAGAR, APR 21: The Leader of Opposition (LoP) in Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, Sunil Sharma, on Monday said a BJP team has visited Ramban to assess the situation

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Ramban Tragedy ; All 50 Pilgrims From Gujrat are Safe : Relief Commissioner

■ HT News Network

RAMBAN, APR 21: : All 50 pilgrims from Gujarat who were stranded in the landslide incident in Ramban in Jammu-Kashmir are safe, Gujarat Commissioner of Relief Alok Kumar Pandey said here on Monday. Three persons were killed and more than 100 people rescued after cloudburst-induced floods and landslides on Sunday caused massive damage to infrastructure, including roads and residential buildings, in Ramban district in the northern Union Territory. Upon learning that pilgrims from Gujarat were stranded due to the landslide incident, Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel promptly instructed authorities to coordinate with the J-K

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Highway shut for 2nd consecutive day; Hundreds of HMTVs stranded; 45 houses fully damaged; Div Com Jammu

■ HT News Network

RAMBAN, APR 21: Flashfloods triggered by a cloudburst in Ramban have left a trail of destruction behind and have brought life to a grinding halt.

Three people lost their lives in Baghana village after their house collapsed. Several shops and



vehicles were also swept away. Many people were

left stranded along the national highway, while

all the institutions in Ramban remained closed on Monday.

The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway remains closed as the debris from landslides and continuous shooting stones in Ramban could not be cleared, officials told the news agency—adding that it may take up to three days to

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All 33 private member's bills not taken up in budget session intact

Will be listed in next Assembly session: Speaker

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, APR 21: While all private member's resolutions which couldn't be taken up due to repeated adjournments amidst pandemonium in the Legislative Assembly over Waqf Act have lapsed, all 33 private member's bills are intact and will be taken up whenever the House meets for the next time.

"All 33 private member's bills will remain valid. They will not lapse. The bills will be listed whenever the next Assembly session is held," Legislative Assembly Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather told the Excelsior.

However, he confirmed that all private member's resolutions which were listed in the House for two days have lapsed and will not be taken up again. A number of MLAs had tabled resolutions seeking restoration of Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

This has come as a big relief for the MLAs who spent lot of time in drafting the bills before submitting them to the

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I am not a Pakistani, can't answer questions on behalf of Army General: Dr Farooq Blames neighbouring country for sending drugs into J&K

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, APR 21: Stating that he is not a "Pakistani" and cannot speak on behalf of an Army General, National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah on Monday blamed the neighbouring country and their agents in J&K for promoting drug abuse in the region.

Replying to a query about Pakistan Army chief's recent remarks on Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, Dr Farooq, according to the news agency—said, "I am not a Pakistani and cannot speak on behalf of a Pakistani general. Please direct your enquiries to him."

Responding to a question about Pakistan's alleged involvement in pushing narcotics into J&K the National

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Final Electoral Rolls published after SSR 2025:ECI

J&K records meticulous SSR; reports no first, second appeal

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APR 21:: Election Commission of India has described as baseless the allegations regarding discrepancies or irregularities in the final electoral rolls after completing the Special Summary Revision, asserting that the Commission is committed to ensuring free and seamless elections with focus on transparency in the entire process

The final Electoral Rolls published on 6th and 7th January 2025 following the countrywide Special Summary Revision (SSR) has witnessed an unprecedented level of acceptance, with very few first or second appeals filed under Section 24 of the Representation of

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■ HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 21: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high level meeting of Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD) to review different urban development schemes and programmes being implemented across the Union Territory.

The meeting besides Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD



was attended by Commissioner, SMC; Commissioner,

JMC; MD, Housing Board; MD, NULM along with other senior

officers of the department.

The Chief Secretary appreciated the scale and scope of urban transformation under H&UDD. He emphasized timely execution, inter-departmental synergy and robust monitoring of all the schemes. He stressed that these reforms and infrastructure projects must translate into improved quality of life for urban residents across the UT.

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Weather turns pleasant after 3-day wet spell

Hailstorms continue to wreak havoc in South Kashmir parts; No major activity expected till April end, says weatherman

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APR 21: After three-day wet spell, the weather conditions improved on Monday across Jammu and Kashmir while the hailstorms continued to wreak havoc in multiple areas across South Kashmir causing further losses to the fruit growers and orchardists.

According to the news agency—Director Meteorological department, Dr



Mukhtar Ahmad said that the weather

conditions have improved today, but some areas have witnessed thundershower activity including Ramban and Banihal. However, he said that there is no forecast of any major weather activity till the end of this month, but added that light weather activity on April 24 evening or April 25 cannot be ruled out.

The KNO has received the reports that the hailstorm continued to occur in multiple areas of southern districts today for

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Haji-2025: 3-day vaccination camp begins across J&K

3,300 pilgrims out of total 3,624 to depart via Sgr alone

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APR 21: A total of 3,624 pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir will perform the Hajj pilgrimage this year while a three-day vaccination drive is underway across all 20 districts of the Union Territory.

Executive Officer of the J&K State Haj Committee, Dr Shujaat Ahmad Qureshi, speaking with the news agency—that out of the total, 3,300 pilgrims will travel via Srinagar embarkation point. He said among the rest, 480 will leave from Delhi, 10 from Mumbai and 2 from

In J&K, sex ratio at birth rises to 921, infant mortality falls to 17: MoHFW annual report

Highlights progress in child health, gender equity, healthcare infrastructure in UT

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APR 21 Jammu & Kashmir has emerged as a quiet success in India's public health transformation, making notable progress in child health, gender equity, infrastructure and regulatory enforcement. The recently released Annual Report 2024-25 of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare paints a promising picture of a region



steadily climbing the ladder of healthcare development.

At the forefront is the UT's achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target for Under-5 Mortality Rate (U5MR), years ahead of the 2030 deadline, the report accessed by the news agency—reveals.

With a U5MR of 17 per 1,000 live births, Jammu & Kashmir is among the few regions in the country to meet this milestone early. The Infant Mortality Rate

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Srinagar's Tulip Garden sees 8.14 lakh visitors in 26 days, surpasses all records

Garden to be closed for public from Apr 24 evening

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APR 21: Asia's largest Tulip Garden, situated on the foothills of Zabarwan range in Srinagar, has set a new record by welcoming over 8.14 lakh visitors during the 26-day-long Tulip Show 2025.

According to data accessed by the news agency—a total of 8,14,727 tourists visited the Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden from March 26 to April 20, 2025, surpassing all previous records.

The record-breaking footfall includes locals, national, and international tourists, who came to witness the mesmerizing bloom of over 1.7 million tulips of different varieties.



The highest single-day footfall was recorded on April 6, when 81,352 visitors entered the garden, followed by April 13 with 70,430 visitors. The surge in tourists during weekends and the peak blooming period

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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

CM

through rugged terrain to reach Kela Morh, where the cloudburst had triggered flash floods, leaving a trail of destruction.

The natural calamity has claimed the lives of three persons, while causing extensive damage to residential structures, vehicles, and critical road infrastructure. Ramban district, often referred to as the lifeline between the Kashmir Valley and Jammu, remained cut off for the second consecutive day due to debris and damage along the National Highway, J&K's primary transport artery.

Interacting with local residents and officials from the district administration, the Chief Minister was briefed on the scale of the damage and the progress of ongoing rescue and relief operations. He expressed his heart-felt condolences to the families of the deceased and assured that the government stands shoulder to shoulder with the victims of this tragedy.

"The scale of destruction is deeply distressing. Our administration is on the ground, working tirelessly to ensure the safety, relief, and rehabilitation of every affected family," CM Omar Abdullah said.

"We will leave no stone unturned in standing in for our people during this difficult time," he added.

He further directed the concerned departments to expedite restoration work on the highway to resume vehicular movement at the earliest.

The district administration informed the Chief Minister that clearance operations are in full swing, with teams from the Public Works Department (PWD), Border Roads Organisation (BRO), disaster response units, police, volunteers, and the local population working round the clock to remove mudslides and boulders and restore normalcy in the affected area.

LDP

following a devastating landslide and assured that Centre is committed to helping those affected by the disaster.

The landslide has resulted in the tragic loss of three lives.

"A team of the BJP has arrived at Ramban to make an assessment report of what has happened on the ground. We will prepare a comprehensive report and, being in opposition, we will do whatever is possible to provide help from the state government and provide details to the central government," Sharma told reporters.

"BJP is very serious about this disaster. We assure that the central government will provide financial help to the people affected by the landslides," he added.

TOURISTS

restore traffic movement on the highway. "We are working hard to clear the highway. If all goes well, we may allow one-way traffic within two to three days," officials said, adding that no passenger vehicles are currently stranded on the highway.

To speed up restoration work, NDRF, SDRF and local volunteers have been deployed for rescue operations. Heavy machinery, including JCBs and earthmovers from agencies like KRCL, CPPL, and DMR is working round-the-clock to remove debris and repair the damaged road.

The Indian Army, CRPF, and the civil administration have launched a joint operation to assist stranded people, deliver essential services and support ongoing repair efforts.

Over a dozen vehicles have been damaged, some buried under the debris. The rescue operations are continuing across the district.

Dozens of bridegrooms were seen walking on foot along the Jammu-Srinagar Highway due to the road closure. One groom walked 10 km to reach his bride after a landslide hit Ramban and adjoining areas. He was heading to Srinagar from Sangaldan Railway Station.

"I didn't expect to travel on foot today, now I'm reaching by train. But it is reality," he said.

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, said that while the rain has stopped, assessment of road conditions in Ramban is ongoing.

"We are examining areas where cracks have developed and evaluating the overall stability of the road. A detailed assessment is essential before commenting on its condition," he said.

He said that the district administration including the DC, SSP and teams from NHAI, SDRF, NDRF and other agencies, are actively engaged in restoration efforts.

"The weather has improved, assessments have begun, and restoration is in progress. The affected people have been identified and relocated to safer locations," he said.

Relief requirements are also being assessed, and all damaged areas are under review to ensure proper support. "The DC and SSP teams are working round-the-clock with full support from the UT government," Kumar said.

Regarding the reopening of the highway, he said, "It's too early to give a timeline. Once

the full extent of the damage is assessed and road stability confirmed, we can estimate when traffic will resume. Our teams are working to reopen it as soon as possible."

He said that the damage is extensive, with sections of the road having sunk, retaining walls collapsed, and heavy mud accumulation. These challenges will take time to overcome.

However, alternative routes have been arranged. Light Motor Vehicles (LMVs) heading to Kashmir are being diverted via Mughal Road, while Sinthan Top is open for LMVs from 11:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

DIV COM JAMMU

government and ensure the safety and well-being of the pilgrims, Pandey said in a statement.

"Following the CM's instructions and guidance, the Gujarat State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) immediately contacted the relevant authorities in Jammu and Kashmir to ensure the safety and security of the Gujarat pilgrims. The bus carrying tourists from Gujarat is in a safe zone, away from the landslide, and all the travellers are safe," Pandey informed.

"The army personnel have provided food, water, and other essentials to the Gujarat travellers. Moreover, accommodation and meal arrangements have also been made for all the pilgrims at the Army camp," he added.

The travellers from Gujarat currently do not have any medical emergencies and the J-K administration is actively working to safely remove the travel bus trapped in the landslide, Pandey said.

He said those needing additional information in this regard can contact the SEOC in Gandhinagar on 079 232 51900. (Agencies)

SPEAKER

Legislative Assembly for introduction. "Drafting bill for a MLA is time-consuming exercise. For a Government bill, there are number of Government officers including the Law Department which drafts the bills but a legislator has to do this exercise on his own by consulting law books, taking opinion of legal experts etc while drafting the bill," some of the MLAs said and expressed satisfaction that the bills will remain intact and will be listed in the next session.

The private member's resolutions were listed in the Assembly on April 7 and 9 while the private member's bills were due to be taken up on April 8. However, entire business of three days couldn't be taken up in the House due to repeated adjournments amidst pandemonium over National Conference MLAs' adjournment motions seeking suspension of business to discuss Waqf bill passed by the Parliament.

No business was taken up in the Assembly from April 7 to 9 which were last three days of the budget session. The House was adjourned sine die on April 9 by the Speaker.

The Assembly has to meet once in six months. As the House was adjourned sine die on April 9, it has to be convened again before October 9. The session, most likely a brief one, could be held in Srinagar in September this year.

From appointment of first-ever Lokayukta in Jammu and Kashmir to implementation of Anti-Defection Law in District Development Councils (DDCs), imposition of prohibition, regularization of daily wages and contractual staff, amendment in reservations, vesting ownership rights of Evacuee Property, block level recruitment and setting up of the J&K Legislative Forum for Monitoring and Protection of Human Rights, the legislators had submitted 33 private member's bills in the Assembly.

CPM MLA MY Tarigami had given the Jammu and Kashmir Lokayukta Bill through which he had demanded appointment of Lokayukta in the Union Territory.

Four legislators had sought ban on liquor in Jammu and Kashmir through separate private member's bills tabled by them in the Legislature.

They included NC veteran Ali Mohammad Sagar, a former Minister, Ahsan Pardeesi (NC), Sheikh Khursheed Ahmad (Awami Ittehad Party) and Mir Mohammad Fayaz (PDP).

Khursheed, through a separate bill, had also sought ban on Online Gaming and Fantasy League.

Regularization of daily wages and contractual workers figured through the private member's bills tabled by PDP's Waheed ur Rehman Para and NC's Saifullah Mir (former Law Minister) besides others.

BJP MLA Balwant Singh Mankotia though a bill titled Jammu and Kashmir Temples and Land Protection Bill had sought restoration of entire encroached land of religious places. u and Kashmir Excise (Amendment) Bill.

CS

He enjoined upon the concerned department to expedite the work on the utility projects like water supply under AMRUT and sanitation under SBM (U). He made out that these projects once completed would improve the living standards of the residents substantially.

The Chief Secretary had a detailed review of progress made on the ongoing flagship

projects under the Smart Cities Mission, AMRUT 2.0, PMAY-Urban, PM eBus Sewa, DAY-NULM, SBM 2.0, CITIIS 2.0 and other major initiatives of the department.

Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD, Man-deep Kaur, gave a detailed outlook of the projects completed and the ongoing works across the cities and ULBs of J&K. She also apprised the meeting about the steps taken and those in pipeline to enhance the beauty and sanitation of urban areas of the UT.

About the Srinagar Smart City projects, CEO, SSCL, Owais Ahmad, informed that the works span infrastructure modernization, heritage restoration, mobility enhancement and public space improvement. He added that 161 projects worth budgeted cost of Rs 3634 crore have been taken in hand under Smart City Mission. Out of these, 11 works are being executed with a cost of Rs 203.47 crore. These included construction of Traditional Souq Market and Craft Centre at Batamaloo, Jhelum Waterfront Development Phase-2, Gole Market -Karan Nagar Road Development, Development of Amenity Blocks, interpretation facility centre, cafe deck and viewing towers along Shalimar Canal.

Regarding Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL), CEO, JSCL, Devansh Yadav, informed the meeting that a total of 127 projects were taken in hand at a budgeted cost of Rs 3581 crore. The ongoing 7 projects costing around Rs 529 crore included Tawi River Front Development, Oceanarium at Bag-e-Bahu, Complete Street Development from Canal Road to Talab Tilo and Waste 2 Wonder Park and others.

As part of the Tawi Riverfront Development Project (TRF), it was revealed that the interception and diversion of nallahs at both left and right banks has been completed.

It was further divulged that 100 ACeBuses each have been approved for both the cities under PM eBus Sewa (via Challenge Method). For the same, financial assistance from Gol to the tune of 100% for 'Behind-the-Meter' power infrastructure and 90% (up to 20 Cr) for depot infrastructure is being provided by MoHUA.

Moreover, the DPRs for Jammu Depot Infrastructure (JSCL) has been framed costing around Rs 16.72 crore and for 6.6 MW power substation a DPR worth Rs 8.51 crore has also been formulated. Similarly, for Srinagar Depot Infrastructure a DPR of Rs 14.50 crore has been formulated besides DPR worth Rs 5.78 crore for Power sector has been made through the concerned agencies. All the DPRs have been approved by the Central Steering Committee, the meeting was informed.

With respect to progress on housing projects under PMAY-U, MD, Housing Board, Shahbaz Mirza, informed the meeting that under BLC Vertical (2021-24) 27,439 houses have been completed with a fund utilization of Rs 496.15 crore including a central assistance of Rs 40 crore released in Feb-Mar 2025.

Regarding PMAY-U 2.0 expansion, a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with MoHUA stands signed to implement the scheme in all 78 municipal bodies of the UT. It was also given out that a baseline survey for identification of houseless individual/families had also been initiated. To ensure that the benefit of PMAY reaches the section of people who don't have permanent house to live in, a digital app had been developed to survey the urban areas. Additionally, the Master trainers were imparted training in all the districts and committees structured for verification and selection of eligible beneficiaries.

Regarding the financial assistance under PMAY-Urban 2.0, it was said that Rs 2.25 lakh as Central Assistance and UT share of Rs 0.25 lakh under BLC and AHP vertical of the scheme would be given to the beneficiaries.

Regarding progress on SBM-U 2.0 (Swachh Bharat Urban Mission), the meeting was apprised that a Material Recovery Facility for dry waste, compost/CBG plants for wet waste, facilities for C&D waste, bioremediation of legacy waste and STPs for Used Water Management for the two Municipal Corporations and 78 ULBs are under different stages of implementation. It was further added that all the 78 ULBs had been declared "Safaimitra Surakshit Sheher" by the Gol.

MD, NULM revealed that out of a total of Rs 61.77 crore received funds Rs 55.54 crore have been utilized, so far. She also gave out that a new mission Deendayal Jan AajeeviKa Yojana (Shehri) is under design to replace NULM with components like Livelihoods, Skilling, SHGs, Enterprise Promotion, Local Action for which the deliverables, timelines and institutional mechanism being finalized here.

WEATHER

the third straight day, causing extensive losses to the fruit growers and orchardists.

