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Serving the Hungry Is Humanity at Its Finest: LG Sinha at Apna Bhojanalaya Upgrade Ceremony

Community kitchen at GMC Jammu upgraded with support from Sewa Bharti, J&K Bank and donors

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APR 14: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday attended the upgradation ceremony of 'Apna Bhojanalaya' at Government Medical College Jammu, lauding the initiative as a shining example of selfless service and community spirit.

The community kitchen, run by Sewa Bharti and supported by Jammu and Kashmir Bank along with other donors, provides meals to the needy and attendants of patients. The Lieutenant Governor also partook in a meal during his visit.

Addressing the gathering, Sinha said that serving the hungry is among the most sacred duties and represents humanity at its highest ideals. He praised Sewa Bharti's enduring commitment to giving back,



stating that it empowers individuals and strengthens the social fabric.

"There is no higher duty than serving those in need. Sewa Bharti has honored that duty by nourishing bodies, restoring souls, and affirming the dignity of every human life. To strengthen Apna Bhojanalaya is to strengthen the very fabric of our society," he said.

Emphasizing the spiritual and moral significance of feeding the hungry, the Lieutenant Governor remarked that such acts invite grace and reflect the finest expression of humanity. He called for collective responsibility, urging citizens to contribute to building strong families and communities for a stronger Jammu and Kashmir.

Highlighting the importance of
● Turn on Page 2

Rise Above Caste, Bridge Rich-Poor Divide: President Droupadi Murmu

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

AHMEDABAD, APR 14: President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday urged citizens to move beyond caste divisions and focus on narrowing the gap between the "haves and have-nots", stressing that social harmony and inclusive development must guide the nation's progress.

Addressing the 'Samajik Samrasta Mahotsav' at Lok Bhavan in Gandhinagar on the birth anniversary of B. R. Ambedkar, Murmu said the caste system is a relic of the past and called for collective efforts to build a unified society. She remarked that in today's context, the real divide lies between those who have access to resources and those who do not, underlining the need to uplift the underprivileged.

Emphasising unity, the President said citizens must rise above individual interests and work for the greater good. She highlighted that India's cultural foundations are rooted in compassion, equality and mutual welfare, and true social harmony lies in standing together without discrimination based on caste, class, language or region.



Murmu stressed the central role of villages in nation-building, noting that the spirit of harmony, warmth and mutual understanding found in rural India reflects the essence of Indian culture. She said the country's overall progress is closely linked to the prosperity of its villages.

Invoking Ambedkar's ideals of liberty, equality and fraternity, the President underscored
● Turn on Page 2

People's Will power Decisive in National Security: Ajit Doval

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

GANDHINAGAR, APR 14: National Security Advisor Ajit Doval on Tuesday underscored that the willpower of a nation's people is as vital as its military strength in ensuring security, asserting that the true measure of national power often lies in the resilience and determination of its citizens.

Addressing the fifth convocation



ceremony of Rashtriya Raksha University in the presence of President Droupadi Murmu, Doval described national security as a complex and multifaceted concept encompassing
● Turn on Page 2

Ambedkar Opposed Article 370 to Safeguard India's Unity: Amit Shah

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, APR 14: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said that B. R. Ambedkar had strongly opposed Article 370 in the interest of preserving the country's unity and integrity.

In a post on X on the occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti, Shah said Ambedkar laid a robust foundation for India's democracy by framing a Constitution that guarantees equal rights and opportunities to all sections of society.

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Ambedkar's Vision Guides Nation, Says Modi as He Unveils Key Uttarakhand Corridor

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

DEHRADUN, APR 14: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday paid rich tributes to B. R. Ambedkar on his 135th birth anniversary, asserting that the Centre's decisions over the past decade have upheld the dignity of the Constitution while advancing social justice and national integration.

Addressing a public gathering in Dehradun after inaugurating the six-lane
● Turn on Page 2



"Tunnel Projects Will Transform Chenab Valley Connectivity": Omar Abdullah Thanks PM Modi, Gadkari

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, APR 14: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister Nitin Gadkari for approving the long-pending Sudhmahadev-Dranga and Singhpora-Vailoo tunnel projects on National Highway-244, describing them as transformative for the
● Turn on Page 2

CM inaugurates Jashn-e-Amad-e-Bahar in Anantnag

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BIJBEHARA, APRIL 14: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today inaugurated Jashn-e-Amad-e-Bahar, the Spring Festival on
● Turn on Page 2

CM Omar calls for stronger banking partnerships to drive J&K's growth

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, APRIL 14: Chief Minister
● Turn on Page 2

₹4.30 Crore Processing Hub Opens in Anantnag to Power Horticulture Growth

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BIJBEHARA, APRIL 14: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday inaugurated a state-of-the-art Fruit and Vegetable Processing Centre at the International Fruit Market in Jablipora area of Anantnag, aimed at strengthening
● Turn on Page 2

Large Aircraft Not Feasible at Kargil Airport, Small Planes Possible Post Upgrade: LG Saxena

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

KARGIL, APR 14: Ladakh Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Tuesday ruled out the possibility of operating large aircraft at Kargil Airport under current conditions, citing serious runway and terrain constraints, while indicating that smaller aircraft operations could be con-

sidered after necessary upgrades and subject to commercial viability.

Addressing reporters at Kargil after concluding his four-day visit, Saxena said the airport, operated by the Indian Air Force, has a runway of around 6,000 feet that is narrow, worn out and unsuitable for large aircraft operations. He added that even a proposed extension of up to



3,000 feet would not fully resolve the inherent operational challenges.

He said the airport's approach requires a difficult turn for larger aircraft, while a mountain located ahead creates obstacles during take-off. Additionally, operations are currently feasible from only one direction, further restricting its usability.
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100 Days: Anti-Drug Crackdown in J&K Borders

■ HT NEWS NETWORK / AGENCIES

JAMMU, APR 14: With the aim of making Jammu and Kashmir a drug-free region during the 100-day Nasha Mukta Abhiyan, the UT Police, in coordination with other security agencies, have launched a major crackdown on the drug mafia, especially in the border districts, to dismantle supply chains and prevent the further transportation of narcotics across the region.

Spearheading a decisive battle against the drug menace, the Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on April 11, launched the historic mass movement for a "Drug-Free Jammu Kashmir" from Maulana Azad Stadium.

Sinha flagged-off Padyatra and joined
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J&K F&ES launches Fire Service Week; reports 25% drop in fire incidents, Rs. 5,000 cr property saved in 2025

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, APR 14: The Fire Service Day was observed today at the headquarters of Fire & Emergency Services (F&ES) Batalmaloo, here, with the launching of the week-long Fire Service Week to be held across the Union Territory from April 14 to 20, 2026.

Led by Director Fire & Emergency Services, Alok Kumar, the officers and personnel paid floral tributes to martyrs of the historic Bombay Dock Explosion of 1944, commemorated annually as Fire Service Day. A two-minute silence was observed for the fire fighters who laid down their lives in the line of duty.