For the losses, the government has already directed the district administrations in Kulgam and Shopian to assess the losses for the compensation.

It is worth mentioning here that the three-day wet spell led to the closure of many crucial roads including the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, which has wit-

nessed massive damage and would likely take a few days to clear the debris and throw the road open for vehicular movement.

Furthermore, three people including two minor siblings have died in a landslide in Ramban area.

Meanwhile, in its advisory, the MeT has stated that all concerned are advised to plan accordingly and follow the administration and traffic advisories.

The farmers have been advised to resume the farm operations from tomorrow (April 22) onwards, it reads, adding that since due to the continuous rain during the past 3 days, the possibility of landslides, shooting stones and rock fall at vulnerable places can't be ruled out.

The advisory appealed people to stay inside and at safe places during thunder, lightning and gusty winds—

HAJJ

Hyderabad.

Additionally, 242 pilgrims from Ladakh will also embark from Srinagar, he added.

He said the vaccination drive is being conducted on April 21, 22, and 23. "Pilgrims from remote areas can arrive at the Haj House in Bemina one or two days in advance, and all arrangements for their stay have been made," Dr Qureshi said.

Regarding the flight schedule, he said that on April 9 and 14; two flights are scheduled per day, while on other days one flight will operate daily. The Hajj departures will begin from May 4, and return flights are scheduled between June 17 and June 28.

Meanwhile, only 3,624 pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir are set to perform Hajj this year, a substantial decrease from 7,008 in 2024 and 35,000 in 2017.

This 70% drop over two years is attributed to rising costs, the discontinuation of government subsidies, and logistical challenges.

Notably, a significant factor contributing to the decline is the 80% cut in India's private Hajj quota by Saudi Arabia, affecting over 52,000 Indian pilgrims, including many from Jammu and Kashmir. This abrupt decision has left numerous pilgrims in uncertainty—

DR FAROOQ

Conference President said, "We know about it. It is not a new thing. There are people among us who are part of it and we need to strongly crack down on these agents and punish them for pushing our youth to the brink."

He also called for concerted efforts to combat the drug menace. "There are people who are involved in this and are selling drugs here. We must bring them down and give them the harshest punishment possible. They are jeopardising our future," Dr Farooq said.

Terming drug abuse as a big menace, Dr Farooq said, "Our children are being ruined by it. Our future is falling into darkness because of it. We have to wage a big war against it, in a very strong manner. We must eliminate this menace completely."

Calling the recent cloudburst in Ramban a "National Disaster" Dr Farooq Abdullah said, "It's a major disaster; the whole village has come down. I am hopeful that the Government of India will take note of it and extend all possible support."

He stressed the urgent need for rehabilitation of the affected families. "The victims will have to be resettled as they can no longer live there. Their homes and livelihoods have been washed away. The situation demands swift intervention," he added.

"The cloudburst has not only caused loss of life and property but also severely impacted connectivity in the area," he said, adding, "The tragedy has also disrupted the traffic on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway. The highway has been affected again. Had the train service commenced people could have availed the facility. Unfortunately the Prime Minister couldn't inaugurate the train service due to the inclement weather."

Calling for strategic infrastructural development, Dr Farooq also emphasized the importance of an alternative all-weather route. "One national highway is not enough. A tunnel should be constructed on the Mughal Road to provide a reliable alternative. It will ensure uninterrupted access, especially during natural calamities," he said, as per KNO.

Dr Farooq also expressed confidence about statehood restoration. "We will get our powers and statehood back. It has been promised in the Parliament. It will definitely come."

Asked about differences in the National Conference, especially after comments by Srinagar MP Aja Syed Ruhullah Mehdi, he said, "It is an internal matter."

He, however, declined to comment on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's remarks abroad regarding the Election Commission. "Please do not ask me questions about Rahul Gandhi. I have no comments on it."—

SEX RATIO

(IMR) has dropped to 17, while the Neonatal Mortality Rate (NMR) stands at 12, and the Early Neonatal Mortality Rate (ENMR) at

8 — all pointing to improved maternal and child healthcare services across the UT.

These health outcomes are reinforced by targeted interventions under schemes like the National Health Mission, which has enabled the establishment of Special Newborn Care Units, District Early Intervention Centres, and Mother and Child Health Wings. The rollout of eSanjeevani telemedicine, Ayushman Arogya Mandirs and health screening programs has extended healthcare reach into remote corners of the valley and the Jammu region.

Gender equity in birth outcomes also saw improvement. As per Sample Registration System (SRS) data from 2018–2020, Jammu & Kashmir's sex ratio at birth** has increased to 921 females per 1,000 males, up from 918 during 2017–19. While modest, this upward trend indicates the beginning of a cultural and healthcare shift towards valuing the girl child.

POLLS

the People Act, 1950.

These appeals pertained to corrections under Section 22 and inclusions under Section 23 of the Act.

As per the data released by ECI, this comprehensive exercise covered nearly 10.5 lakh polling booths across the country and was conducted with the active involvement of 13.87 lakh Booth Level Agents (BLAs) nominated by the political parties, spanning 4,123 Assembly Constituencies nationwide.

The absence of any large scale appeals indicates a broad consensus and acceptance of the updated electoral rolls by all stakeholders. Accordingly, the Electoral Rolls published post-SSR in January 2025 are now to be treated as undisputed.

It may be recalled that the SSR 2025 exercise was conducted with particular emphasis on States and Union Territories slated for Assembly Elections after the 2024 Lok Sabha Elections.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has reiterated its commitment to free, fair, inclusive and transparent electoral processes. It views the smooth completion and acceptance of the SSR 2025 as a major step forward in strengthening the foundations of democracy.

As far as Jammu and Kashmir is concerned, the whole exercise was conducted meticulously with not a single first or second level appeal reported in the Union Territory. This accuracy and proficiency ensured in the SSR for J&K is testament to the commitment of Election Commission of India towards ensuring a transparent and efficient electoral process, while upholding the sanctity of a democratic system.

"The lack of appeals following the publication of the electoral rolls is a testament to the transparency, inclusiveness and robustness of the SSR process. With active participation from political parties through their Booth Level Agents, we are confident that the electoral rolls published in January 2025 reflect a high level of accuracy and public trust," said a representative of the Chief Electoral Office (ECI).

TULIP GARDEN

contributed significantly to the record.

In the opening week itself, the garden saw over 1.56 lakh visitors, and the momentum only increased with each passing day, highlighting the growing popularity of the annual tulip festival among tourists from across the globe.

During the 26-day period, the count of foreigners visiting the garden has mounted to 3121, reads the data.

Officials credited the unprecedented success to improved infrastructure, enhanced promotional campaigns, and favorable weather conditions during the blooming season. They added that the garden's aesthetic appeal, with new flower beds, fountains, and walking paths, also drew more visitors than previous years. "This year has been phenomenal. The combination of full bloom, sunny weather, and high tourist inflow created the perfect atmosphere for record footfall," an official at the Department of Floriculture told KNO.

Public Notice

I want to transfer my Sons's Date of Births Certificate Dated :- 25/06/2020 from MCB Bandipora To SMC Srinagar .

In this connection . if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim ,in the office of Registrar MC Births and Deaths Srinagar / Bandipora within 07 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Name:-Mohammad Hashim Khanday
F/O:-Mehraj -ud -din Khanday
Mothers Name:-Nayeema Begum
R/O Rampora Chattabal
Place of Birth : Dist Hospital Bandipora
Ph No:- 6006914122



Adequate stock of essential commodities, fuel available in Kashmir Valley: Div Com

Asks people not to panic; says efforts on for restoration of national highway

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APRIL 21: Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri on Monday said that there is an adequate stock of essential commodities including LPG, Diesel & Petrol available across the Valley. He stated that significant efforts are underway to repair and restore the National Highway to facilitate the movement of vehicles. Bidhuri maintained that restoration work is expected to be completed within four or five days while one way Light Motor Vehicles are allowed to ply on Mughal Road. Div Com made these remarks while chairing a meeting of officers to evaluate the availability of essential supplies in the region and to assess damage incurred by orchardists. Addressing the meeting, he underscored that there is enough fuel stock to last for over 12 days and urged citizens to refrain from causing unnecessary panic or queuing at petrol stations. He said that the LPG stock is sufficiently available for 17 days, while the 10, 000



Kilolitres of petrol will suffice the requirement for 16 days and similarly 12500 Kiloliters of diesel are available in Valley. Meanwhile, to address profiteering by some traders, the Div Com instructed

Deputy Commissioners to constitute joint teams to conduct thorough market inspections, while Superintendents of Police were asked to deploy personnel at petrol stations to discourage queuing by people.

Regarding damage to apple orchards from severe weather conditions, Bidhuri directed Deputy Commissioners to constitute joint teams to assess the extent of the damage caused by heavy rains, strong winds, and hailstorms, and to submit their findings promptly. Additionally, concerning the evacuation of stranded tourists, the Div Com instructed the SSP Traffic Rural and the DC of Shopian to prioritize the movement of tourist vehicles via the Mughal Road. The meeting was attended by Commissioner SMC; Deputy Commissioners, SSPs, Directors of IMD, Health, Tourism, FCS&CA, VCLCMA, ULB, officers of various departments including Agriculture, Horticulture, School Education, Traffic, Transport, KPDCI, I&FC, PHE, PWD etc. Additionally, concerning the evacuation of stranded tourists, the Div Com instructed the SSP Traffic Rural and the DC of Shopian to prioritize the movement of tourist vehicles via the Mughal Road. The meeting was attended by Commissioner SMC; Deputy Commissioners, SSPs, Directors of IMD, Health, Tourism, FCS&CA, VCLCMA, ULB, officers of various departments including Agriculture.

Ramban Tragedy: Mehbooba blames reckless environmental practices

HT News Network

Srinagar, Apr 21: Blaming reckless environmental practices as one of the reasons for the Ramban landslide, former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti on Monday said the disaster was not merely an act of nature but a consequence of unbridled human interference with the environment. Addressing media persons, Mufti highlighted the growing environmental degradation in the region, citing 'unchecked' deforestation and 'unregulated' mountain-cutting as key contributors to such tragedies. "The way we cut down mountains and forests without hesitation, we think about development in a way that ends up causing destruction," Mufti said, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), adding that such disasters are now direct fallout of environmental negligence. Urging the government to prioritise evacuation and relief, she said, "Many people have gone missing. Some have lost their lives, and others may still be trapped under debris." Mufti said several vehicles were buried under the landslide, while road closures have left children, women and elderly passengers stranded in extremely difficult conditions. She appealed to the administration to expedite rescue operations and ensure timely relief for those stuck in the area. Mufti also said she had directed her party's General Secretary to immediately visit the affected area and coordinate the necessary help on the ground—(KNO)

J&K's JEE Main topper: 'Stay disciplined even when it's hard'

Toiyeb Ashiq shares his journey, keys to success after achieving All India Rank 152

HT News Network

Srinagar, : Toiyeb Ashiq has made history by securing All India Rank 152 in JEE Main 2025, marking the highest-ever rank achieved by any student from Jammu and Kashmir in this prestigious national-level engineering entrance exam. In addition to this remarkable feat, Toiyeb has been officially recognised as the State Topper of Jammu & Kashmir, with his name proudly listed on the official JEE state toppers list. Toiyeb's brilliance is further highlighted by his perfect 100 out of 100 in Mathematics, placing him among the top scorers in the subject nationwide. "Mathematics is the subject I find most interesting because it really challenges me to think critically and solve problems creatively. But if I had to pick the easiest subject for me, it would be Chemistry—I've always been comfortable with it," Toiyeb told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).



Toiyeb's academic journey took off in Class 10, when he enrolled in RISE's intensive three-year programme. Before that, he had already demonstrated outstanding performance, emerging as the CBSE Class 10 Board Topper in 2023. Since then, he has pursued academic excellence with a rare combination of discipline, focus, and humility. RISE, an educational initiative founded by IITians Mubeen Masudi, Imbesat Ahmad and Salman Shahid, has played a pivotal role in his journey.

The institute has grown from modest beginnings into a beacon of academic excellence, helping students from the valley access national-level opportunities. "My journey has been shaped a lot by RISE," said Toiyeb. "There's study material available everywhere nowadays, but what truly makes a difference is the right mentorship and guidance—and that's exactly where RISE came in." "The teachers here not only helped me academically but also taught me how to stay disciplined. In a time when distractions are just one click away, they helped me stay focused and manage my time better," he added. Toiyeb also credited his success to his supportive parents: "They trusted me and never interfered with my routine. That trust gave me a sense of responsibility and helped me stay grounded." With his sights set on the future, Toiyeb is aiming to pursue Computer Science, a field he finds exciting and transformative.

JKPC Vice President Abid Ansari and YJKPC President Mudasar Karim Visit Budgam to Offer Condolences on the Demise of Agha Syed Mohammad Baqir Al-Moosavi

HT News Network

Budgam, April 21, 2025: Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Conference (JKPC) Vice President Abid Ansari and YJKPC President Mudasar Karim today visited Budgam to offer their heartfelt condolences on the sad demise of Agha Syed Mohammad Baqir Al-Moosavi, a highly respected and revered religious scholar, spiritual leader, and prominent figure in the community. The leaders expressed deep sorrow over the passing of Agha Syed Mohammad Baqir Al-Moosavi and extended their sympathies to the bereaved family. They offered prayers for eternal peace to the departed soul and strength to the family to bear this immense loss. Speaking on the occasion, Vice President Abid Ansari



ri stated, "The demise of Agha Syed Mohammad Baqir Al-Moosavi is an irreparable loss to our society. He was a towering personality whose spiritual guidance, knowledge, and service to the people of Budgam and beyond will be remembered forever." JKPC President Mudasar Karim added, "Agha Syed Mohammad Baqir Al-Moosavi's contributions to religious education, community service, and the

upliftment of the people are unparalleled. His legacy will continue to inspire generations. We stand in solidarity with his family and the entire community in this hour of grief." The visit witnessed the presence of JKPC Sec Budgam Mahideen, workers, community elders, and local residents who gathered to pay their respects and remember the invaluable contributions of the late leader.

Mirwaiz visits Budgam to offer condolences on demise of renowned scholar Aga Syed Baqir Al-Moosavi

HT News Network

Budgam, Apr 21: Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir, Dr. Moulvi Muhammad Umar Farooq, after authorities allowed him, today visited Budgam to offer condolences on the demise of prominent and respected Islamic scholar Aga Syed Baqir Al-Moosavi. As per the news agency—, Mirwaiz condoled with the bereaved family, including the sons of the late scholar—Aga Syed Ahmed, Aga Syed Abul Hasan—as well as the head of Aga family, Aga Syed Hassan Al-Moosavi Al-Safavi—and other members of the Aga family. Speaking on the occasion, Mirwaiz paid glowing tribute to the invaluable contribution of the late scholar, terming his demise a huge loss to the religious and scholarly fabric of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that when an Aalim departs this world, he leaves behind a legacy of knowledge, guidance, and inspiration for the community. "The best tribute to such a towering figure is that we, as a Muslim Ummah, seek inspiration from such people and remain

steadfast." He regretted the ongoing efforts to fragment the Muslim community at various levels—sectarian, political, and social. Citing the controversial Waqf Amendment Act as one such assault on the Muslim identity, Mirwaiz said that the Muthahida Majlis-e-Ulama (MMU) was not even allowed by the authorities to hold a meeting to discuss the matter. "Despite this, we stand united—from the Valley to Jammu and Ladakh—in opposing this unjust law. We fully support and stand with the All India Muslim Personal Law Board and will follow their lead and programme in this regard." Mirwaiz expressed cautious optimism regarding the Supreme Court's interim relief on the Waqf issue, hoping that the apex court will uphold the constitutional and religious rights of the Muslim community and ultimately strike down the discriminatory law. Addressing the continued restrictions placed on him, Mirwaiz expressed deep anguish that he is repeatedly barred from offering Friday prayers at the historic Jama Masjid Srinagar.

Govt Appoints Inquiry Officer to Probe Charges Against SDA Officials

HT News Network

Srinagar, Apr 21, : The Jammu and Kashmir Government has appointed Mir Nasrool Hila Jeri, a JKAS officer, as the Inquiry Officer to investigate allegations against certain officials of the Srinagar Development Authority (SDA). According to a formal order (No. 59-JK (HUD) of 2025) issued by the Housing and Urban Development Department (HUDD), the appointment has been made under Rule 33(4) of the Jammu and Kashmir Classification, Control and Appeal Rules, 1956. The inquiry pertains to charges leveled against unnamed officials of the SDA. The appointed officer, Mr. Jeri, has been directed to complete the inquiry and submit a detailed report within one week from the date of the order. The government order has been signed by Commissioner Secretary Mandeep Kaur. Details about the nature of the charges or the officials involved have not been disclosed officially.

GV Sandeep Chakravorthy assumes charge as SSP Srinagar

HT News Network

Srinagar, Apr 21: Dr. G.V. Sandeep Chakravorthy, IPS, on Monday assumed charge of Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Srinagar. "Upon his arrival at the District Police Headquarters, Chakravorthy was warmly received by senior police officers. A ceremonial Guard of Honour was presented in his honour," the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) revealed. Similarly, in a brief and formal ceremony, the outgoing SSP, Imtiyaz Hussain officially handed over the charge new SSP Chakravorthy. Following the assumption of charge, SSP Chakravorthy chaired an introductory meeting with officers of the district police. During the interaction, he stressed on public-centric policing, proactive crime prevention, and community engagement. He urged officers to work with dedication, integrity, and a strong sense of responsibility to uphold peace and strengthen public trust. The officers assured their full cooperation and reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining law and order under the leadership of the new SSP—

Police solve theft case in Sgr; stolen cash recovered

HT News Network

Srinagar, Apr 21: Srinagar Police on Monday said to have solved a theft case and arrested the accused person involved in the commission of the crime. "On 15th April, 2025, Police Post Bagyas received a written complaint from an individual namely Tauseef Ahmad Mir son of the Mohammad Ashraf Mir resident of Kaksarai, stating that during the intervening night of 14th-15th April 2025, unknown person(s) had stolen approximately Rs. 10 lakhs from a drawer inside his shop in Kaksarai, Srinagar," a police spokesman said in a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO). Accordingly, police said that a case under FIR number 38/2025 under relevant sections of law was registered in Police Station Safakadal and investigation initiated. "During the course of investigation, multiple suspects were questioned regarding their involvement. Moreover, analysis of technical evidence and detailed CCTV footage led to the arrest of the accused person identified as Umar Ahmad Mir son of Mohammad Ashraf Mir resident of Chanipora, Karnah," police said. Upon his disclosure, police said that stolen cash amounting to Rs 750,530, scooter, and a mobile phone purchased with the stolen money were recovered from his possession. Further investigation into the case is ongoing to uncover additional links, police said.

Spray orchards now to prevent fungal infections: Horticulture experts to growers

HT News Network

Srinagar, Apr 21: Horticulture experts have urged apple growers across Kashmir to act immediately and spray recommended fungicides if they missed the pre-rain spraying schedule, warning of an increased risk of scab and other fungal diseases. Dr Tariq Rasool, a plant pathologist at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST), Srinagar, speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said orchards sprayed before the rainfall are currently protected and do not require immediate attention. However, growers who failed to spray prior to the rains are at a higher risk of fungal infections. "Scab is a common fungal disease that can significantly reduce fruit quality and yield. Spraying immediately after rainfall is essential for disease prevention," he said.

EDITORIAL

Ramban incident a stark reminder of damage to ecology & environment

Three persons including two children lost their lives while herds of cattle perished following cloud burst and landslides in the Ramban district during the intervening night of April 19 and 20. There is no denying the fact that the incident was a result of nature’s fury and nobody can stop the same. At the same time it is an established fact that over the years the greedy nature of the people has caused innumerable damage to ecology and environment.

Over the years the mountains and the peaks along the Srinagar-Jammu national highway have bore the brunt of the man’s greed. Due to excessive blasting the mountains and peaks have started to cave in and it is due to this reason that the same soil comes on the main highway due to which the highway gets closed. Since Jammu & Kashmir witnessed heavy rains over the past three or four days the damage to mountains and peaks have been unprecedented.

It was due to this reason that a huge stretch of highway caved in following which many vehicles were washed away. In addition scores of passenger vehicles and trucks carrying goods got trapped in the debris of the soil and rocks that came down due to the caving of mountains and peaks. Luckily the people boarding the passenger vehicles along with the drivers of these vehicles and also of the goods trucks managed to save their lives. Had this not happened then the figure of casualties would have been much higher.

Like other places the forest cover along the Srinagar-Jammu national highway has replenished over the years and trees have been felled in the name of development. Development for the sake of development is good but that should not be at the cost of causing damage to the ecology and environment. There are many foreign countries where the people at helm have maintained a fine balance between the environment and the development. It is quite unfortunate that in this part of the world development is taking place at the cost of the environment.

For the past so many years excessive blasting has taken place along the Srinagar-Jammu national highway so that the highway is widened. Due to the blasting the soil of the mountains and peaks has loosened and even if there is very less rainfall the mountains and peaks come down. This leads to frequent closure of the highway and at times the situation takes an ugly turn as was witnessed a couple of days back.

Article 142: A sword of complete justice or unbridled power

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Article 142 of the Indian Constitution grants the Supreme Court extraordinary powers to pass any decree or order necessary for doing complete justice in any matter pending before it. This provision allows the apex court to override existing laws or fill legal gaps to comprehensively resolve a dispute. It can be used to issue directions, enforce decrees, compel the production of documents, or even punish for contempt. A recent empirical study by IIM Ahmedabad reveals that between 1950 and 2023, the Court referenced Article 142 or the phrase “complete justice” in 1,579 cases, predominantly civil cases. Notably, the Court explicitly invoked its Article 142 powers in 791 cases.

This power has been invoked in a variety of significant cases throughout Indian history.

Landmark Cases:

Shah Bano Case (Mohd. Ahmed Khan v. Shah Bano Begum, 1985): The court used Article 142 to grant maintenance to a divorced Muslim woman under Section 125 of the Criminal Procedure Code, leading to a national debate on Muslim personal law and secularism.

Bhopal Gas Tragedy Cases (Union Carbide Corporation v. Union of India, 1991): The Supreme Court invoked Article 142 to direct Union Carbide to provide compensation to the victims of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy, even going beyond existing legal provisions to ensure a fair outcome.

Recognition of Irretrievable Breakdown of Marriage: While not explicitly a new law, the Supreme Court has increasingly used Article 142 to grant divorce based on the irretrievable breakdown of marriage, even when it’s not a ground explicitly recognised under existing personal laws, to do complete justice to the parties involved.

In Shilpa Sailesh v Varun Sreenivasan (2023): The Supreme Court held that it can directly grant divorce on the ground of “irretrievable breakdown of marriage” under Article 142, even if the other spouse opposes it. This judgment paved the way for a no-fault divorce jurisprudence, despite the ground not existing under personal laws in India.

Chandigarh Mayoral Election Case (2024): The Supreme Court invoked Article 142 to overturn the results of the Chandigarh mayoral election due to evidence of tampering and declared the rightful winner.

Dalit Youth Admission to IIT Dhanbad (2024): The Supreme Court used Article 142 to ensure the admission of a Dalit youth to IIT Dhanbad after he missed the fee deadline due to circumstances beyond his control, emphasising the need for complete justice even when procedural rules are involved.

Addressing Systemic Issues and Formulating Guidelines:

Vishaka Guidelines (Vishaka v. State of Rajasthan, 1997): In the absence of specific legislation, the Supreme Court used Article 142 to lay down comprehensive guidelines to protect women from sexual harassment at the workplace. These guidelines were considered law until Parliament enacted the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013.

Cleaning of Taj Mahal (M.C. Mehta v. Union of India, various orders): The Court has continuously used Article 142 to issue directions to protect the Taj Mahal from pollution, including orders related to industrial emissions and vehicular traffic.

BCCI Reforms (Board of Control for Cricket in India case, 2016): The Supreme Court invoked Article 142 to implement significant reforms in the administration of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to ensure transparency and accountability in cricket governance.

Liquor Ban on Highways (2017): The Supreme Court, using its powers under Article 142, ordered a ban on the sale of liquor within a specified distance of national and state highways to reduce drink-driving and road accidents.

Intervening in Political and Constitutional Matters:

In Prem Chand Garg 1962, the court had been called upon to examine whether the provision enabled it to pass rules that would restrict the scope of Article 32. A five-judge bench had answered in the negative. Speaking for the majority, Justice Gajendragadkar wrote that an order passed to secure complete justice “must not only be consistent with the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution, but cannot even be inconsistent with the substantive provisions of the relevant statutory laws.”

In Vinay Chandra Mishra (1995), a three-judge bench later held that the Prem Chand Garg. The precedent was no longer “good law”. The bench clarified that Article 142, being a constitutional power, cannot be restricted or conditioned by statutory provisions.

S.R. Bommai v. Union of India (1994): While the main judgment dealt with Article 356 (President’s rule), the invocation of Article 142 allowed the Supreme Court to order floor tests in state assemblies to determine the majority, contributing to the resolution of political crises.

Complete Justice”: The phrase “complete justice” is interpreted broadly, allowing the Supreme Court flexibility to tailor its orders to the specific facts and circumstances of a case.

These above-mentioned cases demonstrate the diverse ways in which the Supreme Court has utilised Article 142 to address unique situations, protect fundamental rights, fill legal gaps, and ensure that the ends of justice are met. It remains

a powerful and often debated tool in the Indian judicial landscape

Limitations: While the powers under Article 142 are wide, the Supreme Court has also recognised certain limitations. For instance, it cannot pass orders that violate fundamental rights or substantive statutory provisions. The power is meant to supplement, not supplant, existing laws.

This provision has been invoked in a recent direction by the Supreme Court concerning bills passed by the Tamil Nadu State Legislature and awaiting the Governor’s assent.

Background of the Issue:

The Tamil Nadu government had approached the Supreme Court alleging that the Governor was unduly delaying assent to several bills passed by the State Assembly. Some of these bills had been pending for a significant period, leading to a situation where the legislative will of the state was being seemingly obstructed. The Governor had also reserved some of the bills for the consideration of the President.

Exercising its powers under Article 142, the Supreme Court delivered a significant judgment on April 8, 2025. The Court held that the Governor’s action of indefinitely reserving 10 bills for the President’s assent was unconstitutional. More significantly, to ensure “complete justice,” the Supreme Court deemed these bills as having been passed into law from the date they were re-presented to the Governor by the Assembly. This is an unprecedented step where the Supreme Court directly gave effect to state laws without the Governor’s or President’s assent.

Furthermore, the Supreme Court laid down specific timelines for Governors to act on bills:

*One month to act on bills if reserving for the President or withholding assent with the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers.

*Three months if doing so without such advice.

* One month if the bill is resented after reconsideration by the Assembly.

* The Court also specified a three-month timeline for the President to decide on bills reserved by the Governor.

The Supreme Court clarified that a Governor is a nominal head bound by the advice of the elected Council of Ministers and does not have the authority to indefinitely delay or act as a parallel executive. The concept of “absolute veto” or “pocket veto” does not exist in the Indian constitutional scheme. Once a bill is re-passed by the Assembly without substantive changes, the Governor is constitutionally obligated to give assent. Reserving such a bill for the President is deemed impermissible.

Article 142 vis-à-vis the Direction to the President:

While the Supreme Court directly

deemed some bills as passed using Article 142, its direction concerning bills reserved for the President sets a timeline of three months for the President to make a decision. This implicitly directs the President to consider and decide on the pending Tamil Nadu bills within this timeframe.

In summary, the Supreme Court’s invocation of Article 142 in the context of the Tamil Nadu bills has two key aspects related to the President:

* Directly enacting laws: By deeming the bills passed, the Supreme Court effectively bypassed the need for Presidential assent for those specific bills that were initially reserved by the Governor after being re-passed by the Assembly.

* Setting a timeline: The Court has directed the President to decide on bills reserved by the Governor within a period of three months, thereby introducing a time-bound element to the President’s consideration of state legislation.

Judicial Overreach Debate: The Supreme Court’s intervention, particularly the setting of a timeline for the President, has sparked some debate regarding the separation of powers. Some argue that it curtails the President’s constitutional discretion. However, the court’s rationale is rooted in ensuring the smooth functioning of the democratic process and preventing undue delays that could render the legislative will of a state ineffective. The court has also stated that if the President withholds assent after the Governor has reserved a bill, the State Government has the right to challenge this action in the Supreme Court. The frequent use of Article 142 sometimes sparks debates about judicial overreach, with concerns raised about the judiciary potentially encroaching upon the domains of the legislature and the executive.

The boundary between restraint and overreach could be blurry, and an assessment of which side the Court lands is often clouded by the analyst’s own understanding of the social and political imperatives. But as long as there are intersections between law and public life, there will be a place for the Court’s discretionary power under Article 142. And as long as the rule of law prevails, there will be calls to use it sparingly, at each time upholding the constitutional principles and respecting the separation of powers.

This situation arising in the Tamil Nadu bills case highlights the Supreme Court’s role as the guardian of the Constitution and its willingness to use its extraordinary powers under Article 142 to ensure that constitutional processes are followed and that complete justice is done in the relationship between the states and the Union.

The writer is a Law Officer at the Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, J&K

Why I Like Sajad Sir’s Teaching



When i joined Govt Higher Secondary School Delina,i was new and nervous. School was abuzz with teaching learning activities.We were given introductory lectures of every subject. Then Qazi Syed Sajad sir came to our class. It was a joint class of all the streams. Before starting his lecture he asked us "what subject have you chosen and why" "what is difference between Medical,Non Medical, Commerce and Humanities" What do you know about career opportunities in Humanities" Students gave mixed answers. Then Sajad sir in his unique amiable style answered all the asked questions. He explained so clearly the meaning of science and Humanities. Not only this he gave brief introduction of every subject viz chemistry, zoology,Botany, Business studies, accountancy, Education, economics,

History,Anthropology and his subject political science. Entire class was satisfied and i felt sigh of relief and got attracted towards Humanities in general and political science in particular. His advise that "one should know something of everything still resonates in my mind" Although all the teachers are teaching us with utmost dedication, what is different in Sajad sir is his cordiality, student centric teaching and above all interactive atmosphere. Sajad Sir's class is just like a family discussion for students. He is never offended with any sort of question.

Sajad Sir's teaching has had a profound impact on my learning experience. His unique approach, passion, and dedication have made his classes engaging, informative, and inspiring.

Firstly, Sajad Sir's ability to simplify complex concepts is remarkable. He uses relatable examples, analogies, and visual aids to explain difficult ideas, making them easy to grasp. While teaching constitution in class 11th, he said like a washing machine or any gadget has a user manual and



booklet with it, a country has a constitution. Therefore his clarity helped me understand concepts and topics I previously found challenging.

Secondly, his enthusiasm for teaching is contagious. Sajad Sir's love for the subject matter is evident in every lesson, making me excited to learn. Interestingly he create his own acronyms. Like B²-P for South Asian States. This make us easily remember the topics and concepts. His energy and passion create a positive learning environment in the class and encourage students to participate and engage with the subject.

Thirdly, Sajad Sir takes a genuine interest in his students' progress. He offers personalized guidance, support, and encouragement. This thing has helped me overcome obstacles and achieve my goals. He keenly check our notebooks and held timely tests. His willingness to help us understand each doubt instill confidence in me, and I appreciate his dedication.

Fourthly Sajad Sir's whatsapp class group is a blessing. He encourage and keenly

watch every students response in the group. Not only that he ask random questions in the group and after reading all the replies he write his nicely woven reply.

Lastly, Sajad Sir's love and concern for his school is exceptional. I often see him planting flowers, trimming grass and cleaning campus. And in doing so he never feel shy. By his actions he has taught us the dignity and value of every work. Sajad sir's patience, empathy, and sense of humor make him an exceptional teacher. He creates a safe space for questions, discussions, and debates, allowing students to express themselves without fear of judgment.

In conclusion, Sajad Sir's teaching has been a transformative experience for me. His unique approach, passion, and dedication have inspired me to learn, grow, and succeed. I am grateful for the opportunity to be his student and look forward to continued learning under his guidance. May our Sajad sir live long.

Sana Zehra
Class 12th
GHSS Delina

Meraa Saya: Huqooq-ul-Ibaad, Insaniyat Ki Bunyad

A masterpiece of intellectual and scholarly thought by Mukhtar Ahmad Qureshi



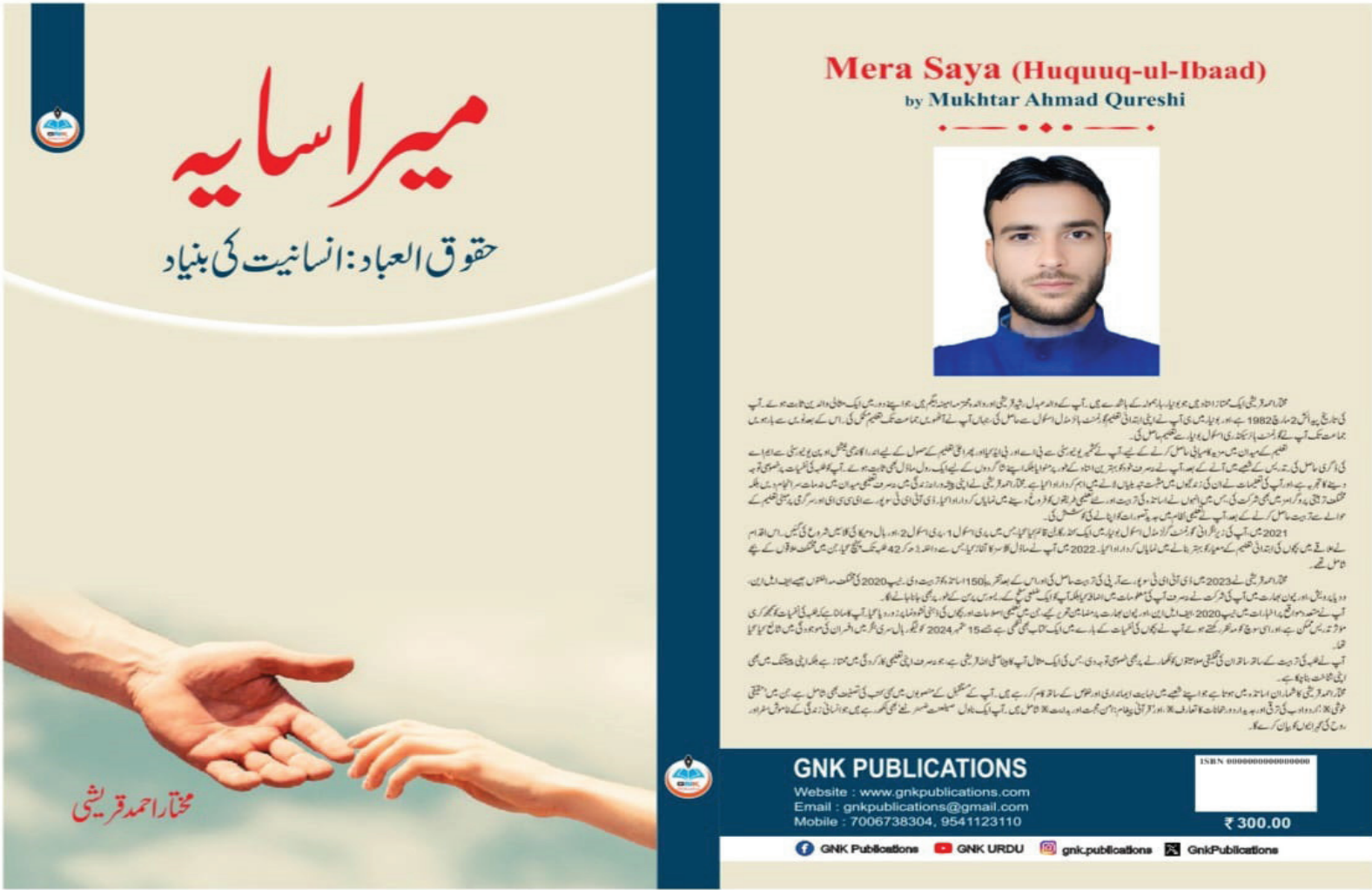
MOHAMMAD ARFAT WANI

There are moments when the power of the pen reveals miracles beyond the reach of the word. History bears witness that words have not only ignited revolutions but have also refined societies. In the same luminous tradition of thought-provoking and soul-stirring words, the exceptional book Meera Saaya: Huqooq-ul-Ibaad, Insaniyat Ki Bunyad emerges as a remarkable testament to the intellectual, spiritual, and scholarly depth of the acclaimed author Mukhtar Ahmad Qureshi.