Addressing the ceremonial function, Alok Kumar said the week aims to promote fire pre-

vention, preparedness and public safety awareness. This year's theme is "Safe School, Safe Hospital & Fire Safety Aware Society-Together for Fire Prevention".

Director Fire Service informed that the department responded to 6,039 fire calls, 59 rescue calls and 53 false calls during 2025. With 322 fire tenders and Quick Response Vehicles and 2,157 personnel deployed, the department saved property worth nearly Rs. 5,000 crore while limiting losses to around Rs. 300 crore.

He said that the fire incidents fell by 1,994, nearly 25 percent compared to the previous year, attributing the decline to sustained prevention measures and growing public awareness.



Emphasizing the community participation, the Director Fire Service said 10,794 awareness programmes under initiatives like "Har Ghar Fire Fighter" have

reached over 10.7 lakh people across J&K. To strengthen compliance, 3,728 fire safety audits were carried out in the hospitals, schools, hotels and commercial

establishments.

The department also played a key role in disaster response, including rescue and dewatering operations during recent floods and safety arrangements for Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2025.

During the Fire Service Week, the department will conduct fire safety campaigns, mock drills, evacuation exercises, lectures and live demonstrations across the UT to educate the citizens on prevention and emergency response.

Appealing for public support, the Director urged the citizens to adopt basic fire safety measures and help build a fire-safe society. He reaffirmed its commitment towards safeguarding the lives and property, upholding its motto: "We Serve to Save."

Historic Private University Bill to Transform J&K: Advisor To CM Nasir Aslam

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, APR 14: In a landmark initiative aimed at reshaping the educational landscape of Jammu & Kashmir, the WathHarbour Foundation formally launched its ambitious proposed "Kashmir First Private University Project" during a grand event marked by a membership drive, release of a campaign anthem, unveiling of a comprehensive vision document and screening of a short film.

The event witnessed participation from a distinguished gathering of leading academicians, education policymakers, prominent scholars, community leaders and representatives from trade, industry and civil society, reflecting widespread support for the initiative.

The programme was graced by Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, as Chief Guest, alongside a galaxy of eminent personalities including Ms. Neha Jain (IPS, SP East) she was represented SSP Srinagar, Senior Counsel Advocate Zaffar Shah, former Chairman JKPSC Latief-uz-Zaman Deva, noted poet and social activist Zareef Ahmad Zareef, PSA Founder & Patron Dr. G.N. Var, WathHarbour Foundation Founder Dr. Mehboob Makhdoomi, Former Radio Kashmir Broadcaster Peerzada Abdal Mahjoor, Jagmeet Kaur Bali (President All Sikh Minority Employees Association), Faiz Ahmad Bakhshi (Gen. Secretary, KCC&I), NIT Dean International Officers Prof. M.A Shah, Former joint director School Education Mehboob Ahmad, Former KAS Officer Aijaz Kakroo, Adv A.R Hanjura (Social Reformer, WathHarbor Memeber), S.P Qaisar (Consultant), Dr. Afifa Kamili (Former Director SKUAST-Kashmir), Dr. Nighat Fatima (Former Principal Government Degree College, Department of Higher Education), Riyaz Ahmad Shoga (Ex- Banker), Private School's Association (PSA) President Bilal Ahmad Bhat, General Secretary M.Syed Wani, Finalist Secretary Hilal Ahmad Khan, Director Media & Commnations Dr. Owais Mattoo, PRO B.A Shah, Social Activist Dr. Touseef Bhat, Trade Leader Peer Imtiyaz ul Hassan, Moulana Hassan Afzal Fordosi, Moomin Wani WathHarbor Foundation Coordinator several others. The event was hosted by Dr. Farhat Umar, while the WathHarbour team and stakeholders were present in large numbers.

In his welcome address, PSA Founder & Patron, Dr. G. N. Var termed the Private University Bill a historic step that can transform Jammu & Kashmir into an educational hub. "This legislation will create new opportunities for students and strengthen both school and higher education in the region," he said.

Dr. Var thanked Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Education Minister Ms. Sakeena Itoo, all MLAs and especially Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani for supporting the initiative and attending the event. He said their presence reflected the government's commitment to educational reform and the future of students in Jammu & Kashmir.

Addressing the gathering, Advisor to CM Nasir Aslam Wani termed the recently passed Private University Bill as a historic milestone and reaffirmed the government's commitment to strengthening higher education infrastructure in Jammu & Kashmir. "I thank the organisers for inviting me to this special and forward-looking event. The Omar Abdullah-led government has passed a historic Private University Bill, opening new avenues for educational growth in J&K," he said.

Wani emphasized that the initiative would not only improve access to quality education but also curb the outflow of students and capital from the region.

"Every year, thousands of crores are spent as our students move outside for higher education. Establishing quality institutions within J&K will not only retain talent but also strengthen our economy and provide a sense of security to parents," he noted.

Highlighting changing global trends, Wani stressed the need for skill-oriented education "We must move beyond degree-oriented education and prepare job-ready youth. The world has changed, new fields like AI and digital platforms are shaping careers. Our institutions must adapt accordingly."

He assured full support from the Omar Abdullah led government "We will extend all possible help to initiatives like WathHarbour Foundation. Anyone willing to establish a university in J&K will find the government standing firmly with them."

Representing SSP Srinagar, Ms. Neha Jain (IPS, SP East) appreciated the organisers and extended best wishes on behalf of Srinagar Police. "On behalf of Srinagar Police, I congratulate the organisers for this visionary initiative. The Private University Bill is a significant step that will benefit local students by providing quality higher education opportunities within their home region." Senior Counsel Advocate Zaffar A. Shah described the legislation as a historic development but stressed the importance of societal and institutional support. "After decades, we are witnessing the emergence of a legal framework for private universities in J&K. However, laws alone cannot bring change society must support and participate actively." He added "This is not an individual mission; it is a collective responsibility. Visionaries like PSA founder G.N. Var and Dr. Mehboob Makhdoomi deserve full support from both government and society to make this prestigious project a reality."

Founder of WathHarbour Foundation, Dr. Mehboob Makhdoomi, outlined the vision behind the Kashmir First University Project. "This initiative is not just about establishing a university, it is about building an ecosystem that nurtures talent, innovation and opportunity within Kashmir."

KU Law students engage in lively seminar on women's reservation

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR APR 14: The University of Kashmir's (KU) School of Law organised a one-day seminar on 'Implementation of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023' at the Main Campus. The seminar aimed to examine the constitutional and practical dimensions of the 106th Constitutional Amendment, which provides for one-third reservation for women in legislative bodies. The students, which included mostly girls from KU's school of law, engaged themselves in a thought-provoking academic exchange.

Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, said, in her message, "Such academic platforms encourage critical thinking among students and help them engage meaningfully with contemporary constitu-



tional developments and issues of social importance." Dean and Head, School of Law, KU, Prof. Shahnaz, in her welcome address, highlighted the importance of inclusive participation and gender justice in democratic institutions.

The event featured enthusiastic participation from students, who delivered insightful speeches on women's political representation, challenges in implementation, and the broader idea of meaningful empowerment beyond numerical representation.

They were evaluated by a panel including Prof. Tabassum Firdous, faculty at CCAS KU, Prof. Ifat Yasmin, Head, Economics Department KU, Prof. Towseef Rizvi, Head, Psychology Department KU.

The winners of the speech competition included Sanjeeda Amin (Winner), Sayana Warsi (1st Runner-up), and Kainaat Amin and Noha Balkhi (2nd Runner-ups). Certificates were also distributed among the participants. The session was moderated by Dr. Anna Bashir, faculty at Law Department KU. It concluded with remarks by Dr. Hina Basharat, and a vote of thanks by Dr. Syed Asima Refayi, faculty at Law Department KU respectively.

Nasha Mukht JK Drive: Mega Health Camp Organized in Kupwara's Lolab

Admin, QHCD, Indian Army Bring Lifeline Healthcare to Lolab Residents

■ DR. AB QAYOOM

KUPWARA, APR 14: In a significant step toward strengthening rural healthcare outreach and supporting the anti-drug initiative launched under the Nasha Mukht JK Abhiyan, a free mega medical camp was successfully organized in Gundmanchar village of Lolab Valley in north Kashmir's Kupwara district.

The camp was conducted by the District Administration Kupwara in collaboration with Quality Health Care Drugmulla Kupwara (QHC) and the Indian Army's 8 Sector. The initiative aimed to provide accessible and quality healthcare services to residents of remote areas while also spreading awareness about preventive health and drug de-addiction.

The medical camp was formally inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Kupwara Shrikant Suse in the presence of senior officials from the Indian Army, Managing Director of Quality Health Care Kupwara Dr. Abdul Majeed, BMO Sogam, Abdul Rahim Wani (Joint Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party), and other dignitaries.

A dedicated team of specialist doctors from Government Medical College (GMC) Handwara, along with paramedical staff, participated in the camp. They provided free medical consultations, diagnostic tests, and medicines to the attendees. Patients from various parts of Lolab Valley, including children, women, and elderly citizens, turned up in large numbers.

Approximately 700 people benefited from the camp, marking it as a highly impactful healthcare intervention in the region. On-the-spot medical examinations and diagnostic tests were conducted to assess the health conditions of patients, ensuring timely and appropriate treatment.



Local residents expressed gratitude to the organizers for bringing advanced healthcare services to their doorstep. Many highlighted that such initiatives are crucial for remote areas where access to medical facilities remains limited.

In addition to healthcare services, a pledge ceremony was also organized in a local school to promote the Nasha Mukht JK Abhiyan. Thousands of participants, including youth, students, women, and senior citizens, pledged their support to make Kupwara a drug-free district.

Speaking to the media, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized that the anti-drug mission would be expanded in the coming days with active participation from government departments as well as the general

public. He appreciated the role of the Indian Army, GMC Handwara, and particularly Dr. Abdul Majeed for consistently contributing to public welfare through such initiatives.

Dr. Abdul Majeed, Managing Director of Quality Health Care Kupwara, reiterated his commitment to serving society beyond his professional responsibilities. He stated that organizing free medical camps is not just a duty but a mission to improve healthcare accessibility in Kupwara. He also thanked the district administration and the Indian Army for their continued cooperation. The camp not only addressed immediate medical needs but also created awareness about preventive healthcare and substance abuse, leaving a lasting positive impact on the community.

Scenic Celebration of Baisakhi at Dera Baba Banda Bahadur

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

REASI, APR 14: A vibrant and spiritually enriching scene was witnessed at the historic shrine of Dera Baba Banda Bahadur in Reasi district on the auspicious occasion of Baisakhi (Baso). Renowned writer and social figure Abdul Qudir Kundria extended warm greetings to the people on this festive occasion. The celebrations commenced with a traditional ritual at the Gurdwara Sahib, where sacred weapons (Shastras), including swords, were ceremoniously taken to the Chenab River, cleansed in its holy waters, and then brought back to the shrine. This marked the formal beginning of the Baisakhi festivities at the revered site.

Simultaneously, farmers across the region began harvesting their

wheat crops, expressing their joy and gratitude. Devotees from various parts of India gathered at Dera Baba Banda Bahadur, celebrating the festival with great enthusiasm and spreading a message of peace, unity, and brotherhood. The shrine witnessed a festive atmosphere filled with devotion and cultural vibrancy. Abdul Qudir Kundria remarked that the happiness and devotion of the visiting pilgrims reflected a deep sense of communal harmony. He noted that groups of devotees (jathas) not only participated in religious rituals but also shared their joy with the local community, offering prayers for lasting peace, love, and brotherhood in the country.

The celebrations were further enriched by traditional cultural activities, including wrestling



matches (dangal), musical performances with dhol, and other folk entertainments. These activities showcased the region's rich cultural heritage and strengthened the spirit of unity among participants. Several visitors expressed their heartfelt experiences, stating that their visit brought them immense peace and a strong sense of communal harmony. Prominent among them were Sardar Prem Jeet Singh Kamla (Delhi), Sardar

Bhupinder Singh (Delhi), Som Nath Pawa (Hisar, Haryana), Sardar Sarabjeet Singh Hans (Panipat), and Ashok Khurana (Hisar, Haryana).

Adding to the cultural richness, Abdul Qudir Kundria presented his Dogri and Urdu poetry, which was highly appreciated by the audience. Devotees and pilgrims also shared their thoughts and emotions through poetry and devotional expressions in Punjabi, Hindi, and other languages during

the Nagar Kirtan, captivating the gathering.

Thousands of devotees from Haryana, Punjab, and other regions participated in the celebrations and enjoyed various programs, including Shashtra rituals at the Chenab River, Nagar Kirtan, Langar, and wrestling events. Abdul Qudir Kundria personally attended these events and described the experience as deeply peaceful and a beautiful reflection of communal harmony.

On the occasion, Abdul Qudir Kundria congratulated the public on Baisakhi and appreciated the district administration for ensuring proper facilities. He also acknowledged the effective security arrangements made by the police, army, and other agencies to ensure a safe and smooth celebration.



HT EDITORIAL

Fill vacant positions at SKIMS-Soura at the earliest

Sher-I-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) Soura is the lone tertiary care health centre in the government sector in the Kashmir valley as on date. People from different parts of the Kashmir valley along with many other areas of the Jammu division visit this tertiary care health institute in order to get the best available treatment for various diseases and ailments. In most of the cases the patients feel relieved and they are satisfied with their treatment at the hospital.