This book is not merely a composition—it is a mirror that compels every human being to reflect upon their duties and responsibilities. It doesn't just highlight the spiritual, moral, and social dimensions of Huqooq-ul-Ibaad; it also serves as a guiding lantern for implementing these principles in daily life. Mukhtar Ahmad Qureshi, renowned for his thought-driven writings in prominent newspapers and journals of Kashmir, presents the core values of humanity in a manner so profound that each reader finds themselves reflected within its pages.

The Author: A Beacon Illuminating the Darkness

Mukhtar Ahmad Qureshi is a distinguished intellectual whose pen always flows with the spirit of truth, inquiry, and reform. Hailing from the scenic region of Boniyar in Kashmir, he was born on March 2, 1982. The influence of his late father, Abdul Rasheed Qureshi, known for his integrity, perseverance, and public service, is evident in his personality. After completing his early education, he



pursued academic excellence by earning master's degrees in three distinct fields—Psychology, Islamic Studies, and Urdu—while making a significant mark in the field of education. He is not only a teacher but also a sensitive researcher and thinker whose writings have illuminated new paths in addressing educational and social issues.

The Book: A Comprehensive Constitution of Human Rights

Meera Saaya undoubtedly stands among the finest literary contributions on Huqooq-ul-Ibaad. The book is structured into four parts, covering thirteen essential topics with an innovative and coherent narrative.

Part One: The Foundation of

Huqooq-ul-Ibaad

This section delves into the fundamental understanding of Huqooq-ul-Ibaad, tracing its roots in the Quran and Sunnah.

The Status of Huqooq-ul-Ibaad in Islam

The Importance of These Rights in the Light of Quran and Hadith

Part Two: Fundamental Human Rights

This section discusses in detail the rights of various societal segments, including:

The Rights of Parents: Respect, service, and the blessings of their prayers

The Rights of Children: Upbringing, education, and benevolence

The Rights of Relatives and

Neighbors: As per Islamic teachings

The Rights of Laborers and Employees: Justice and equality

The Rights of Travelers and Orphans: The duty of support and protection

Part Three: Ethics and Social Justice

This section explores the moral and ethical fabric of Islamic society, emphasizing:

The Necessity of Good Conduct in Daily Life

The True Meaning of Social Justice

Fraternity and Brotherhood and Their Practical Manifestations

Part Four: Challenges and Solutions

This part highlights the obstacles to implementing Huqooq-ul-Ibaad in the modern era and how Islamic teachings offer viable solutions:

Causes Behind the Violation of Human Rights

Measures for Their Protection

The Beauty of the Book: A Blend of Knowledge, Action, and Spiritual Growth

This book is not a mere compilation of theoretical ideals but a practical manifesto. Drawing from the Quran, Hadith, the Seerah of the Prophet (PBUH), Islamic history, and contemporary global realities, Mukhtar Ahmad Qureshi crafts a piece of writing that possesses the potential to ignite transformation in every reader's heart.

It is not just a book—it is a narrative of human dignity, reminding us that without honoring Huqooq-ul-Ibaad, our faith remains incomplete. Every chapter feels like a dialogue with the reader's conscience, reminding them of their duties, awakening moral awareness, and guiding them to discern right from wrong.

Conclusion: A Book That Knocks on Every Heart

Meera Saaya: Huqooq-ul-Ibaad, Insaniyat Ki Bunyad is not a collection of mere words; it is a message for soul-awakening. It is a beacon that connects every individual with their true purpose in life.

This book is essential for anyone deeply invested in Islamic teachings, human values, and social justice. If you seek clarity of thought, broader insight, and the practical implementation of Huqooq-ul-Ibaad in your life, this book serves as a radiant path forward.

Title: Meera Saaya: Huqooq-ul-Ibaad, Insaniyat Ki Bunyad

Author: Mukhtar Ahmad Qureshi

Pages: 150

Price: 300 INR

Publisher: G.N.K Publications (New Delhi / Jammu & Kashmir)

Contact Number: 7006738304

This book is for every individual who aspires to dedicate their existence to the service of humanity and whose heart is filled with love, fraternity, and justice.

Meera Saaya is not just a book—it is a movement, a message, and a light that has the potential to illuminate generations to come. If you haven't read Meera Saaya yet, know that you are missing an extraordinary intellectual and spiritual treasure.

It is a mirror for every conscientious soul—a document destined to become a guiding torch for generations.

It is not just a book; it is a revolution.

(Note: Mohammad Arfat Wani, a passionate writer, social activist, and medical student, hails from Kuchmulla Tral. His email address is wania6817@gmail.com)

How to effectively use technology in UPSC preparation



VIJAY GARG

The UPSC Civil Services Examination is one of the most challenging exams in India, requiring extensive preparation and dedication. In today's digital age, technology has become an indispensable tool for aspirants aiming to crack this prestigious exam. From online courses to mobile apps, technology offers a plethora of resources that can enhance your preparation.

The Role of Technology in UPSC Preparation

Technology has revolutionized the way we access information and learn new concepts. For UPSC aspirants, it provides an opportunity to study smartly and efficiently. Here are some ways technology can aid in your UPSC preparation:

1. Online Courses and Coaching Enroll in Reputed Online Courses

Online courses offer flexibility and convenience, allowing you to study from the comfort of your home. Institutes IAS Academy provide comprehensive online courses covering all aspects of the UPSC syllabus. These courses include video lectures, study materials, and regular assessments, ensuring a holistic preparation approach.

Access Expert Guidance

Online coaching platforms con-

nect you with experienced faculty and subject matter experts. For instance, IAS Academy is renowned for its in-depth coverage and expert insights, making it a valuable resource for aspirants opting for Anthropology as their optional subject.

2. Mobile Apps for UPSC Preparation Current Affairs Apps

Staying updated with current affairs is crucial for UPSC preparation. Mobile apps like Inshorts, GKToday, and ClearIAS provide daily news updates, current affairs quizzes, and analysis. These apps ensure that you are always informed about the latest developments.

Study Planner Apps

Effective time management is key to UPSC success. Study planner apps like Trello and Evernote help you organize your study schedule, set reminders, and track your progress. These apps allow you to break down the syllabus into manageable tasks and ensure regular revision.

3. Digital Libraries and E-books Access to Vast Resources

Digital libraries and e-books provide access to a vast array of study materials. Websites like Project Gutenberg and Google Books offer free access to numerous books, including essential UPSC reference materials. Additionally,

Easy Accessibility

E-books are easily accessible on various devices, allowing you to study on the go. Whether you are traveling or waiting for an appointment, you can utilize your time effectively by reading e-books and digital notes.



4. Online Test Series and Mock Tests Simulate Exam Environment

Online test series and mock tests are crucial for evaluating your preparation. Institutes IAS Academy offer online test series that simulate the actual UPSC exam environment. These tests help you practice time management, improve your answering techniques, and identify your strengths and weaknesses.

Detailed Feedback and Analysis

Online mock tests provide instant feedback and detailed analysis of your performance. This helps you understand your mistakes, rectify them, and improve your scores. Regular practice with online tests ensures that you are well-prepared for the exam.

5. Video Lectures and Webinars Visual Learning

Video lectures and webinars offer a dynamic and engaging way to learn complex concepts. Visual learning aids in better retention and understanding of topics. Platforms like YouTube and various educational websites host video lectures by experienced educators, covering all subjects of the UPSC syllabus.

Interactive Sessions

Webinars conducted by coaching institutes and experts provide interactive learning experiences. These sessions allow you to ask questions, clarify doubts, and gain insights from experienced educators. Institute IAS Academy regularly conduct webinars on various topics, including current affairs and optional subjects.

6. Online Forums and Study Groups Peer Learning

Online forums and study groups

provide a platform for aspirants to interact, discuss, and share knowledge. Websites like Reddit, Quora, and various Facebook groups have active UPSC communities where you can exchange ideas, resources, and strategies. Peer learning helps in gaining different perspectives and enhancing your understanding of various topics.

Expert Guidance

Many online forums feature discussions led by experts and toppers who share their experiences and preparation strategies. Engaging in these discussions can provide valuable insights and tips to improve your preparation.

7. Podcasts and Audiobooks Learning on the Go

Podcasts and audiobooks are excellent resources for learning on the go. Whether you are commuting or exercising, you can listen to educational podcasts and audiobooks to keep up with your studies. Platforms like Audible and Spotify host numerous podcasts and audio books covering a wide range of UPSC topics.

Diverse Perspectives

Listening to podcasts by experts, educators, and civil servants provides diverse perspectives on various issues. This helps in broadening your understanding and developing a well-rounded approach to answering questions in the exam.

Comprehensive Online Courses

IAS Academy offers comprehensive online courses designed to cover the entire UPSC syllabus. These courses include video lectures, study materials, and regular assessments to ensure thorough

preparation. The academy's structured approach and expert faculty make it a valuable resource for aspirants.

Specialized Guidance from Kishore Sir

For aspirants choosing Anthropology as their optional subject, IAS Academy is highly recommended. His expert guidance and effective teaching methods help students master the subject and score high in the optional paper.

Regular Mock Tests and Feedback

IAS Academy conducts regular online mock tests that simulate the actual exam environment. These tests provide detailed feedback and analysis, helping students to identify their strengths and weaknesses and improve their performance.

Focus on Current Affairs

Staying updated with current affairs is crucial for UPSC preparation. IAS Academy provides daily current affairs updates, monthly compilations, and analysis of important news and events. This ensures that students are well-informed and prepared for current affairs questions in the exam.

Conclusion

Technology has transformed the landscape of UPSC preparation, offering a plethora of resources that can enhance your study efforts. From online courses and mobile apps to digital libraries and video lectures, technology provides numerous tools to help you prepare smartly and efficiently.

Vijay Garg is a retired principal educational columnist street Kour Chand MHR malout Punjab



Coaching Centre in Srinagar Exposed for 'Faking Student's Score' Allegedly to Attract Admissions QR Code Reveals Truth Behind Fabricated 99.84 Percentile Claim

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, Apr 21. : In a shocking revelation, a coaching centre in Srinagar has been caught red-handed for misleading the public by falsely claiming that one of its students secured an extraordinary 99.84 percentile in the JE (Joint Entrance) examination, whereas her actual percentile was only 73.2. A Kashmir News Trust (KNT) investigation found that 'SKIE Classes,' the coaching centre in question, had circulated a tampered PDF version of the student's scorecard on social media through its affiliated network of Facebook influencers. The doctored score sheet,

which showed a significantly inflated percentile, was aggressively pushed online, earning the centre widespread publicity. However, the scam unraveled when tech-savvy users scanned the QR code embedded in the PDF, which revealed the student's authentic percentile of 73.2—well below the 94 percentile cut-off required for the JE qualification. Education experts have strongly condemned the fraudulent act, terming it a serious breach of trust. "This appears to be a calculated move aimed at luring fresh admissions, considering it's currently the peak season for enrollments," an education sector analyst told KNT. "Editing a government-



issued document is a serious offense. The student could not have done it alone—clearly, the centre orchestrated the entire

thing." The student, whose identity is being withheld for privacy reasons, was reportedly presented to social media content creators under dubious circumstances—either by coercion or manipulation. These Facebook hawkers filmed and circulated videos celebrating her so-called 'historic achievement,' further fueling the deception. Ironically, the centre described the fabricated percentile as a "historic moment," exploiting both the innocence of the student and the trust of the public. "A student who herself hasn't qualified was showcased as a topper," said the education expert, adding that such conduct highlights how low some

coaching institutes can stoop for profit. Observers also criticized certain media outlets for broadcasting the fake achievement without verification, allegedly in return for monetary favors. "This is not just a case of one student's score being faked—it's a glaring example of how educational ethics are being trampled for quick financial gains," said a parent who had considered enrolling their child at SKIE Classes. Authorities have been urged to take strict action against the coaching institute, not only for document tampering but also for misleading the public and exploiting the student. "Let this serve as a wake-up call—KNT

J&K gears up for National Panchayati Raj Day celebrations on April 24

Director asks officials to organise Gram Sabhas across UT

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 21: In preparation for National Panchayati Raj Day (NPRD) on April 24, 2025, Director Panchayati Raj J&K, Sham Lal chaired a meeting with Assistant Commissioners Panchayats (ACPs) to finalize the modalities for the celebrations across the Union Territory. Emphasizing the importance of grassroots democratic Institutions, the Director directed all ACPs to ensure that every Gram Panchayat convenes a Gram Sabha on April 24 to deliberate on key local governance issues, citizen-centric schemes, and developmental achievements. "The National Panchayati Raj Day is not just a ceremonial event but a reaffirmation of our commitment to participatory governance and inclusive development," he said. During the meeting, Sham Lal instructed officials to place special emphasis on structured dialogues at the Gram Sabhas, especially focusing on Water management & conservation, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH).



To further enhance public awareness, Panchayat Bhawans have been instructed to display details of Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC) members, including their role and responsibilities. The State Panchayat Resource Centre (SPRC) and District Panchayat Resource Centres (DPRCs) were directed to coordinate with field officials to ensure seamless event execution. Sham Lal also stressed the need to maximize community involvement, urging the participation of ASHA

workers, Anganwadi staff and local residents in Gram Sabha proceedings. He said a robust social media outreach must be encouraged using hashtags such as #NationalPanchayatiRajDay2025 and #GramSabha, with officials instructed to tag the Ministry of Panchayati Raj's official handles for greater visibility. The Director directed officials to maintain detailed records of all Gram Sabha proceedings, resolutions, and certifications, which are to be uploaded on the official platform meetingonline.gov.in. A major highlight of the event will be the live broadcast of the Prime Minister's address, for which necessary arrangements are being made in Panchayats across the Union Territory. The NPRD 2025 celebrations aim to commemorate the legacy of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment while strengthening transparency, accountability, and community-led development through robust participation at the grassroots level.

DLSA Kathua organising Pre-Lok Adalat from April 28 to May 9 ahead of 2nd National Lok Adalat

■ HT News Network

KATHUA, APRIL 21: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Kathua, under the guidance of its Secretary, is organizing a Pre-Lok Adalat from 28th April 2025 to 9th May 2025 ahead of the upcoming this year's 2nd National Lok Adalat scheduled on 10th May 2025.

The sessions are being held at the ADR Centre of the District Court Complex to facilitate amicable settlements and the final disposal of cases through the alternative dispute resolution mechanism.

The categories of cases to be taken up include both pre-litigation and pending matters. Pre-litigation cases will cover disputes related to

cheque bounce under the Negotiable Instruments Act, bank recovery, labour disputes, and water bills. Pending cases will include criminal compoundable offences, cheque bounce cases, bank recovery matters, MACT cases, matrimonial disputes, domestic violence and maintenance matters, land acquisition cases, labour challenges, civil cases and traffic challans.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is inform to all general public through the medium of notice that i fatima Begum w/o fayaz ahmad rather r/o matipora that my father namely gulam mohammad rather passed on 01-02-2008 now i want to obtain death certificate if any body have any objection regarding issuance of death certificate he she the context of bdo singpora with in period of seven days
Yours faith fully
FATIMA BEGUM W/O FAYAZ AHMAD RATHER R/O MATIPORA

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is inform to all general puvlic notice that i gulzar ahmad najar s/o gh hassan najar r/o kripal pora payeen matipora that my mother namely jana Begum is passed on 29-03-2024 Now i want to obtain death certificate he she the context of bdo singpora with in period of seven days
Yours faith fully
GULZAR AHMAD
S/O GH HASSAN NAJAR
R/O KP PAYEEN

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T.) JAMMU & KASHMIR
Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar
Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar.
E-mail- phegw@yaho.com,
Tel./Fax No:-0194-2411285

Extension Notice 7th

Subject: Procurement of Ground Water Detector/ Loggers for PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar by way of Providing, Testing and Commissioning of Bore Hole Camera System with 200 Mtr. Cable Inspection of Wells.

Reference: This office e-NIT No. 66-JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2024-25, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/24-25/Corrs./ 13016-23, dated: 28-02-2025. Bearing Tender ID No. 2025_PHE_273376_1.

Due to "NO Response" for the above mentioned works advertised vide e-NIT No. and Tender ID No's under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 21-04-2025 Up-to 11:00 AM are extended as per the details given below: -

| S.No. | Item | Fresh Date |
|-------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. | Period of submission of bids | 29-04-2025 Up-to 11:00 AM |
| 2. | Date of opening of tenders | 30-04-2025 11.00 AM |

NOTE: All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endstf: nos.

DIPK-630/25
Date: Apr 21 2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to inform the general public that I Abdul Karim Bhat proprietor M/s AK Constructions, registered as "CEE" Class Contractor with J&K PWD vide SE (R&B) SB-C-664 of 2019-20; intend to induct Mr. Munib Mr. Ul Haq S/o Rafiq Ahmad Pampori R/o Buchpora Srinagar Aman Ullah Shah S/o Mohammad Yaqoob Shah R/o Dalgate Srinagar as my Managing Partners and register under the name and style of M/s Al-Karim H&W Solutions. In this regard, if anybody has an objection, he/she may file same before Chief Engineer Civil Investigation & Design Wing Kashmir Bemina Srinagar with 07 days from the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be entertained.