Since SKIMS-Soura is the tertiary care health institute it is important that all the necessary things are in place. Along with the necessary machinery and equipment all the staff positions should be filled at the place. In the recent past it came to the fore that hundreds of posts are lying vacant at SKIMS-Soura. The non-fulfilment of these posts has put a question mark over the functioning of the hospital with the people pointing fingers over the non-fulfilment of the posts.

The people in general are quite worried over the lack of staff at the institute and said that the same speaks of non-seriousness by the concerned stake-holders in this regard. The people demand that the positions that are vacant are filled at the earliest so that the patients don't suffer on account of treatment available at the institute. The masses in general believe that the necessary staff should be in place at the institute so that the patients are not forced to move out of the union territory.

Given the fact that the health sector is one of the core sectors of human life it is imperative that there is no going back in this regard. The Omar Abdullah led Jammu & Kashmir government has been claiming that it stands for providing quality health-care to the citizens of the union territory. If that is true then the government should take immediate measures and fill the vacant positions at SKIMS-Soura. This would mean that there is no slip between the cup and the lip.

The government is known for the actions it takes for the betterment of the people and when it comes to the health sector more and more eyes are focused on the same. People want world class health facilities to be available to them at their doorsteps so that their time and energy are not wasted. As such the ball is in the court of the government and they need to be proactive.

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Social Media Reality or Temptation



■ RAYEES AHMAD KUMAR

Social media is undoubtedly a powerful reality that has transformed the world. It has eliminated distances, brought people closer, and provided everyone with a platform for expression. Today, even an ordinary person can make their voice heard across the globe. Knowledge, news, education, and business everything is now just a click away. This same social media has changed many lives, helped businesses grow, and amplified the voices of the oppressed. If used correctly, it is truly a blessing. However, every light has a shadow, and this shadow represents the darker side of social media. It is a space where reality is often hidden and appearances take center stage. People tend to showcase only the beautiful parts of their lives, while their struggles, pain, and efforts remain behind the scenes. As a result, viewers begin to think that everyone else is happy and successful, which makes them feel inferior. This feeling gradually turns into envy and robs them of their inner peace. Social media has also led to another dangerous habit, the constant need for approval. Today, people seek their happiness, success, and even identity in likes and followers. Fewer likes lead to sadness, while more likes bring temporary joy. It becomes a cycle in which individuals lose their true selves. They begin to shape themselves according to what others like, rather than who they truly are. Wasting time is another major drawback of social media. Spending hours glued to mobile screens, watching meaningless videos,



and engaging in pointless arguments has become a part of daily life. The time that could have been spent pursuing dreams or being with family is slowly slipping away and sadly, we often do not even realize it. Morally, social media has also weakened us. People criticize others without thinking, use harsh language, and fail to respect one another. We forget that behind every screen is a human being with a heart, emotions, and a life. From a religious perspective as well, social media has become a test. While it helps spread religious teachings, it has also increased hypocrisy and showmanship. Some people perform good deeds only to be seen and appreciated by others. But the truth is that real virtue lies in sincerity, not in display. If we accept the truth, we must admit that social media is neither entirely bad nor entirely good. It is a tool, and its use determines its value. It is like a power in our hands we can

use it for good or allow it to harm us. We do not need to abandon social media rather, we need to understand and manage it wisely. We must value our time, purify our intentions, and live our lives in reality rather than through screens. We should remember that the world of social media is temporary, while real life is lasting. Finally, a truth that shakes the heart one day, all of this will end these posts, likes, and followers will not go with us. Only our actions will remain, along with the truth we lived in our lives. In conclusion, Social media is like a mirror, it reflects what we put into it. If we use it positively, it is a blessing; if misused, it becomes a source of harm and temptation. The choice is yours: are you using social media, or is social media using you?

Writer is a columnist based in Qazigund Kashmir



A Mother's Love: Pure, Selfless, and Eternal



■ IQRA MOHIUDIN

A mother is the most loving, caring, and important person in our lives. She is the one who gives us life and always stands by our side in every situation. A mother's love is pure, selfless, and unconditional. She never expects anything in return from her children.

A mother loves her children more than anything else in this world. She is always ready to do everything for them, even when she is tired or unwell. She sacrifices her own comfort and happiness just to see a smile on her children's faces. Her children's happiness is her greatest joy.

From childhood to adulthood, a mother takes great care of her children. She teaches them how to speak, walk, and behave properly. She helps them with their studies and guides them towards the right path. She instills good values, respect, and kindness in them.

Whenever her children feel sad or upset, a mother understands it without being told. She keeps asking them what happened and tries her best to make them happy. She shares their pain and always stands with them in difficult times.

A mother works very hard every day for her family. She wakes up early in the morning and fulfills all her responsibilities without complaint. She manages the home and takes care of everyone with love and patience. A mother never wants her children to face any problems in life. She always protects them and prays for their success and happiness. She loves her children more than herself and is always ready to sacrifice anything for them.

There is no love in this world that can be compared to a mother's love. It is endless, priceless, and beyond words. We may not have enough words to describe her greatness, but we should always respect, love, and take care of our mother.

Children also have responsibilities towards their mother. They should always respect her, love her, and care for her just as she cares for them. They should listen to her, help her with daily work, and never hurt her feelings. As children grow up, they should support their mother, stand by her in difficult times, and make her feel proud. A mother spends her whole life for her children, so it is the duty of children to give her happiness, love, and respect in return.

No words can ever truly define,
The love of a mother so pure and divine.
We may grow older and busy in life, but we should never forget our mother's sacrifices. She is our biggest blessing, and her love is our greatest strength. A mother's place can never be replaced, so we should always value her, love her, and make her smile.

The writer is reading in class 12th.

Rabindranath Tagore

and His Three National Anthems



■ DR. RATAN BHATTACHARJEE

Rabindranath Tagore stands in the annals of world literature not merely as a poet, philosopher, and Nobel laureate, but as a rare cultural visionary whose words transcended geography, politics, and time. Among his many extraordinary contributions, one phenomenon remains uniquely unparalleled: his songs became the national anthems of more than one nation. Even more remarkably, his creative spirit is closely linked to three countries—India, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka—each of which found in Tagore's music a voice of identity, aspiration, and unity. The story of Tagore's three songs—"Jana Gana Mana," "Amar Shonar Bangla," and the inspiration behind "Sri Lanka Matha"—is not only a literary curiosity but also a profound testament to the cultural interconnectedness of South Asia.

Rabindranath Tagore's legacy as the author of three national anthems is unparalleled. Through Jana Gana Mana, Amar Shonar Bangla, and his influence on Sri Lanka Matha, Tagore articulated visions of unity, identity, and devotion that continue to inspire millions. His anthems are not merely patriotic songs; they are poetic expressions of cultural philosophy, rooted in love for the land and its people. In a world often divided by narrow nationalism, Tagore's anthems offer a reminder that true patriotism is inclusive, humane, and deeply connected to nature. They stand as enduring testaments to his genius and his belief in the unity of humanity.