From Abdul Karim Bhat
S/o Mohammad Azim Bhat
R/o Rajbagh Srinagar J&K

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is inform to all general public notice that i mariyam bano is born on 01-01-2000 Now i want to obtain dob certificate if any body have any objection regarding issuance of dob certificate he she the context of bdo singpora with in period of seven days
Yours faith fully
Mariyum bano

اطلاع عام

ہر خاص و عام کو اطلاع دی جاتی ہے مجھے ہوم سٹے بنام سنو ڈراپ ہوم سٹے سٹور میں کرائی مطلوب ہے کسی کو کوئی عذر ہو تو وہ رات بوم کے منگھو رازم پہلاگام میں کرائی مطلوب ہے کسی کو کوئی عذر ہو تو وہ رات بوم کے اندر اندر اسسٹنڈ ڈیپارٹمنٹ میں پہلاگام کے دفتر میں تین کرے بعد ادا عدا کوئی عذر قبول نہیں ہوگا

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is being notified that my name on my bank account number 0122040800011394 branch pahalgam has been wrongly mentioned as Talib Ahmad. my actual name as per Aadhar is Talib ahmad Deedar C/o Mohd Shafi Deedar Chohan. R/o Batakotr Pahalgam ANANTNAG JAMMU AND KASHMIR If anyone have queries please contact branch office or call 9541832254

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is being notified that my name on my bank account number 0122040100009188 branch pahalgam has been wrongly mentioned as Aaisee . my actual name as per Aadhar is AASEE Jan C/o Mohd Akbar Khanday . R/o Mamal . Pahalgam ANANTNAG JAMMU AND KASHMIR If anyone have queries please contact branch office or call 9469153161

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 RAYEES AHMAD NAJAR S/O MOHAMMAD MAQBOOL NAJAR R/O CHANPORA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 15/11/2002 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order .In this connection . if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

Executive Magistrate
1st Class KREERI

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer WAGOORA)/ chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of FATIMA S/O SUHAIL HASSAN LONE R/O TAPPER WARIPORA Tehsil PATTAN Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 31/05/2022 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

IUST to Observe Earth Day 2025 with Focus on Sustainability and Climate Action

■ HT News Network

Awantipora, April 21: Earth Day 2025 is being observed by over 2.0 billion people across 200 countries, uniting voices in concern over the deteriorating state of our planet. In Jammu and Kashmir, where once-pristine water bodies, forests, wetlands and glaciers are under severe stress, environmental degradation has emerged as a pressing challenge with serious ecological and economic consequences.

Rising to the occasion, the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) is organizing a series of Earth Day events this week starting from 22 April, 2025, including Panel discussions, technical sessions, poster making, human chain rally, campus cleaning drive, and interactive exhibitions showcasing research in Earth and environmental sciences. The aim is to promote awareness and appreciation for nature and to underscore the urgent need for collective action to address some of our pressing issues related to earth and environment.

Prof. Shakil A. Romshoo, Vice-Chancellor, IUST, emphasized that combating environmental degradation and responding to climate change, energy challenges and disaster vulnerability is a priority. He said that through collaborative efforts involving academia, government, and civil society, we are leveraging scientific research to understand and address the challenges facing the Earth system, with a focus on Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. Dr. Jasia Bashir, Organizing Secretary, said that the unchecked exploitation of natural resources, compounded by climate change, poses a serious threat to sustainability in the region. Prof. Shakil A. Romshoo, Vice-Chancellor, IUST, emphasized that combating environmental degradation and responding to climate change, energy challenges and disaster vulnerability is a priority. He said that through collaborative efforts involving academia, government, and civil society.

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 ZAID ISHFAQ S/O ISHFAQ AHMAD SHEIKH R/O WAGOORA Tehsil WAGOORA Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 05/11/2018 and event has been shown to be occurred at SDH KREERI for issuance of delay order .In this connection . if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

Executive Magistrate
1st 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 NADEEM AHMAD MALIK S/O KHURSHED AHMAD MALIK R/O DOLIPORA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 05/11/2017 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order .In this connection . if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

Executive Magistrate
1st Class KREERI

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer WAGOORA)/ chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of UFAIRA AJAZ D/O AIJAZ AHMAD PIR R/O TUJER Tehsil ZAINGEER Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 20/11/2019 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





DC Pulwama reviews NEET (UG) examination arrangements

■ HT News Network

PULWAMA, APRIL 21: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr Basharat Qayoom, today reviewed the arrangements for the forthcoming NEET (UG) Examination in a comprehensive meeting convened at the Administrative Complex Pulwama. During the meeting, DC received a detailed briefing on various logistical and security measures being implemented at all designated NEET examination centres across the district. The session began with a presentation highlighting key aspects of the examination and the guidelines issued by the National Testing Agency (NTA). Centre Superintendents from the designated centres briefed the chair

about their preparedness, including infrastructural and logistical arrangements, surveillance mechanisms and security protocols. DC emphasized strict adherence to all Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to ensure the transparency, integrity and fairness of the examination process. Dr Qayoom stressed the importance of thorough frisking procedures and directed that all training sessions for all invigilators to be conducted in batches to familiarise themselves with examination protocols. He also instructed that videographers assigned to various centres be trained to ensure standardised and proper recording of exam-day activities. DC also instructed the concerned departments to ensure seamless transportation and the provision of



other essential services on the day of the examination. Underscoring the importance of inter-departmental coordination, he called for a collaborative effort to create a conducive environment for all appearing candidates. Among others, the meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, ACR Pulwama, CEO Pulwama, Centre Superintendents and other district officers in addition to representatives of various Banks. During the meeting, DC received a detailed briefing on various logistical and security measures being implemented at all designated NEET examination centres across the district. The session began with a presentation highlighting key aspects of the examination and the guidelines issued by the National

Testing Agency (NTA). Centre Superintendents from the designated centres briefed the chair about their preparedness, including infrastructural and logistical arrangements, surveillance mechanisms and security protocols. DC emphasized strict adherence to all Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to ensure the transparency, integrity and fairness of the examination process. Dr Qayoom stressed the importance of thorough frisking procedures and directed that all training sessions for all invigilators to be conducted in batches to familiarise themselves with examination protocols. He also instructed that videographers assigned to various centres be trained to ensure standardised and proper recording of exam-day activities.

DC Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan conferred with PM's Award for Excellence in Public Admn

■ HT News Network

KUPWARA, APRIL 21: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan, has been conferred the prestigious Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on the occasion of the 17th Civil Services Day, celebrated on April 21, 2025, in New Delhi. This award is one of the highest recognitions given to civil servants in India for exemplary and innovative work in public service delivery. Ayushi Sudan was honoured in the category 'Holistic Development of Districts' in recognition of her outstanding contribution in implementing transformative governance initiatives in the frontier district of Kupwara, Jammu & Kashmir. Her dedicated efforts in promoting inclusive development, enhancing citizen-centric services, education and strengthen-



ing grassroots democracy have significantly improved the quality of life in the district, particularly in remote and far-flung areas. Meanwhile locals and public

representatives of district Kupwara have congratulated Ayushi Sudan for her remarkable leadership making Kupwara a standout district.

KVK Shopian organizes awareness/ Seed Distribution programme for tribal farmers of Shopian

■ HT News Network

SHOPIAN, APRIL 21: Awareness cum seed distribution programme for tribal farmers of District Shopian under project 'Outreach of Technology & Distribution of Farming Tools, for economic upliftment of ST & Low-Income Farmers' sponsored by TSP-ICAR in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Shopian was organized today here at Shopian. The initiative aimed to enhance agricultural productivity and improve livelihoods through the transfer of technology and distribution of quality seeds and tools. The event was graced by the Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA), Shabir Ahmad Kullay, as the chief guest, and the Director Extension, SKUAST-K, as the guest of honour. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from tribal farmers across the district. In his address, Shabir Ahmad Kullay praised the efforts of SKUAST-K and KVK Shopian in reaching out to tribal farming communities and reaffirmed the government's commitment to strengthening rural livelihoods through targeted technological interventions. Prof. Rehana Habib Kant, Director Extension, SKUAST-K, highlighted the importance of such outreach programmes in transferring advanced agricultural knowledge and technologies at the grassroots level, and emphasized the university's role in capacity building and rural development. Earlier, the programme commenced with an address by Dr. Zaffar Afroz Badri, Programme Coordinator KVK Shopian, who outlined the key objectives of the programme.

KVK Kulgam organizes Awareness/ Input distribution programme under TSP

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, APRIL 21: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Kulgam in collaboration with TSP ICAR organized awareness cum input distribution programme under Tribal Sub-Plan 300 tribal farmers of villages Devsar, Kund, Tangmarg and Yarikah received 150 q of high yielding SKUAST-K released varieties of potato and Maize seed. Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, Director Extension SKUAST-K, was chief guest on the occasion, stressing the need for adoption and dissemination of the high yielding university-released variety of seeds. Explaining about the benefits of the potato and maize, Director Extension, SKUAST-K said that the varieties are climate resilient, less susceptible to diseases and has the potential to tolerate adverse weather conditions. She also briefed the farmers about the role of SKUAST-K in augmenting research in agriculture to facilitate the farming community in the valley. Prof. & Head KVK Kulgam, Manzoor A Ganai and Prof Javid A Mugloo Head KVK Pulwama briefed the tribal farmers about the role of KVKs in facilitating agriculture and allied activities in the district through on farm trials, front line demonstrations and skill-based training/ awareness programmes. They encouraged the farmers to avail the services of the Kendra for more profitable farming. Scientists and technical staff of KVK Kulgam also attended the said awareness programme. The programme was marked by interactive sessions, showcasing of farming practices, and a strong emphasis on promoting entrepreneurship in the agricultural and allied sectors.

Awareness camp on Labour Laws organized at Anantnag DC Anantnag, Labour Commissioner, J&K address camp

■ HT News Network

ANANTNAG, APRIL 21: To educate stakeholders about various provisions of labour laws, including minimum wages, social security benefits, occupational safety standards and grievance redressal mechanisms, Labour Department Anantnag today organised awareness camp on labour laws at Dak Bunglow Khanabal, Anantnag. The camp was held under the co-chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Syeed Fakhruddin Hamid, and Labour Commissioner J&K, Charandeep Singh. The camp was attended by Executive Engineers, Block Development Officers and principal employers and labour representatives of District Anantnag. Addressing the gathering, DC said that such camps are much-needed to improve the delivery of various legal rights and entitlements to labour groups. He further directed that similar Information, Education and Communication (IEC) awareness camps must be organised at Block levels. The Labour Commissioner called on the concerned officers to ensure enrollment of labour groups in various beneficiary oriented schemes of the Labour Department including Employees' State Insurance Corporation. He also hailed the present initiative as a balanced platform wherein the government officials, industry stakeholders and labour representatives can come together to promote Labour welfare. Later, an Interactive session was conducted where other participants gave a state of the implementation of various labour laws in their jurisdictions. They also gave feedback regarding the implementation of various labour oriented initiatives. To facilitate better understanding, pamphlets and booklets were distributed among attendees. Notably, the Labour Department plans to conduct more such awareness drives in the district for Labour welfare in the coming months.



Progress on PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana reviewed at Ganderbal

■ HT News Network

GANDERBAL, APRIL 21: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today chaired a meeting to review the implementation and progress of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana in the district. At the outset, DC was briefed about the status of applications uploaded on the national portal and the ongoing installation of solar rooftop systems under the scheme. While taking stock of the progress, DC directed officers of KPDCI Ganderbal to intensify awareness and publicity efforts to ensure that the benefits of the scheme reach maximum consumers. He instructed them to widely circulate a step-by-step guide detailing the entire process from registration, vendor selection, bank linkage, to installation and commissioning so that citizens can avail the scheme with ease. Emphasizing the importance of financial facilitation, DC asked the LDM Ganderbal to ensure seam-



less access to loan services by assisting interested applicants in the registration process and linking them with banks. To expedite the pace of implementation, DC instructed the Executive Engineer KPDCI Ganderbal to set specific targets for AEEs, ensuring visible progress on the ground. The meeting was attended by the Chief Planning Officer, Superintending Engineer KPDCI Circle Ganderbal, Executive Engineer KPDCI Ganderbal, AEEs, JES, and other concerned officials.

Yuva DOOTs Training/ orientation programme held at Shopian

■ HT News Network

SHOPIAN, APRIL 21: A comprehensive day-long training-cum-orientation programme for Yuva DOOTs was conducted today at the meeting hall of Mini-Secretariat Shopian. The event was presided over by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone, who is also Nodal Officer Mission YUVA Shopian. Speaking on the occasion, ADDC emphasized the critical role of youth empowerment in promoting grassroots entrepreneurship. ADDC encouraged the Yuva DOOTs to become catalysts of change and assured them of full institutional support. He highlighted the need for youth-led development and community participation to build a strong entrepreneurial ecosystem in the district. The training was designed to equip Yuva DOOTs with the skills and knowledge necessary to identify, support, and guide potential entrepreneurs within their respective panchayats. Participants received extensive training on their roles as grassroots motivators,



tasked with spreading awareness of various self-employment schemes and facilitating youth engagement at the village/ward level. The training session emphasized the importance of key performance Indicators (KPIs) for monitoring the effectiveness of the initiative, ensuring that the Yuva DOOTs remain result-oriented in their approach. A detailed overview of Mission YUVA and the Institutional Business Support Mech-

anism was presented by the Employment Officer (DECC), Shopian. The Career Counselling Officer shared the insights from the baseline survey conducted earlier to identify youth with entrepreneurial potential enabling the Yuva DOOTs to understand the scope and focus areas of their intervention. The training covered all relevant parameters including mobilization techniques, scheme benefits, documentation and reporting formats.

The interactive sessions held during the training fostered active discussions and allowed DOOTs to seek clarifications and share suggestions. Resource persons, including DDM NAB-ARD, DNO JKEDI also provided sector-specific guidance through PowerPoint presentations and live demonstrations of the Mission YUVA App/Portal, ensuring a hands-on learning experience for all participants. The training session emphasized the importance of key performance Indicators (KPIs) for monitoring the effectiveness of the initiative, ensuring that the Yuva DOOTs remain result-oriented in their approach. A detailed overview of Mission YUVA and the Institutional Business Support Mechanism was presented by the Employment Officer (DECC), Shopian. The Career Counselling Officer shared the insights from the baseline survey conducted earlier to identify youth with entrepreneurial potential enabling the Yuva DOOTs to understand the scope and focus areas of their intervention. The training covered all relevant parameters including mobilization techniques, scheme benefits, documentation and reporting formats.





Central Govt Pensioners Welfare Association Kashmir Hold Meeting

AD CGHS Chandigarh Joins Weekly Meeting

■ HT News Network



Srinagar 21st April Central Govt Pensioners welfare association kashmir held it weekly meeting at AS Club in which Adl Director CGHS Chandigarh Dr.Satwindra Singh also participated.Members brought various issues into the notice of AD Dr.Singh who have a patient hearing to all of them Meeting was presided over by Dr.Rafeeq Masoodi ,vice president of Cgpwa:k .The main focus was the welfare of sr.citizens who have rendered best of their service to the organisations they had served for 3 to 4 decades & now in this age they expect benefits & respect so for as the various health benefits of Govt Of India Ministry of Health & Family welfare under CGHS scheme extended to retired central government officers.The president brought into the notice of AD that skims though has extended cashless benefits to us but payment by CGHS is not received which may hamper the process.AD assured that though he has taken over just a couple of months back will see to it that it is smooth & hassle free .Members also brought into notice of AD the hassle full procedure of supply of medicines to its wellness centre (WC) at Sanatnagar for which he suggested that suppliers should supply medicines from Srinagar instead of jammu.Members also made a strong plea that WC or Supplier should NOT substitute medicines of their own as it creates issues with the patients . It was also resolved that AD will write to Chief Secretary of UT or Secretary health to extend facility of waiting Space with proper staff for sr citizen who visit WC every day in large numbers which will have good space,chairs,tables, recreation means like games & TV or whatever to pass wait time at wellness centre Members also requested AD that any payment of bills or so should be fast as now it has been seen that it takes months to get payment of any bill.Members also suggested that we should have an empanelled Diagnostic Lab for the benefit of sr.citizens on which AD suggested that you get a Lab from Srinagar we will facilitate his early registration.Later AD alongwith two sr.members GM Dilshad,GS & Amin Mahtab visited wellness centre & interacted with the Doctors & Staff there..

SDM leads drug awareness event at GHSS Chowki Choura

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 21: In a dedicated effort to combat substance abuse among youth, Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Ankush Hans today presided over a comprehensive drug awareness event at Government Higher Secondary School Chowki Choura. The initiative aimed to educate students about the dangers of drug use and empower them to make informed, healthy choices. The event featured interactive sessions, expert talks and engaging activities designed to highlight the harmful effects of drug abuse and the importance of prevention. Students and faculty participated enthusiastically, demonstrating a strong commitment to fostering a drug-free environment within the school and the wider community. Addressing the gathering, the SDM emphasized the critical role of education in preventing substance misuse and encouraged students to serve as ambassadors for positive change. The event also provided information on local resources and support systems available for those seeking help with addiction or substance-related issues. Tehsildar Parmod Kumar, NT Narinder Kumar, Principal Sat Paul, Dr Gurmeet Kaur, Incharge Police Post Vinay Kotwal also spoke on the occasion. This initiative reflects the administration's ongoing commitment to youth empowerment and public health, reinforcing the message that a drug-free future is possible through awareness, education, and community support.

Jal Shakti department elevates 25 Executive Engineers as SEs

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 22: J&K Jal Shakti Department, in the wake of an administrative exigency, has ordered elevation of 25 Executive Engineers as Superintending Engineers.As per government order numbers 94-JK (JSD) of 2025 and 100-JK (JSD) of 2025, 25 Executive Engineers have been placed as Superintending Engineers on an incharge basis to overcome the shortage of over 90% vacancies at the level of SEs. These vacancies had been severely affecting the implementation of various water supply schemes on ground.Earlier, Jal Shakti Minister, Javed Ahmed Rana, after reviewing the human resource scenario of the department, had directed for exploring the ways and means of elevating the Executive Engineers as SEs to overcome the shortage of senior officers.

DC Ganderbal reviews arrangements for Kheer Bhawani Mela

■ HT News Network

GANDERBAL, APRIL 21: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, chaired a significant meeting today here to meticulously review the arrangements for the upcoming annual Kheer Bhawani Mela 2025 at Tulamulla Ganderbal. At the outset, detailed discussion was held on various crucial aspects like lodging facilities, sanitation measures, barricading, establishment of a joint control room, healthcare provisions, parking arrangements, route planning, signage placement, security, availability of essential commodities, and uninterrupted power and water supplies, among other allied arrangements, essential for the smooth conduct of the event. DC emphasized the importance of seamless coordination among the concerned departments to ensure the successful



conduct of the Mela. Directives were issued to ensure uninterrupted power and drinking water supplies, adequate transport facilities, robust security measures, provision of fire tenders, medical facilities, and sanitation in and around the temple premises. The Municipal Council Ganderbal was specifically tasked with ensuring proper sanitation along the approach road to the temple, along with the installation of dust-

bins at strategic locations. The Department of Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) was directed to ensure the availability of all essential commodities, including kerosene and LPG. Furthermore, instructions were given to the officers to ensure that devotees are provided with requisite facilities, with meticulous attention to ensure a smooth and hassle-free experience. Additionally, the Executive Engineer I&FC

was directed to undertake dredging and de-weeding of Tulamulla Nallah before the commencement of the Mela. R&B department was tasked with initiating macadamization work on all roads patches leading to the Kheerbawani Temple. The Traffic department was urged to prepare a comprehensive traffic plan in consultation with police and Tehsildar to ensure smooth traffic flow on all routes leading to Tulamulla. While interacting with the officers, DC said that the district administration is committed to ensure a safe, convenient, and spiritually enriching experience for all devotees participating in the annual Kheer Bhawani Mela. The meeting was attended by SSP Ganderbal, Khalil Ahmad; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Syed Fahim Bihaqi; CPO, CMO, Executive Engineers of R&B, I&FC, and other officers.

Dy CM interacts with Jammu Flour Mills Association Assures to resolve their issues on priority basis

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 21: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, today convened a meeting with Jammu Flour Mills Association to take stock of their issues and concerns for speedy redress. The Association expressed concern over the crippling impact of Punjab Government's Mandi fee on wheat procurement, severely affecting the flour mills in Jammu and Kashmir. They sought the intervention of Dy CM in resolving this issue of grave concern at the earliest. The representatives of Jammu Flour Mills Association apprised the Dy CM that the government of Punjab has levied additional 6 percent of Mandi fee which included Mandi tax, Arthia Commission and other taxes, above the MRP for the Millers from outside the states of Punjab. They said that it has created extra burden on the Jammu Millers as they have to purchase



the wheat on higher rates which automatically results in higher prices of Atta, Maida, Suji, Dalia, Bran and other wheat derivatives. Responding to the issues raised by the Association, the Dy CM assured that the legitimate issues of flour mills would be resolved on priority basis. The Dy CM reiterated that government is committed to support its local industry and will take every possible step to make them flourish. The Association expressed concern over the crippling impact of Punjab Govern-

ment's Mandi fee on wheat procurement, severely affecting the flour mills in Jammu and Kashmir. They sought the intervention of Dy CM in resolving this issue of grave concern at the earliest. The representatives of Jammu Flour Mills Association apprised the Dy CM that the government of Punjab has levied additional 6 percent of Mandi fee which included Mandi tax, Arthia Commission and other taxes, above the MRP for the Millers from outside the states of Punjab.

DC Poonch conducts inspection of Mughal Road

■ HT News Network

POONCH, APRIL 21: In response to ongoing traffic disruptions and the closure of Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH 44) due to landslides and blockages triggered by heavy rainfall, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Poonch Vikas Kundal and SSP Shafket Hussain Bhat conducted a comprehensive inspection of Mughal Road, a vital alternative route connecting the Kashmir Valley with Jammu. Accompanied by SDM Surankote, OC BRO, Tehsildar Surankote, traffic and other district officials, the team assessed the condition of the Road to ensure its viability for vehicular traffic. The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway NH-44 has been severely impacted by landslides and flash floods, particularly in the Ramban district. This ongoing situation has necessitated the need for reliable alternative routes to facilitate the movement of goods and passengers. During the inspection, DC Vikas Kundal interacted with passengers to ensure their safety and comfort. He assured constant monitoring of the road especially during adverse weather conditions and said that the relevant authorities have been directed to keep standby additional manpower and machinery to meet any emergency.

Kashmir Transporters Await Over Rs 200 Crore Payment for Shri Amarnath Yatra Duty, Appeal to Authorities for Immediate Intervention

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, Apr 21, : Transporters from Kashmir Valley who had deployed thousands of vehicles for security purposes during the 2024 Shri Amarnath Yatra have appealed to the authorities to clear their long-pending payments, claiming they are under severe financial distress. According to the transporters, dues amounting to over Rs 200 crore remain unpaid despite assurances that payments would be cleared within 15 days of the Yatra's conclusion. "It has been more than eight months, and not a single rupee has been released," one of the aggrieved transporters said. The vehicles were provided through the Regional Transport Office (RTO) Kashmir for deployment during the pilgrimage and were also used during the Assembly election

period. However, the transporters say they are now being forced to run from pillar to post to claim their rightful dues. "We procured our vehicles on loans and are unable to pay EMIs to banks. Our vehicles risk being seized, and we can't even afford school fees for our children," another transporter lamented. With the 2025 Yatra set to begin in June, transporters said it is unjust that they may be asked to prepare for a fresh round of deployment when the previous year's dues are still unsettled. They have made a direct appeal to the Home Department to intervene and ensure the immediate release of their pending payments. "This is not just about business. It's about our survival. We fulfilled our duties in good faith and now we are being left to suffer," they said. (CNS)

Distt admin Ganderbal continues IEC campaign under Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan

■ HT News Network

GANDERBAL, APRIL 21: In continuation of its intensified Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaigns under the UT-wide Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, the District Administration Ganderbal, in collaboration with the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), J&K, today organized a mega awareness programme at Panchayat Haran Tulbagh. The event witnessed active participation from officials of various departments including Social Welfare, Health, and Police, alongside representatives of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), civil society members, social workers, and the general public. A major highlight of the programme was a thought-provoking cultural performance by the Cultural Wing of DIPR, J&K, featuring a skit centered on drug abuse prevention. The performance

effectively depicted the destructive effects of addiction on families and society, while calling for united community action to uproot this social evil. The event also featured interactive awareness sessions conducted by a panel of experts and resource persons from different departments. Medical professionals from the Health Department sensitized the gathering about the root causes of addiction, including depression, peer pressure, curiosity, family trauma, and feelings of inferiority. They underlined the significance of timely intervention, emotional support, and rehabilitation in addressing substance abuse. Speakers during the programme stressed the need for a community-driven, collective approach to effectively tackle the rising challenge of drug addiction. Participants were motivated to become active change-makers and advocates for a drug-free society within their own.

JKEDI District Centre hosts 6-Day Management Development Program for MSMEs in Poonch

■ HT News Network

POONCH, APRIL 21: The District Centre of the Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) commenced a 6-day (30-hour) Management Development Programme (MDP) for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) today at JKEDI Poonch. This initiative is part of the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme. The program was officially inaugurated by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Tahir Mustafa Malik, marking a significant step towards enhancing the capabilities of local entrepreneurs. Supported by the World Bank, the RAMP scheme aims to strengthen the performance of MSMEs across the Union Terri-



tory. It focuses on improving market access, promoting technology adoption, enhancing financial inclusion, and building capac-

ity while fostering collaboration between central and UT-level institutions. The training program has attracted par-

ticipation from 20 local entrepreneurs, providing them with practical insights into business management, operational efficiency, and institutional support mechanisms. The participants will engage in interactive sessions with domain experts and officials from relevant departments, gaining valuable knowledge and skills. Present at the inauguration were District Nodal Officer, JKEDI Sh. Shabir Hussain Shah, Project Manager Sh. Iftekhar Bashir, and other officials from various line departments. The MDP under the RAMP scheme represents a strategic initiative towards developing a self-reliant MSME ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir. This aligns with JKEDI's ongoing commitment to fostering entrepreneurship and economic development in the region.



DC Doda reviews disaster preparedness, assesses damages in recent rains, windstorm

HT News Network

DODA, APRIL 21: A review meeting to assess the damages caused by recent heavy rains, floods and thunderstorms was convened today in the Mini Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex Doda. The meeting was chaired by Deputy Commissioner and Chairman District Disaster Management Authority, Harvinder Singh. A detailed review was conducted regarding key strategies and coordination required during natural calamities including the losses suffered across the district such as damage to roads, public infrastructure and essential services. The meeting was attended by SSP Sandeep Kumar Mehta; ADC; Anil Kumar Thakur; ACR Ashraf Pervaz ACD Manoj Kumar; officers from BRO, NHIDCL Fire & Emergency Services, SDRF, Traffic Police and heads of key departments including Health Education Agriculture Animal Husbandry Horticulture Jal Shakti PMG-



SYREW PWD and JPDCL Outstation officers joined the meeting virtually. During the meeting the DC directed the ADC to ensure that one magistrate remains stationed at the DC Office round-the-clock to handle emergency situations.

He instructed Executive Engineers to prioritize the restoration of connectivity and essential services emphasizing the need for coordinated efforts he reviewed the arrangements made by SDRF and directed officials to ensure the readiness

of all emergency equipment including diver kits and Aapda Mitra kits. SSP noted that the district falls under Seismic Zone 5 which necessitates high alertness by all nodal officers. He also briefed the meeting on the consequences of the recent extreme weather and emphasized the need for a strategic disaster management plan. The DC identified sensitive and vulnerable areas in the district and stressed the importance of strengthening protection walls around critical buildings. He instructed NHIDCL officials to maintain proper infrastructure arrangements and directed the Fire & Emergency Services to ensure preparedness for fire incidents particularly in rural areas. The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti was directed to ensure the availability of water tankers equipped with fire-fighting attachments. Furthermore, the DC instructed SDMs Tehsildars BDOs and Executive Officers to strictly prohibit and dismantle any illegal constructions along nallahs to ensure community safety.

PM National Apprenticeship Mela held at Government ITI Udhampur

HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, APRIL 21: As per the directions of Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Government of India as well as Skill Development Department J&K, Prime Minister National Apprenticeship Mela was organized today in the Government ITI Udhampur General Manager DIC Kishore Singh Katoch inaugurated the mela as the chief guest. Around 100 pass outs of ITIs/other Institutes and about ten Prominent Industrial establishments of Udhampur participated in the Apprenticeship Mela. Superintendent ITI Er. Ravinder Singh Bhatti welcomed the chief guest, representatives from DIC Udhampur and other dignitaries present in the programme. He gave a detailed account of the Apprenticeship Training Scheme and as Assistant Apprenticeship Advisor also assured to extend every type of help to Industries/Establishments and potential apprentices in the registration and contract generation. Representatives from the Office of General Manager DIC also sought the cooperation of the industry people in making the scheme a success by involving the youth of the area in their establishments and to impart them training as per their need or requirement to set an example for others to follow. They also exhorted the students to come forward and take the benefit of the Scheme. Fareed Ahmed Sheikh spoke in length about the Apprenticeship Scheme and stressed upon the youth to stay away from the menace of drug abuse and contribute towards development of the Nation by getting the best skill training as per their interest. While speaking on the occasion, the chief guest appreciated Superintendent ITI Udhampur for putting in extra efforts to promote this youth friendly scheme in Udhampur District.

DDC reviews status of Work on KWAR Dam Top to Pullar Road Project

HT News Network

KISHTWAR, APRIL 21: District Development Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan today reviewed the status of work on KWAR Dam Top to Pullar village road project after a local delegation from Puller Village called on him, here today. The delegation apprised the DC of pending work on 600 meter and sought his intervention for facilitating the completion of the pending work.



The Deputy Commissioner directed the authorities from the

KWAR Hydro Electric Project (HEP) and the PMGSY authorities

to conduct a joint visit and submit a comprehensive estimate ensuring appropriate road grading within two days. The DC assured the delegation that the pending work would be taken up and completed in a time-bound manner, prioritizing the needs and convenience of the general public. The meeting was attended by the HOP KWAR HEP, S.K. Giri; Assistant General Manager KWAR HEP, Rishi Sharma; DGM Geology CVPL and several residents from the village of Pullar.

DDC Poonch reviews functioning of Labour Department

HT News Network

POONCH, APRIL 21: District Development Commissioner Vikas Kundal assessed the working of Labour Department at a meeting held today in the meeting hall of the DC Office complex. The DDC reviewed the implementation of the labour welfare schemes under the Jammu and Kashmir Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board (JKBOCWVB). He reviewed the progress made over the past year, focusing on the status of disbursements made under JKBOCWVB schemes to registered construction workers and beneficiaries, as well as fund utilization and scheme coverage. The significant focus was laid on the review of pending court cases involving different departments. The Deputy Commissioner instructed the concerned departments to ensure timely legal responses and resolutions, emphasizing the need for coordinated efforts to prevent ex-parte decisions. The meeting also highlighted the progress of e-Shram portal registrations, particularly for platform-based gig workers and employees in the unorganized sector. The DDC stressed the importance of launching mass awareness campaigns and on-ground support to accelerate registrations, ensuring that social security benefits reach the intended beneficiaries. In preparation for the upcoming



Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2025, the DDC reviewed the registration process for service providers and labourers involved in Yatra arrangements. He directed the Labour Department to facilitate a seamless registration process and provide necessary assistance to the workers engaged as service providers. The DDC reiterated the importance of prioritizing the welfare of labourers and workers. He directed the staff of the Labour Department to remain proactive, ensure proper delivery of services, and strengthen efforts toward the welfare and upliftment of workers across the district. The meeting also highlighted the progress of e-Shram portal registrations, particularly for platform-based gig workers and employees in the unorganized sector. The DDC stressed the importance of launching mass awareness campaigns and on-ground support to accelerate registrations, ensuring that social security benefits reach the intended beneficiaries. In preparation for the upcoming

Samba celebrates 7th Poshan Pakhwada with renewed commitment to child nutrition, health

HT News Network

SAMBA, APRIL 21: Government Degree College (GDC) Vijaypur today echoed the global call to action for environmental protection by organizing a significant Cleanliness Drive within its campus to commemorate World Earth Day 2025. The Cleanliness Drive, organized by the Eco Club (GREEN WARRIORS) and the NSS unit (KHIEMAT) of GDC Vijaypur, aimed to raise awareness about the importance of waste management, hygiene, and environmental responsibility among the college community. Participants actively engaged in cleaning various areas of the campus, including gardens, pathways, and common spaces, collecting and properly disposing of waste. Speaking on the occasion, the Principal GDC Vijaypur, Dr. Ashu Vashisht, emphasized the significance of individual and collective efforts in preserving the environment. She stated that "World Earth Day serves as a crucial reminder of our responsibility towards Mother Earth and the enthusiastic participation in today's Cleanliness Drive showcases the power we hold, as individuals and as a community, to make a tangible difference in creating a sustainable planet". The event also included an awareness session where students were educated about the importance of waste segregation at the source, the harmful effects of plastic pollution, and sustainable practices that can be adopted in daily life. Volunteers highlighted the need to reduce, reuse, and recycle resources effectively to minimize the burden on the environment. The successful execution of the Cleanliness Drive on World Earth Day 2025 underscores GDC Vijaypur's dedication to fostering environmentally responsible citizens and contributing to a healthier planet. The spirit and enthusiasm displayed by the participants today serve as an inspiring example for others to join the global movement towards a sustainable future, recognizing that indeed, it is "Our Power, Our Planet". The whole event was coordinated by Prof. Ritu Bhagat (Coordinator, NSS), Dr. Arti Sharma (Convener, Eco Club) and co-coordinated by Dr. Gunjeet Mahiwal. Other faculty members who motivated the students included Prof. Anita Jamwal, Prof. Mamta Gupta, Dr. Anoop Kumar Bhagat.

Week-long Management Development Program under RAMP commences at JKEDI Jammu

HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 21: The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) today launched a week-long (30-hours) Management Development Program (MDP) at its District Centre, Jammu under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme. The programme was inaugurated by Additional District Development Commissioner Jammu, Sher Singh who emphasized the vital role of entrepreneurship in local economic development and employment generation. He urged the participants to make the most of the program and appreciated JKEDI's efforts in strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystem. District Nodal Officer, JKEDI, Jammu Rajesh Kotwal briefed the participants about the objectives of the World Bank-supported RAMP scheme, which aims to enhance MSME competitiveness through improved market access, digital enablement, skill development, and financial inclusion. The MDP is being attended by 20 local MSME units and focuses on practical business management skills, operational efficiency, and institutional support. Participants will engage with domain experts and resource persons from relevant departments. JKEDI Course Team including Monika Salaria, Rupali Choudhary, and Humaira Nazir were also present at the inaugural session. This initiative is a step towards building a resilient and growth-oriented MSME sector in J&K, in line with the goals of the RAMP scheme.