The imagery of "Jana Gana Mana" is expansive and unifying. It names different geographical regions—Punjab, Sindh, Gujarat, Maratha, Dravida, Utkala, Banga—thus symbolically weaving the entire subcontinent into a single fabric. The song does not merely celebrate political unity; it envisions a moral and spiritual cohesion among the people. When India gained independence in 1947, the need for a national anthem that could represent its pluralistic ethos became paramount. After much deliberation, "Jana Gana Mana" was officially adopted as the national anthem of India in 1950. Its dignified melody and solemn cadence continue to inspire millions, resonating at moments of national pride and collective reflection. The second song, "Amar Shonar Bangla," holds a similarly exalted place in the heart of Bangladesh. Composed in 1905 during the period of the first partition of Bengal by the British, the song was part of Tagore's broader cultural resistance against colonial policies. The partition sought to divide Bengal along communal lines, but Tagore responded by emphasizing the cultural and emotional unity of the Bengali people. "Amar Shonar Bangla," which translates to "My Golden Bengal," is a lyrical ode to the natural beauty and maternal essence of Bengal.

Unlike the more formal and pan-Indian tone of "Jana Gana Mana," "Amar Shonar Bangla" is intimate and evocative. It speaks of lush green fields, gentle breezes, and the fragrance of mango groves. The land is personified as a loving mother, whose beauty and bounty inspire deep affection and loyalty. The song became a rallying cry for unity during the anti-partition movement and retained its emotional significance over the decades. When Bangladesh emerged as an independent nation in 1971 after a brutal liberation war, the choice of a national anthem was both symbolic and political. "Amar Shonar Bangla" was adopted as the national anthem, embodying the spirit of resilience, cultural pride, and love for the homeland.

The third and perhaps less widely known connection is between Tagore and the national anthem of Sri Lanka, "Sri Lanka Matha." While Tagore did not compose this anthem directly, his influence on its creator, Ananda Samarakoon, is both significant and well-documented. Samarakoon was a student at Tagore's Visva-Bharati University in Santiniketan, an institution founded by Tagore to promote global cultural exchange and artistic excellence. During his time there, Samarakoon was deeply inspired by Tagore's music, philosophy, and aesthetic sensibilities. Upon returning to Sri Lanka, Samarakoon composed "Sri Lanka Matha" in 1940. The



song bears unmistakable traces of Tagorean influence, particularly in its melodic structure and lyrical style. Like Tagore's own compositions, it celebrates the motherland with a blend of reverence and affection. The imagery is rich with references to nature, heritage, and cultural identity. In 1951, the song was officially adopted as the national anthem of Sri Lanka. While Tagore is not its author, his artistic legacy lives on through the song, making him a spiritual contributor to yet another nation's identity.

The phenomenon of one individual influencing the national anthems of three countries is extraordinary and perhaps unparalleled in history. It speaks volumes about Tagore's universal appeal and the timeless relevance of his art. His songs transcend political boundaries and resonate with fundamental human emotions—love, devotion, hope, and unity. They are not merely patriotic hymns but also philosophical meditations on the relationship between the individual and the collective, the human and the divine. Tagore's vision of nationalism was deeply nuanced. He was critical of aggressive, exclusionary forms of nationalism that prioritize power over humanity. In his lectures and essays, particularly those delivered in Japan and the United States, Tagore warned against the dangers of what he called the "Nation" as a mechanical and soulless entity. Yet, he was not opposed to the idea of cultural identity or collective belonging. His songs reflect a form of nationalism that is inclusive, compassionate, and rooted in ethical values.

The adoption of Tagore's songs as national anthems also reflects the cultural continuity of the Indian subcontinent, despite its political fragmentation. India and Bangladesh, once part of a larger cultural and historical entity, share a linguistic and literary heritage that finds expression in Tagore's works. Sri Lanka, though distinct in its own traditions, was also part of the broader cultural exchange facilitated by institutions like Santiniketan. Tagore's influence thus becomes a unifying thread that connects diverse nations through a shared appreciation of art and humanity. Moreover, the global recognition of Tagore's work adds another dimension to this phenomenon. As the first non-European Nobel laureate in Literature in 1913, Tagore brought Indian literature to the world stage. His works were translated into numerous languages and admired by intellectuals and artists across the globe. Figures like W.B. Yeats, Albert Einstein, and Romain Rolland engaged with his ideas, further amplifying his influence. The fact that his songs became national anthems in multiple countries only reinforces his stature as a truly global artist. It is also worth noting that Tagore himself might have viewed this legacy with a sense of humility and detachment. For him, art was not a means to achieve fame or power but a way to express the infinite within the finite. His songs were born out of a deep engagement

with life, nature, and the human spirit. That they went on to become symbols of national identity is perhaps a testament to their authenticity and universal appeal.

Rabindranath Tagore's literary genius was rooted in his ability to articulate the soul of a people. His poetry and songs, especially those compiled under the vast body of Rabindra Sangeet, are characterized by lyrical beauty, philosophical depth, and a universal humanism. Tagore did not write nationalistic songs in the narrow, political sense. Instead, his compositions evoke a spiritual nationalism—one that harmonizes the individual with the collective, the local with the universal, and the temporal with the eternal. The first of these three songs, "Jana Gana Mana," was composed in 1911. Originally written in highly Sanskritized Bengali, the song was first sung at the Indian National Congress session in Calcutta. Its opening line, "Jana-gana-mana-adhinayaka jaya he," invokes the "dispenser of India's destiny." Contrary to some early misconceptions that it praised the British monarch, the song is widely interpreted as a hymn to the divine spirit that guides the nation. It reflects Tagore's inclusive vision of India, encompassing its diverse regions, languages, and cultures.

Tagore composed Jana Gana Mana in 1911, originally titled Bharoto Bhagyo Bidhata. Written in highly Sanskritized Bengali, the song was first performed at the Calcutta Session of the Indian National Congress. It was formally adopted as India's national anthem in 1950, after independence. The anthem is a hymn to India's diversity and unity. It invokes the "dispenser of destiny," a divine force guiding the nation through its trials. Each stanza celebrates the vastness of India—its regions, rivers, mountains, and peoples—while emphasizing the collective spirit that binds them together. The anthem does not glorify a single leader or political ideology; instead, it elevates the idea of India as a pluralistic civilization, resilient and united despite its multiplicity. The significance of Jana Gana Mana lies in its inclusivity. At a time when India was fragmented by colonial rule, linguistic divisions, and communal tensions, Tagore's anthem offered a vision of unity rooted in cultural diversity. It continues to resonate today, reminding citizens that India's strength lies in its ability to embrace difference while remaining one.