Poshan Pakhwada-2025 awareness event held at Gandhinagar

HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 21: Child Development Project Officer, Poshan Project Gandhi Nagar organised a Poshan Pakhwada 2025 Awareness program. Joint Director Poshan J&K Vinod Behnal was the chief guest at the event, which was attended by beneficiaries of Anganwadi Centre Pregnant ladies, Nursing Mothers, Children (3-6 Years) along with Sanginis, Sahayikas and Supervisors of poshan project Gandhi Nagar. Awareness was generated through the medium of cultural programmes based on four themes of Poshan Pakhwada 2025 which are the first 1000 days of child, popularisation of the Beneficiaries module of Poshan Tracker, Community sensitisation of Malnutrition Protocol and Addressing Childhood obesity. Joint Director addressed beneficiaries and field functionaries on successful implementation of goals of poshan Abhiyaan Jan Andolan. CDPO Gandhi Nagar sensitized the participants about the role of Community mobilization as well as community participation for successful achievements of goals of Poshan Abhiyaan. State Coordinator Poshan Tracker J&K, Ankush Sharma also graced the occasion. He sensitized Anganwadi workers on the theme of popularization of the Beneficiaries module of poshan tracker. Event marked enthusiastic participation by beneficiaries of Mission Poshan as well as field functionaries. Event concluded with distribution of Poshan Kits to beneficiaries and presenting Certificates of appreciation to Sanginis by the Joint Director Poshan J&K.

Health and Wellness Camp organized under Poshan Pakhwada at GDC Ramgarh

HT News Network

SABA, APRIL 21: The NSS Unit 'Prabha' of Government Degree College (GDC), Ramgarh, in collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare Samba, SANKALP: Hub for Empowerment of Women, Mission Shakti Samba, and Shakti Udhgosh Foundation, successfully organized a Health and Wellness Camp and a Yoga Session on the College Xampus as part of the ongoing Poshan Pakhwada initiative. The event was supported by the Directorate of AYUSH, J&K, and aimed at spreading awareness about health, nutrition, and well-being. As part of the health camp, free health check-ups including blood pressure, blood sugar and hemoglobin tests were conducted by the medical team headed by Vinay Sharma, Paramedical officer. The participants were also provided with free Ayurvedic medicines for common ailments, immunity boosting, and menstrual health.

Empowering MSMEs: JKTPO hosts RAMP Workshop at Udyog Bhawan Jammu to Empower Local MSMEs

HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 21: In a notable effort to strengthen the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) sector in Jammu and Kashmir, the District-Level RAMP (Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance) Awareness Workshop was today held at Udyog Bhawan, Jammu. The event was a collaborative initiative of the Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion

Organization (JKTPO) and Grant Thornton Bharat LLP (SPIO for RAMP), in partnership with the District Industries Centre (DIC), Jammu. The event marked the third in the series of district-level outreach workshops aimed at enhancing awareness and capacity building among MSMEs, key stakeholders, and implementing agencies under the RAMP initiative—a flagship scheme by the Ministry of MSME, Government of India. The RAMP initiative is being implemented under the



overall supervision of the Industries and Commerce Department of Jammu and Kashmir, with the Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) serving as the nodal agency. Sh. Sudarshan Kumar, Managing Director of JKTPO, has emphasized the transformative potential of the scheme, stating that "under the leadership of Sh. Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, JKTPO is committed to transforming the MSME landscape of

Jammu and Kashmir. RAMP has the potential to be a game changer for our entrepreneurs, driving growth and innovation across the region". The SPIO Team delivered an insightful presentation, highlighting the key interventions approved under the RAMP scheme for Jammu and Kashmir. These initiatives include the formalization of MSMEs through Udyam Registration, enhanced packaging and promotion of GI/ODOP/DEH/unique products from the region, and the formation.



Israel conducts over 200 strikes in Gaza within days, kills Islamic Jihad member

AGENCIES

JERUSALEM, APR 21 (UND)

Israel's military said on Monday that it carried out more than 200 airstrikes across the Gaza Strip over the past three days, killing a member of the Islamic Jihad movement.

The military said the strikes targeted militant infrastructure, militant cells, rocket launch and sniper positions, weapons depots and command centers.

It identified the killed fighter as Ahmad Mansour, who it said participated in the Hamas-led surprise attack on Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, and later directed rocket fire during the ongoing war.

In Rafah's Shabura and Tel al-Sultan neighborhoods, Israeli troops dismantled "terrorist infrastructure" and uncovered a cache of grenades, ammunition and other military gear.

Along the recently constructed Morag Corridor, which bisects Rafah from Khan Younis and the rest of Gaza, troops located weapons, destroyed Hamas infrastructure and killed several militants, the military said.

In northern Gaza, soldiers launched an airstrike on a building containing what was described as underground infrastructure and detected multiple militants. The army also reported dismantling Hamas sniper posts that had threatened its ground forces.

At least eight people were killed in Israeli strikes on Monday and dozens wounded, the Palestinian news agency WAFA reported.

Jharkhand encounter: Shah hails forces

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, APRIL 21 (UND)

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday hailed security forces for neutralising eight Maoists, including a top-level Naxal leader who carried a bounty of Rs 1 crore on his head, in an encounter at Lugu Hills in Bokaro, Jharkhand.

The Home Minister in a post on X said, "Our march to eliminate Naxalism continues unabated".

"Today security forces achieved another significant success in the ongoing operation to uproot Naxalism. In an encounter at Lugu Hills in Bokaro, Jharkhand, 8 Maoists were neutralised, including a top-level naxal leader, Vivek, who carried a reward of Rs 1 crore, and two other notorious Naxalites".

"The operation is being continued. Applaud our security forces," Shah added.

Eight Maoists were killed in an encounter with police in Jharkhand's Bokaro district on Monday. The security forces recovered several sophisticated weapons after the encounter.

Six killed as car collides with tree in UP

AGENCIES

KUSHINAGAR (UP), APR 21 (UND)

Six persons were killed and two injured when a car collided with a tree in Nebua Naurangia area of Kushinagar district here in Uttar Pradesh, police sources said here on Monday.

Police sources said that the wedding procession of Vikas, a resident of West Tola of Narayanpur Charaghan under Ramkola police station, had gone to Devgaon of Nebua Naurangia.

"The incident took place late on Sunday night when one of the car in the wedding procession lost control and collided with a tree near Shukla Bhujauli on Khadda-Padrauna road," they said.

Police sources said that hearing the sound, people and police reached the spot and started a rescue operation. "The bodies and injured people trapped in the car were taken out by cutting it with the help of a gas cutter and hammer," they said.

Police sources said that three persons died on the spot. "The injured were taken to the district hospital in serious condition where three more died during treatment. Two injured have been referred to Medical College Gorakhpur," they said.

Superintendent of Police (SP) Santosh Kumar Mishra said that six people have died in the road accident. "Two sustained serious injuries and have been referred from the district hospital to Gorakhpur Medical College," he said.

He said that five of the deceased have been identified as car driver Om Prakash Madheshiya, Harendra Madheshiya, Ranjit Madheshiya, Mukesh and Bhim Yadav. "The injured include Raj Kishore and Bajrangi," he said.

PM Modi calls for building future-ready civil service through Mission Karmayogi

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, APR 21 (UND)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday underscored the importance of enhancing the capabilities of civil servants to build a future-ready civil service and highlighted the significance of Mission Karmayogi and the Civil Service Capacity Building Program in achieving this goal.

Addressing the civil servants on the occasion of 17th Civil Services Day at Vigyan Bhawan here, the Prime Minister stressed the immense responsibility on civil servants to ensure that India becomes the world's third-largest economy at the earliest, and urged them to prevent any delays in achieving this critical objective.

He also stressed on the need for civil servants to acquire skills that not only help them understand technology but also enable its use for smart and inclusive governance, an official statement said.

"In the age of technology, governance is not about managing systems; it is about multiplying possibilities," he added.

He stressed on the importance of becoming tech-savvy to make policies and schemes more



efficient and accessible through technology. He highlighted the need for expertise in data-driven decision-making to ensure accurate policy design and implementation, and observing the rapid advancements in Artificial Intelligence and quantum physics, predicting a forthcoming revolution in technology that will surpass the digital and information age,

He urged civil servants to prepare for this technological revolution to deliver the best services and fulfill citizens' aspirations.

Mentioning the rapid changes occurring globally, noting how even within families, interactions with younger generations can make one feel outdated due to the fast pace of change, the Prime Minister highlighted the swift evolution of gadgets every two to three years and how children are growing

up amidst these transformations.

He emphasized that India's bureaucracy, work processes, and policy making cannot operate on outdated frameworks.

He remarked on the significant transformation initiated in 2014, describing it as a grand endeavour to adapt to the fast-paced changes. He highlighted the aspirations of India's society, youth, farmers, and women, stating that their dreams have reached unprecedented heights and stressed the need for extraordinary speed to fulfill these extraordinary aspirations.

The Prime Minister outlined India's ambitious goals for the coming years, including energy security, clean energy, advancements in sports, and achievements in space exploration, emphasising the importance of raising India's flag high in every sector.

Catholic Church head Pope Francis dies aged 88, world leaders mourn his passing

AGENCIES

ROME, APR 21 (UND)

Pope Francis, the head of the Catholic Church, has died aged 88 after serving as the head of the Vatican for 12 years.

The Vatican announced his passing on Easter Monday, on its X (formerly Twitter) handle: "Pope Francis died on Easter Monday, April 21, 2025, at the age of 88 at his residence in the Vatican's Casa Santa Marta."

Cardinal Kevin Farrell, Camerlengo of the Apostolic Chamber, said in a statement: "Dearest brothers and sisters, with deep sorrow I must announce the death of our Holy Father Francis. At 7:35 this morning, the Bishop of Rome, Francis, returned to the house of the Father."

The pontiff had been afflicted by a series of health issues in recent years and was using a wheelchair for some of his recent public appearances. In February 2025, he was hospitalised with severe bronchitis and pneumonia in both lungs.

The pope, who had part of a lung removed as a young man, had become increasingly frail over the years. He underwent two major intestinal surgeries in recent years: in 2021, to remove the left part of his



colon; and again to treat an intestinal blockage in June 2023.

His death has now set in motion the centuries-old process of electing a new Pope to spearhead the Catholic Church.

The first Latin American to hold the position, Pope Francis was elected in 2013 after the retirement of his predecessor, Benedict XVI retired.

His death came a day after he wished "Happy Easter" to worshippers at the Vatican's St Peter's Square.

His passing was mourned by several world leaders, who expressed their condolences at his death and paid heartfelt tributes.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi wrote on his X: "Deeply pained by the passing of His Holiness Pope Francis. In this hour of grief and remembrance, my heartfelt condolences to the global Catholic com-

munity. Pope Francis will always be remembered as a beacon of compassion, humility and spiritual courage by millions across the world.

"From a young age, he devoted himself towards realising the ideals of Lord Christ. He diligently served the poor and downtrodden. For those who were suffering, he ignited a spirit of hope."

Recalling his meeting with him in Italy, PM Modi added: "I fondly recall my meetings with him and was greatly inspired by his commitment to inclusive and all-round development. His affection for the people of India will always be cherished. May his soul find eternal peace in God's embrace."

French President Emmanuel Macron expressed his grief and wrote: "From Buenos Aires to Rome, Pope Francis wanted the Church to bring joy and hope to the poorest. May it unite people with each other and with nature. May this hope continually resurrect beyond him."

He added: "My wife and I extend our thoughts to all Catholics, to the grieving world."

US Vice President JD Vance, who met the pope just yesterday, said his heart "goes out to the millions of Christians all over the world who loved him".

SC declines urgent plea for Prez rule in West Bengal

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, APRIL 21 (UND)

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to pass any immediate direction on a plea seeking imposition of President's rule and urgent deployment of paramilitary forces in West Bengal in view of communal and political violence allegedly triggered by the Waqf (Amendment) Act in Murshidabad.

The matter was mentioned for urgent listing before a bench comprising justices BR Gavai and Augustine George Masih.

Advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain, appearing for the petitioner, sought the court's nod to file additional documents highlighting continued violence in the



state and urged immediate implementation of Article 355 of the Constitution.

"There is a need for immediate deployment of paramilitary forces. The matter is listed for tomorrow. I have filed an additional application seeking the invocation of Article 355," Jain submitted.

Reacting sharply, Justice Gavai asked, "You want us to issue a writ of manda-

mus to the President to impose President's rule? As it is, we are accused of intruding into legislative and executive domains."

The judge was referring to criticism faced by the top court in recent cases, including one where it directed the Governor and President to act within set timelines on state bills, sparking a larger debate on judicial overreach.

SC to lawyer: Seek AG's nod before filing contempt case against BJP MP

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, APRIL 21 (UND)

The Supreme Court on Monday advised a lawyer seeking contempt proceedings against BJP MP Nishikant Dubey to first obtain consent from the Attorney General of India.

A bench comprising Justice BR Gavai and Justice AG Masih said the lawyer must first establish a prima facie case before the Attorney General.

"Make a case before AG. He will give permission," Justice Gavai observed during the hearing.

The plea stems from controversial remarks made by Dubey in a recent television interview, where he held Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna responsible for "all civil wars in the country."



The statement has sparked outrage within legal circles, prompting some lawyers to approach the AG seeking consent to file contempt petitions under the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971.

As per the Act, a private individual can initiate contempt proceedings in the Supreme Court only after obtaining a written consent from either the Attorney General or the Solicitor General.

Dubey's remarks have come amid growing tensions between the ruling party and the judiciary. Several BJP leaders have criticized

the judiciary for allegedly overstepping its role and encroaching upon Executive functions.

Dubey's outburst came shortly after the Supreme Court's intervention in the petitions challenging the Waqf Amendment Act, following which the government agreed to pause the implementation of certain contested provisions.

This follows recent remarks by Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar, who had criticized the judiciary over the issue of accountability and judicial activism. He stated that the "law of the land does not apply to judges" and questioned the judiciary's role in interpreting legislative powers related to the offices of the Governor and President.

US Vice President JD Vance, Second Lady Usha Vance arrive in India

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, APR 21 (UND)

US Vice President JD Vance arrived in India this morning along with his wife, US Second Lady Usha Vance and their three children.

The US Vice President and the Second Lady were received by Union Minister for Railways and Information and Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw at Palam airport.

The US Vice President was accorded a ceremonial welcome at Palam Airport.

While Usha Vance was attired in a long red dress, with a white coat thrown over her shoulders, their three children - Ewan, Vivek, and Mirabel -- were



wearing Indian attire - the two boys in kurta-pyjama and the daughter in a lehnga-choli.

At the airport, they were greeted with Indian Odissi classical dance performers as part of the welcome.

The US Vice President, who is accompanied by senior members of the US administration, is set

to meet with PM Narendra Modi this evening.

The MEA spokesperson said on X:

"A very warm welcome to @VPJD Vance, @SLOTUS Mrs. Usha Vance, & the U.S. delegation to India!"

"Received by Minister of Railways and I&B @AshwiniVaishnaw at the airport.

Piyush Goyal launches The Bharat Project to create 1 Mn entrepreneurs

AGENCIES

MUMBAI, APR 21 (UND)

In a landmark step towards building an inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystem, Union minister Piyush Goyal on Monday launched The Bharat Project, a bold national initiative aimed at empowering 1 million entrepreneurs from Tier 2, Tier 3, and rural India.

The Bharat Project brings together the government, ecosystem enablers, creators, and communities to unlock grassroots potential and make access to entrepreneurial tools, education, and funding easier for everyone.

The Bharat Project is built on five key pillars: Co-Pilot for Entre-



preneurs, Education & Upskilling, Bharat Ideathon, BharatSparks, and Shuru-kar. Together, they aim to support grassroots innovation, empower aspiring entrepreneurs, and build a thriving startup ecosystem across India.

Speaking at the launch, Goyal said, "India is on an irreversible path to

becoming an economic powerhouse. From a \$4 trillion economy today, we are poised to grow 8x to \$30-35 trillion by 2047. It's a strategic roadmap built to support startups across sectors, empowering first-generation entrepreneurs, and a government-backed seed fund of Rs 10,000 crore to democratize innovation."

Valve disorders may raise risk of severe heartbeat condition

AGENCIES
New York

People with a certain heart valve abnormality may be at an increased risk of developing severe heart rhythm disorders also known as arrhythmias, according to a study on Tuesday.

Researchers from the Karolinska Institutet in Sweden showed that the valve abnormality called Mitral annular disjunction (MAD) increases the risk of ventricular arrhythmias -- a dangerous type of heart rhythm disorder that, in the worst case, can lead to cardiac arrest.

The team found that the risk of arrhythmias persists even after successful valve surgery.

MAD is often associated with a heart disease called mitral valve prolapse, which affects 2.5 per cent of the population and causes one of the heart's valves to leak. This



can lead to blood being pumped backward in the heart, causing heart failure and arrhythmias. The disease can cause symptoms such as shortness of breath and palpitations.

The study, published in the European Heart Journal, showed that

people with MAD were more likely to be female and were on average eight years younger than those without MAD.

They also had more extensive mitral valve disease.

Although the surgery was successful in correct-

ing MAD, these patients had more than three times the risk of ventricular arrhythmias during five years of follow-up compared to patients without preoperative MAD.

"Our results show that it is important to closely monitor patients with this condition, even after a successful operation," said Bahira Shahim, Associate Professor at the Department of Medicine, Solna, Karolinska Institutet.

In the study, the researchers investigated the risk of cardiac arrhythmias in 599 patients with mitral valve prolapse who underwent heart surgery at Karolinska University Hospital between 2010 and 2022.

The study aims to further explore new hypotheses such as that MAD causes permanent changes in the heart muscle over time, and that MAD is a sign of an underlying heart muscle disease.

Extreme heat may raise risk of schizophrenia, depression: Study

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Rising temperatures may not only affect physical health, but could also increase the burden of mental and behavioural disorders (MBD) like schizophrenia and depression by almost 50 per cent by 2050, according to a new study.

The research led by the University of Adelaide highlights the urgent need to act now to protect mental health as the climate warms.

Published in the journal Nature Climate Change, the study shows that high temperatures contributed to an annual loss of 8,458 disability-adjusted life years (DALYs), representing 1.8 per cent of the total MBD burden in Australia.

Young people aged 15 to 44 are particularly affected, with most losses linked to living with poor mental health.

"The detrimental



impacts of climate change on good mental health and emotional states have been increasingly recognised worldwide, and it's only going to get worse unless we act," said lead author Professor Peng Bi, from the University's School of Public Health.

MBDs encompass a broad spectrum of symptoms associated with distress or impairment in important functional areas, including an indi-

vidual's emotional regulation, cognition, or behaviour, anxiety, depression, bipolar, schizophrenia, alcohol, drug use, and other mental and substance use disorders.

"From mild distress to serious conditions like schizophrenia, rising temperatures are making things harder for millions," said Professor Bi.

The study found that warmer regions, like those closer to the equator, face

higher risks.

"These results underscore the crucial role of policymakers in developing focused public health interventions to minimise the emergence of mental health impacts of climate change, given its significant human, social and financial consequences," said Professor Bi.

"Our findings show that climate change will drive up mental health challenges beyond what population growth alone would cause," added first author Dr. Jingwen Liu.

The researchers call for immediate action, including heat-health action plans to prepare health-care systems for rising mental health needs, localised solutions, like community programmes and green spaces to build resilience and support for vulnerable groups, ensuring those most at risk get the care they need during hot periods.

Cancer risk from CT scan radiation at par with alcohol and obesity: Study

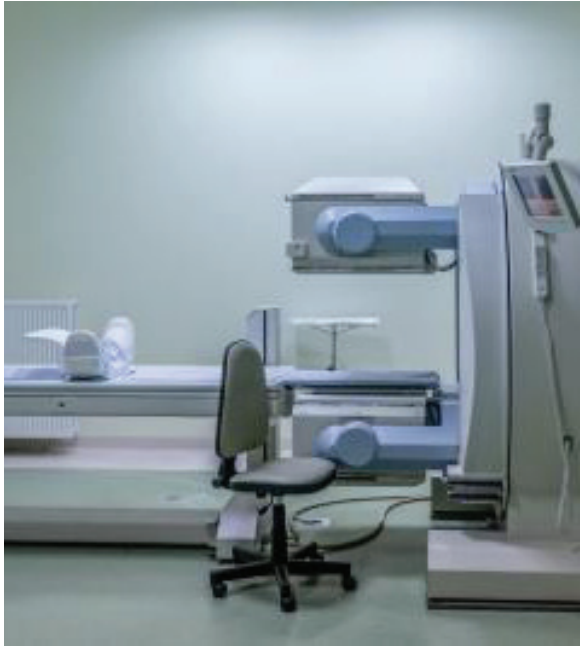
AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Repeated exposure to unnecessary computed tomography (CT) scans raises the risk of cancers as with alcohol consumption and obesity, according to a new study.

The study, led by researchers from the University of California-San Francisco (UCSF), showed that CT scan radiation accounts for 5 per cent of all cancers annually.

Infants, children, and adolescents are at high risk of cancers, with those under 1 year most at risk. Besides children, adults are also at risk, since they are the most likely to get scans, said the team, cautioning against overusing and overdosing on CTs.

The most frequently projected cancers in children due to CT scan radiation include thyroid, lung, and breast, while in adults it was cancers of the lung, colon, leukaemia, bladder,



and breast.

"CTs can save lives, but its potential harms are often overlooked," said Rebecca Smith-Bindman, a UCSF radiologist.

"The study estimates put CT on par with other significant risk factors, such as alcohol consump-

tion and excess body weight," she added.

In the study, appearing in the JAMA Internal Medicine, the team said that nearly 103,000 cancers are predicted to result from the 93 million CTs that were performed in 2023 alone.

This is three to four times more than previous assessments, the researchers said.

"Reducing the number of scans and reducing doses per scan would save lives," said Smith-Bindman.

CT is both indispensable and widely used to detect tumors and diagnose many illnesses. But, CTs expose patients to ionising radiation -- a carcinogen -- and it's long been known that the technology carries a higher risk of cancer.

The study is based on estimates of the total number of lifetime cancers associated with radiation exposure concerning the number and type of CT scans performed in 2023.

Researchers analysed 93 million exams from 61.5 million patients in the US.

The number of scans increased with age, peaking in adults between 60 to 69 years old. Children accounted for 4.2 per cent of the scans.

Chronic pain may raise risk of depression by 4x: Study

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

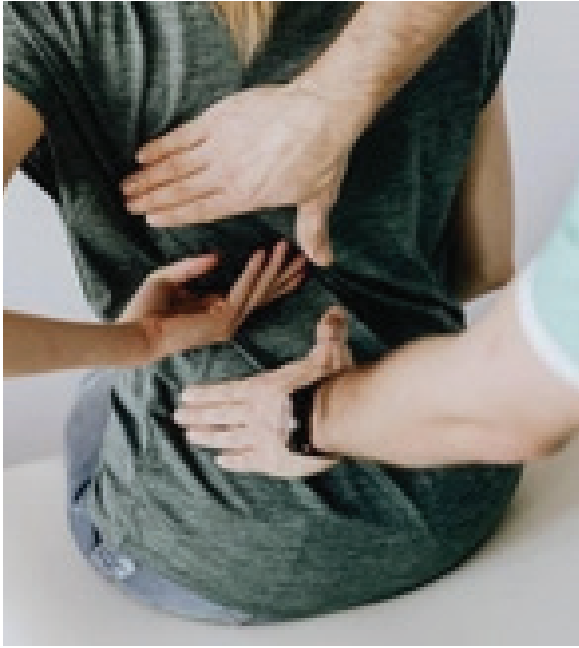
People suffering from chronic pain -- or pain that lasts at least three months -- may be up to four times more likely to experience depression, according to a study.

Almost 30 per cent of people worldwide suffer from a chronic pain condition such as low back pain and migraines, and one in three of these patients also report co-existing pain conditions.

The study published in the journal Science Advances shows that having chronic pain in multiple parts of the body was linked to a greater risk of depression than having pain at a single site.

"Pain isn't only physical," said Dustin Scheinost, Associate Professor of radiology and biomedical imaging at Yale School of Medicine (YSM).

"Our study adds to the evidence that physical con-



ditions can have mental health consequences," Scheinost added.

The researchers from Yale University also decoded that inflammation may explain the link between chronic pain and depression.

The team found inflam-

matory markers such as C-reactive protein (a protein produced by the liver in response to inflammation) helping explain the association between pain and depression.

"This gives us some preliminary evidence about the inflammatory mecha-

nisms underlying the association between pain and depression," said Rongtao Jiang, a postdoctoral associate at YSM.

The team leveraged data from 431,038 participants in UK Biobank with 14-year follow-ups.

The categories for pain sites included head, face, neck, back, stomach, hip, knee, and general pain.

The researchers found that both types of pain from all body sites were associated with depression and that chronic pain was more strongly associated with acute pain.

"We often think of brain health or mental health as separate from cardiac health or liver health, for instance," Scheinost said. "But all of these body systems influence each other."

Further research into the underlying drivers of pain and depression could help scientists develop new intervention strategies, he noted.

Ice-cold feet and heaviness in legs? It may signal varicose veins, says study

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

If you are having ice-cold feet and feel heaviness in the legs it may indicate the presence of varicose veins -- swollen, twisted, and enlarged veins in legs or ankles, according to a study.

Varicose veins are usually caused by impaired functioning of the deep or superficial veins, and the perforator veins (short veins that link the superficial and deep venous systems in the legs).

The prevalence of varicose veins ranges from 2 to 30 per cent in adults, with women at higher risk. Typical symptoms include sensations of heaviness, aching, throbbing, and itching; restlessness in the legs; fluid retention and swelling; muscle cramps; and leg ulcers in severe cases.

Cold hypersensitivity is often underestimated as a subjective symptom, said



researchers from Chung Shan Medical University in Taiwan.

Their study, published in the open-access journal Open Heart, showed that moderate to severe cold hypersensitivity was associated with a 49-89 per cent heightened likelihood of varicose veins compared with no hypersensitivity.

Similarly, four times as many people with varicose veins had heavy legs as those without the condition.

Notably, job type was an influential factor in devel-

oping the condition. Jobs involving prolonged standing were associated with a 45 per cent higher likelihood of varicose veins.

The association between cold hypersensitivity and heavy legs was significant.

The team noted the link between sensation of coldness in developing varicose veins is often overlooked in clinical practice.

"However, our study showed the presence of a moderate-to-severe degree of hypersensitivity to cold in the lower extremities, which has hitherto been

underestimated as a subjective symptom associated with varicose veins," said Yung-Po Liaw and the team from the varsity, in the paper.

"Of note is the significance of the concurrent symptoms of heaviness and cold feet. When these symptoms coexist, the likelihood of confirming the presence of varicose veins is notably amplified compared with individuals without such symptoms," the team added.

The study included 8,782 participants aged between 30 and 70 with moderate and severe varicose veins. They were quizzed about their hypersensitivity to cold in their feet and the extent to which they felt heaviness in their legs.

In all, 676 participants said they had moderate to severe varicose veins.

The team noted that this is an observational study, and as such can't establish causal factors.

Study finds common genetic variants linked to drug-resistant epilepsy

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Certain common genetic changes may explain why some people with focal epilepsy become less responsive to seizure medications, finds a new global study.

Focal epilepsy is a condition where seizures start in one part of the brain. It is the most common type of epilepsy.

Antiseizure medication is usually prescribed for people with the condition. However, for one in three people with epilepsy (around 20 million individuals worldwide), current antiseizure medications are ineffective. This means that people will continue to have seizures despite taking medication -- a condition called "drug resistance."

It is associated with additional significant health risks in epilepsy, including a higher risk of sudden unexpected death



in epilepsy, alongside substantially higher healthcare costs.

Researchers at the University College London in the UK and the University of Texas-Health Houston in the US found the reason in some specific common genetic variants in two genes: CNIH3 -- which helps control how certain

brain receptors function; and WDR26 -- which is involved in various cell processes.

The study, published in the journal EBioMedicine showed that people with genetic variants in CNIH3 and WDR26 had a higher risk of having drug resistance in focal epilepsy. The variants also determined a

person's response to anti-seizure medications.

"The findings of our study offer new insights about why some people have seizures that are resistant to existing anti-seizure medications," said Professor Sanjay Sisodiya from UCL's Queen Square Institute of Neurology.



DC, LSG set for crucial rematch in Lucknow

AGENCIES

LUCKNOW, APR 21 (UND)

As the playoff race gathers momentum in IPL 2025, all eyes turn to the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium, where Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) will host Delhi Capitals (DC) in match 40 on Tuesday.

The clash carries added weight, not just for its potential playoff implications, but also because of the dramatic context provided by their previous meeting – a last-over thriller in Visakhapatnam that DC edged by just one wicket.

That memorable contest, sealed by Ashutosh Sharma's blistering 66-run blitz in a 210-run chase, remains one of the season's standout fixtures. With both sides now separated by a slender margin on the points table, Tuesday's showdown promises another chapter in this burgeoning rivalry.

DC currently sit second, boasting five wins from seven matches, while LSG are just behind in fourth with five victories from eight games. A win for either side would firm up their place in the top four, while a loss could trigger a mid-table shuffle amid a tightly packed leaderboard.

The head-to-head record is evenly poised at 3-3, adding to the sense



of unpredictability. While DC have the psychological edge from their last-gasp win in Vizag, LSG will look to leverage home conditions and a partisan crowd to tilt the balance.

Unlike previous seasons, the Vajpayee surface has shown greater consistency and bounce this year, encouraging stroke play and providing a more balanced contest between bat and ball. Out of 17 IPL matches played here, teams batting second have won nine, while those defending have triumphed eight times. The average first-innings score stands at a competitive 169, setting the stage for a potentially gripping encounter.

Weather conditions are expected to remain clear, with no forecast of rain. However, dew may become a factor in the second innings, possibly influencing captains' decisions at the toss.

Among the standout performers to watch in Tuesday's high-stakes clash is Ashutosh, the hero of Delhi Capitals' thrilling one-wicket win over Lucknow Super Giants in their previous encounter. The dynamic lower-order batsman has carved a reputation as a dependable finisher, capable of turning games with his fearless strokeplay. His 66-run blitz in Visakhapatnam proved decisive, and DC will once again look to him in pressure moments.

At the top of the order for LSG, their West Indian powerhouse continues to light up the tournament. He currently leads the run-scoring charts with 368 runs from six matches, maintaining a jaw-dropping strike rate of 205.58. His aggressive approach in the powerplay has consistently provided LSG with flying starts and remains crucial to their success in

this fixture.

Also returning to the spotlight is KL Rahul, who finds himself back at his former home ground in Lucknow. A technically sound and composed batsman, Rahul's experience and familiarity with the conditions could prove invaluable. With the added motivation of facing his old franchise, he will be eager to anchor the innings and deliver a captain's knock.

On the bowling front, Avesh Khan has emerged as a match-winner for LSG, fresh from a composed final over against Rajasthan Royals that sealed victory. His ability to hold his nerve under pressure and execute yorkers with precision makes him a vital cog in Lucknow's death-bowling plans.

For Delhi, Mitchell Starc remains the leader of the attack. The Australian pacer brings pace, accuracy, and aggression, particularly in the powerplay where he has consistently troubled opposition openers. With his ability to swing the new ball and strike early, Starc will be central to DC's plans to dismantle the LSG batting lineup.

With both teams chasing momentum and a top-four berth, and with recent history adding extra spice, fans can expect fireworks in Lucknow. A contest rich in context, form, and flair awaits.

Zimbabwe women embark on a historic multi-format tour of USA

AGENCIES

HARARE, APR 21 (UND)

Zimbabwe women's cricket team are set to take on the United States of America across three T20Is and two ODIs.

The tour will kickstart with the T20I series, beginning from April 25. It will be followed by a couple of ODIs scheduled for May 1 and 3.

All the games will be played at the Grand Prairie Stadium in Texas.

The two teams last squared off in October 2024 when USA toured



Harare for an ODI series. While the hosts emerged victorious, it was a closely contested five-match series - separating the two teams with a 3-2 margin, an ICC report said.

"The US tour is a start to steady build-up towards the Ireland series in July which will give us a gauge in terms of where we are ahead of the FTP next year," Zimbabwe women

head coach Walter Chagwata said.

"It also kickstarts our journey towards the Africa qualifiers later this year." Zimbabwe squad: Biza Beloved, Chipare Francesca, Dhururu Chiedza, Mabhero Lindokuhle, Makusha Tendai, Marange Precious, Mthomba Natasha, Mugeritiripano Chipso, Mupachikwa Modester, Ndhlovu Kelis, Nkomo Josephine, Pasipanodya Runyararo, Sibanda Nomvelo, Tshuma Loreen, Zimunu Adel

Non-Traveling Reserves: Gwanzura Nyasha, Ndiraya Kelly

Pak's Nadeem invited to Neeraj Chopra Classic

AGENCIES

BENGALURU, APR 21 (UND)

Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem, the reigning Commonwealth Games gold medallist and a finalist at the Tokyo Olympics, has been invited to participate in the Neeraj Chopra Classic javelin meet, Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra confirmed here on Monday.

"We have also invited Paris Olympic gold medalist Arshad Nadeem of Pakistan as well but haven't received a confirmation as of yet," Neeraj said told



reporters.

The event, scheduled to be held in Bengaluru, is shaping up to be a marquee international meet with several top global throwers confirming their

participation. Among those who have committed to compete are reigning world champion Anderson Peters of Grenada, former world champion Julius Yego of Kenya,

and American champion Curtis Thompson.

"We are thrilled to welcome some of the finest javelin athletes from across the world. The presence of Anderson Peters, Julius Yego, and Curtis Thompson will certainly raise the level of competition and inspire young Indian throwers," Neeraj said.

The Neeraj Chopra Classic is being billed as a flagship event for the sport in India, aimed at generating excitement and momentum in the build-up to the Paris Olympics later this year.

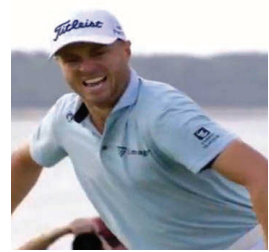
Justin Thomas beat Novak in play-off to win RBC Heritage

AGENCIES

SOUTH CAROLINA, APR 21 (UND)

Justin Thomas beat fellow American Andrew Novak in a play-off to win the RBC Heritage as he claimed his first win since the 2022 US PGA Championship.

Novak needed a birdie at the 18th to secure his first PGA Tour title with Thomas having gone into the clubhouse on 17 under after a 68, but he missed a



putt for victory and also carded a 68.

The two players headed to the 18th for the first play-off hole and Thomas

holed a lengthy putt for a birdie to secure the title at Harbour Town Golf Links here, the BBC reported.

"Winning is hard, it's really hard but I've worked my butt off and stayed patient and positive," said Thomas, who shot a course-record 10-under-par 61 in his opening round.

"I didn't realise how much I missed winning and battling out there

today was so much fun."

England's Tommy Fleetwood, chasing his first PGA Tour victory like Novak, was three shots off overnight leader Kim Si-woo going into the final round and ended on 13 under after a 70.

Kim shot a three-over-par 74 in his final round as his challenge faded and he finished on 12 under, along with defending champion Scottie Scheffler (70).

Pakistan make home advantage count in thrilling Qualifier

AGENCIES

LAHORE, APR 21 (UND)

The ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 Qualifier went down to the wire, with the final place at the main event not decided until the very latter stages of the competition. Bangladesh ended up joining Pakistan among the top two but only held on by the skin of their teeth as West Indies narrowly missed out on net run rate, with two early defeats proving costly. Pakistan have long been Qualifier specialists, having come through the same route in 2009, 2013 and 2017, and they quickly asserted their authority on home soil. They began with a 38-run victory over Ireland and then saw off Scotland by six wickets, captain Fatima Sana starring with four for 23. A pivotal 65-run win over West Indies put them on the brink of qualification and they sealed their World Cup spot with an 87-run victory against Thailand before closing out an unbeaten competition by beating Bangladesh on the final day.

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