In 1905, the British colonial government partitioned Bengal, dividing it into East Bengal and West Bengal. This act was widely perceived as an attempt to weaken nationalist movements by sowing communal divisions. In response, Tagore penned Amar Shonar Bangla ("My Golden Bengal"), a song that became a rallying cry against the partition. The anthem is a lyrical tribute to Bengal's natural beauty—its fertile fields, rivers, and golden crops. It expresses a profound emotional bond between the people and their land, por-

traying Bengal as a nurturing mother whose love sustains her children. The imagery of golden harvests and flowing rivers symbolizes abundance, resilience, and continuity.

When Bangladesh gained independence in 1971, Amar Shonar Bangla was adopted as its national anthem. Its choice was deeply symbolic: the song had originally been written to resist division, and now it became the anthem of a nation born from struggle and sacrifice. For Bangladeshis, the anthem embodies not only love for their homeland but also the spirit of resistance, unity, and cultural pride. Sri Lanka's national anthem, Sri Lanka Matha ("Mother Sri Lanka"), was adopted in 1951. While the lyrics were written by Ananda Samarakoon, a student of Tagore at Santiniketan, the anthem's melody and lyrical style were heavily influenced by Tagore's compositions. Samarakoon, deeply inspired by Tagore's philosophy of blending art, culture, and nationalism, crafted a song that echoed Tagore's emphasis on nature, unity, and devotion to the motherland. The anthem praises Sri Lanka's rivers, mountains, and fertile lands, while calling for peace, prosperity, and unity among its people. Its tone is devotional, portraying the nation as a mother figure deserving of love and sacrifice. Though Tagore did not directly author the anthem, his influence is unmistakable, making Sri Lanka's anthem part of the broader legacy of Tagore's cultural vision.

Despite differences in language, imagery, and historical context, the three anthems share common themes. Each anthem celebrates the natural beauty of the land—India's vastness, Bengal's golden fields, Sri Lanka's rivers and mountains. Tagore's philosophy of harmony with nature permeates all three. The anthems emphasize collective identity. Jana Gana Mana highlights India's pluralism, Amar Shonar Bangla resists division, and Sri Lanka Matha calls for unity among diverse communities. All three portray the nation as a nurturing mother, deserving of devotion and sacrifice. This metaphor elevates patriotism to a spiritual plane. While India's anthem envisions destiny, Bangladesh's anthem resists colonial division, and Sri Lanka's anthem calls for renewal and prosperity. Together, they reflect Tagore's belief in resilience and progress.

Tagore's anthems are more than songs; they are cultural artifacts that shaped national identities. The fact that one man's vision could inspire three nations underscores Tagore's universality. His anthems transcend borders, embodying values of humanism, unity, and reverence for nature. They remind us that nationalism, at its best, is not about exclusion or aggression but about love, devotion, and collective identity. In contemporary times, when the world is often divided by narrow identities and conflicting ideologies, Tagore's songs offer a powerful reminder of the potential for unity in diversity. They encourage us

Unlike the more formal and pan-Indian tone of "Jana Gana Mana," "Amar Shonar Bangla" is intimate and evocative. It speaks of lush green fields, gentle breezes, and the fragrance of mango groves. The land is personified as a loving mother, whose beauty and bounty inspire deep affection and loyalty. The song became a rallying cry for unity during the anti-partition movement and retained its emotional significance over the decades. When Bangladesh emerged as an independent nation in 1971 after a brutal liberation war, the choice of a national anthem was both symbolic and political. "Amar Shonar Bangla" was adopted as the national anthem, embodying the spirit of resilience, cultural pride, and love for the homeland.

to look beyond superficial differences and recognize the deeper bonds that connect us as human beings. Whether it is the solemn dignity of "Jana Gana Mana," the tender affection of "Amar Shonar Bangla," or the inspired beauty of "Sri Lanka Matha," each song carries within it a message that is both timeless and timely.

In conclusion, Rabindranath Tagore's association with the national anthems of India, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka is a unique and inspiring chapter in cultural history. It highlights the power of art to transcend boundaries and unite people across different contexts. Through "Jana Gana Mana," "Amar Shonar Bangla," and his influence on "Sri Lanka Matha," Tagore has given voice to the aspirations and identities of millions. His songs continue to resonate not only as national anthems but also as enduring expressions of human unity, dignity, and hope.

International Tagore Awardee multilingual author Dr. Ratan Bhattacharjee who authored best sellers like Oleander Blooms, Six Feet Distance , Twilight of Love etc is a former Affiliate Faculty of Virginia Commonwealth University & Retd. Head Post Graduate English Dept Dum Dum Motijheel College . He may be mailed at profratanbhattacharjee@gmail.com

Satish Sharma leads Baisakhi Milan celebrations at Akhnoor; pushes for preserving cultural legacy

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APRIL 14: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, IT, Transport, Youth Services & Sports, Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, today participated in the grand Baisakhi Milan celebrations at Pambadwan Akhnoor, Jammu.

He extended warm greetings to the people and highlighted deep-rooted cultural, historical and social significance of celebrating Baisakhi.

He emphasized that the festival plays a vital role in upholding the rich traditions, agrarian ethos and composite cultural fabric of the region.

The event witnessed an impressive public turnout, including



the community leaders, youth and local residents, who gathered to

celebrate the vibrant festival of Baisakhi, reflecting the spirit of unity and cultural pride.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister reiterated the importance of preserving the cultural heritage and strengthening communal harmony through such celebrations.

“Baisakhi is not merely a harvest festival but a reflection of our identity and heritage. It symbolizes prosperity, hard work, and unity, and reminds us of our responsibility to preserve and promote our cultural values,” the Minister said.

Reiterating the government's commitment to inclusive development, he stressed the importance of maintaining a balance between progress and

preservation of cultural traditions.

The program also witnessed active interaction between the Minister and the public, with several participants putting forth their concerns and suggestions.

Satish Sharma assured timely redressal of their genuine issues, reaffirming his commitment to responsive and people-centric governance.

The Minister appreciated the overwhelming participation and enthusiasm of the people, stating that such gatherings reflect the strong cultural fabric and unity of the region.

The venue remained vibrant with festive enthusiasm, showcasing the essence of togetherness and cultural legacy.

Nasha Mukht JK Abhiyaan: DC Anantnag visits PMPE Colony Vessu, Advises Youth to Denounce Drug Menace

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG, APRIL 14: As part of the youth engagement initiatives under Nasha Mukht JK Abhiyaan, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiud Din Bhat, today visited PM Package Employees Colony, Vessu and witnessed a cricket match played between two cricket clubs of the colony. He was accompanied by ADC, ACR and other officials of administration and concerned departments.



On the occasion, the DC interacted with the players and appreciated their enthusiasm and sportsmanship. He encouraged players to actively engage in sports and other constructive activities, so they develop into responsible and mature citizens.

Advising youth to denounce the drug menace, the DC highlighted the significance of Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir” campaign and emphasized the vital role of youth in building a drug-free and healthy society. He urged them to channelise their energy towards sports, education and entrepreneurial avenues so they contribute to the society and nation at large.

Dr. Bilal further cautioned about the devastating effects of drugs and expressed hope that with collective efforts of all, the menace can be effectively eliminated from the society.

At the culmination, the DC applauded commendable performance of both teams and felicitated them with awards and sports kits. The residents appreciated administration for the encouragement and support towards youth-centric activities and welfare in the colony.

MLA Mankotia inaugurates Annual Baisakhi Mela at Binisang

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

CHENANI, APRIL 14: The annual Baisakhi Mela at Binisang was today inaugurated by Member Legislative Assembly Balwant Singh Mankotia amid enthusiasm and festive spirit.

On the occasion, the MLA paid obeisance at the local temple and prayed for peace, prosperity and well-being of the people. He appreciated the efforts of the Mela Committee and extended his best wishes for the successful organization of the event.



The mela witnessed enthusiastic participation from a large number of locals and visitors from nearby areas. A variety of colorful cultural programmes were presented by local artists, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the region.

Special arrangements were made for visitors, including swings for children, food stalls, langar seva and a wide range of shopping stalls offering various items. The mela created a lively and joyful atmosphere, with people of all age groups enjoying the celebrations.

Among those present on the occasion were SDM Ranjeet Kotwal, SDPO Sukhvinder Singh, Mandal President Manik Gupta, Amit Abrol and several other prominent citizens.

CMO reviews functioning, ongoing works at PHC Assar

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

ASSAR, APRIL 14: To review the functioning of health facilities, Chief Medical Officer Dr Tanveer Ahmed Rather conducted a surprise inspection of PHC Assar.

The visit was aimed at checking staff attendance and assessing the overall functioning of the health facility. During the inspection, the CMO visited all sections of the PHC and thoroughly reviewed staff attendance and service delivery.

Dr. Rather also interacted with the staff on duty and impressed upon them to work with greater dedication and commitment in order to ensure quality healthcare services to the public.

Later, the CMO reviewed the ongoing construction work of the BPHU Laboratory at PHC Assar, where Dr Syed Mohd Ismail, BMO Assar, briefed him about the progress and status of the work being executed.

The CMO emphasized timely completion of the project and stressed the importance of strengthening



laboratory services to enhance healthcare delivery in the area.

Joint LADC inspection at Special Jail Pulwama held to identify inmates eligible for early release

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN, APRIL 14: In a coordinated effort to strengthen access to justice and ensure timely relief to eligible inmates, the Legal Aid Defence Counsels (LADC) of Shopian and Pulwama conducted a joint inspection of the Special Jail, Pulwama.

The visit was undertaken with the primary objective of identifying cases suitable for early release in accordance with the categories outlined in the Standard Operating

Procedure (SOP) for the forthcoming Under Trial Review Committee meeting. The joint inspection team included Chief LADC Shopian, Rafie Ahmad Ganie, along with Assistant LADC Shopian, Aamir Ayoub.

Representing Pulwama were Chief LADC Mehrajuddin Wani, Assistant LADC Ashiq Ahmad, and Junior Assistant DLSA Pulwama, Shakir Ahmad.

The team was facilitated by the Jail Superintendent, Dr. Aijaz Ahmad, who provided comprehensive insights into the



inmate population and extended full cooperation during the

inspection process.

During the visit, the LADC teams conducted a detailed and systematic review of individual inmate cases.

The assessment focused on identifying prisoners eligible for consideration under various SOP categories, including undertrials who have completed half of the maximum prescribed sentence, first-time offenders involved in minor offences, elderly or infirm inmates, prisoners granted bail but unable to furnish surety, and other relevant categories specified

under UTRC guidelines.

The teams also interacted directly with inmates across multiple barracks to verify legal documentation, assess case status, and ensure that no eligible individual is deprived of relief due to lack of awareness or legal assistance.

Following the inspection, a consolidated list of eligible cases has been prepared and will be presented before the upcoming UTRC meeting for necessary consideration and orders.

Baisakhi festival celebrated with great fervour, devotion in Poonch

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

POONCH, APRIL 14: The Baisakhi festival was celebrated with immense enthusiasm, devotion and spiritual fervour in Poonch.

The grand religious programme was organized in the presence of Sant Mahant Manjit Singh Ji, Head of Dera Santpura Nangali Sahib Poonch.

A large number of devotees from different areas thronged the venue and paid obeisance at the Gurudwara.

Several dignitaries, including MLA Haveli Aijaz Ahmed Jan, DIG Rajouri-Poonch Sandeep Wazir, Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma, ADC Poonch, Tahir Mustafa Malik, SSP Poonch Shafqat Hussain Bhat, ACR Muad Sayeed, Tehsildar Haveli Azhar Majid, DySP Headquarters Neeraj Sharma, DySP DAR and SHO along with officers from the Army including Lt. Colonel, Major and other senior officers were also present and paid their respects.

The Gurdwara Committee honoured the dignitaries, who extended warm Baisakhi greetings to the devotees and saints present on the occasion.

The Health Department set up a medical stall where doctors were available to provide free check-ups to the devotees besides some other departments also setup departmental stalls.

The celebrations were marked by soulful Gurbani Kirtan recited by renowned Ragi Jathas, creating a deeply spiritual atmosphere.

During the programme, S. Harcharan Singh, General Secretary of DGPC conducted the proceedings. Prominent speakers including S. Narinder Singh, President DGPC,



Anmol Singh of Shri Guru Ramdas Sewa Society Poonch, S. Balbir Singh, Dr. Netar Singh and other religious leaders addressed the gathering. They highlighted the significance of Baisakhi and elaborated on Sikh history, especially the creation of the Khalsa Panth by Guru Gobind Singh Ji in 1699.

In his address, Sant Mahant Manjit Singh Ji extended heartfelt greetings on Baisakhi and emphasized the importance of following Sikh Rehat Maryada. He urged the community to walk on the path shown by the Gurus, respect their sacrifices and uphold the values of Sikhism with dignity.

The programme concluded with the recitation of Hukamnama from Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji, followed by Guru Ka Langar, which was served to all devotees.

MLA Udhampur West inaugurates 3-day historic Devika Baisakhi mela

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

UDHAMPUR, APRIL 14: Member Legislative Assembly Udhampur West Pawan Kumar Gupta today inaugurated the three-day historic Devika Baisakhi Mela on the banks of the sacred Devika rivulet in Udhampur town.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr. Umesh Shan; Tehsildar Jai Singh along with officers from other departments, representatives of political and social organizations and prominent citizens were present on the occasion.

While addressing the gathering, the MLA extended warm greetings and best wishes to the people on the auspicious occasion of Baisakhi. He appreciated the tireless efforts and meticulous arrangements made by the District Administration Udhampur. He expressed hope that the festival would usher in peace, prosperity and harmony across the Union Territory.

Highlighting the cultural and spiritual significance of the Mela, he said that the sacred Devika Ghat holds a special place in the hearts of the people, attracting devotees from all walks of life who visit to take a holy dip in the Devika rivulet during the festivities.

He further emphasized that such traditional Melas foster communal harmony by bringing together people from diverse



religions, communities and regions, thereby strengthening the social fabric.

To ensure the smooth and successful conduct of the Mela, the District Administration has made elaborate arrangements,

including uninterrupted power supply, safe drinking water, sanitation, medical facilities and comprehensive security arrangements. A joint control room and assistance booths have also been set up to help visitors.

The Government departments have also set up stalls to generate public awareness about different government welfare schemes and initiatives.

Adding to the festive spirit, local and outside vendors have set up temporary sweet shops, toy stalls and food corners which became a major attraction for visitors.

The MLA, accompanied by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, took a detailed round of the venue and inspected the departmental stalls established for public awareness.

Later, the MLA and other senior officers participated in a signature campaign, reaffirming their commitment to building a drug-free Udhampur.

The participants took a pledge to support the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan and remain committed to fostering a drug-free and healthy society. A theme-based skit on the campaign was presented by Prashant Khajuria, which was witnessed and appreciated by the MLA and other dignitaries.

District Information Centre Udhampur organized a vibrant cultural programme to mark the first day of the historic Mela.

A large number of people enjoyed the cultural extravaganza, featuring Dogri music and folk dance performances by local artists and students from various educational institutions.

Div Com, IGP Jammu pay obeisance at Revered Shrine

Rake comprehensive review of arrangements for Shri Mata yarta-2026

HT NEWS NETWORK

KISHTWAR, APRIL 14: The sacred Shri Machail Mata Temple, nestled in the spiritual expanse of Machail Valley in District Kishtwar, was reopened for pilgrims on the auspicious occasion of Baisakhi, today, heralding the commencement of the annual Shri Machail Mata Yatra 2026.

The religious event also marked the shifting of the idol (Murti) of Goddess Machail Mata (Durga) from the house of local priest Pehalwan Singh to the Main temple amid a huge rush of devotees amid religious rituals and a grand fair.

The reopening of the revered temple was attended by Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, IGP Jammu Zone, Bhim Singh Tutti, Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma and SSP Kishtwar, Naresh Singh, who paid their obeisance at the sacred shrine.

After paying the obeisance, the Divisional Commissioner and IGP Jammu took a comprehensive review of the arrangements put in place for the smooth and safe conduct of the Shri Machail Mata Yatra 2026.

The review included an assessment of security protocols, provision of electricity, water supply, sanitation, langar sewa, accommodation, transportation and healthcare facilities for the devotees.



The Divisional Commissioner directed for effective implementation and enforcement of RFID registration, with counters to be established for on-the-spot registration at Gauri Shankar Mandir Sarkoot and Gulabgarh. He emphasized that no entry shall be permitted without the registration.

He issued instructions for the strict implementation of sanitation

measures, including the deployment of sanitation workers and proper management of plastic waste to make the Yatra 100% plastic-free. Further, directions were issued to ensure uninterrupted supply of electricity to Machail and adjoining areas.

The Divisional Commissioner also directed for adequate water supply and provision of accommodation facilities in

educational institutions (schools and colleges) in the event of adverse weather conditions and emergencies along the Yatra route from Gulabgarh to Machail.

It was informed that helicopter services shall also be initiated after obtaining permission. "There shall be no movement of pilgrims, nor any establishment at the cloudburst-affected site at Chishoti," the Divisional Commissioner directed.

The Divisional Commissioner directed the concerned executing agencies to assess the feasibility and undertake necessary measures to increase the height of the bridge at Chishoti.

Underscoring the cultural and religious significance of the Shri Machail Mata Yatra, the Divisional Commissioner said the shrine has emerged as major attraction for promoting spiritual tourism in the region. He assured full support from the administration for the successful conduct of the Yatra and emphasized the importance of providing a secure and comfortable environment for the pilgrims.

The Divisional Commissioner announced that the Gulabgarh to Machail road would soon be handed over to the BRO to build a Bailey Bridge at Chishoti within one fortnight.

Earlier at the Shrine, the Divisional Commissioner also interacted with the devotees and the locals and listened to their demands and issues. He assured that the issues would be addressed soon.

The Shri Machail Mata Yatra holds profound religious importance and attracts lakhs of devotees from across the country every year.

The Divisional Commissioner appealed to all pilgrims to adhere to the guidelines and safety instructions that are issued by the administration.

Baisakhi celebrated with zeal and traditional fervour in District Kishtwar

HT NEWS NETWORK

KISHTWAR, APRIL 14: The festival of Baisakhi was celebrated with great enthusiasm and cultural spirit in District Kishtwar. The celebrations were marked by the organization of a traditional historic Dargal and a Nukkad Natak at the historic Chowgan Ground under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma.

The event was organised as a part of the ongoing UT Wide 100 Days Nasha Mukta JK Abhiyan Campaign by the District Administration Kishtwar in collaboration with the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIC), Social Welfare Department Kishtwar and Dargal Committee Kishtwar.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pawan Kotwal graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

The event witnessed the participation of thousands of people from across the region, reflecting the district's commitment to preserving its rich cultural heritage.

In his message, the ADC extended warm Baisakhi greetings to the people and lauded the participants of the Dargal for their commendable efforts in upholding the legacy of this iconic event.

The Dargal drew enthusiastic participation from wrestlers and spectators alike, showcasing the region's deep-rooted love for traditional sports. The event not only provided entertainment but also served as a platform to promote communal harmony and social unity.

The ADC also distributed prizes among the winners and runners-up of the Dargal competition, as well as participants of the Nukkad Natak, acknowledging their enthusiastic and commendable



participation.

A Nukkad Natak was also presented by Kishtwar Art Production, delivering a strong message to the audience about staying away from drug abuse.

Among others present on the occasion were DSWO Kishtwar, Tariq Parveez Qazi, Tehsildar HQ to DC, Mohd Rafie Naik along with other officers, staff of DIPR (DIC) Kishtwar and Members of the Dargal Committee Kishtwar.

District Admin, Security Agencies escalate fight against Drugs in Bandipora

HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, APRIL 14: In the backdrop of the ongoing 100-day intensive campaign under Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA), the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today along with Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Bandipora, Ajaz Ahmad Zargar, chaired a meeting with officers from various security agencies and ex-servicemen to strengthen coordinated efforts against drug abuse across the district.

The meeting witnessed participation from the CRPF, BSF, and Army, along with ex-servicemen of Bandipora through the Zila Sainik Welfare Directorate and retired police personnel of the district.

A detailed presentation was made outlining the aims, objectives, targets, and overall approach of the campaign, along with the roles of various stakeholders and the implementation strategy.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need for a convergence-based and community-driven approach, highlighting that the discipline, experience, and social influence of ex-servicemen and security personnel make them key stakeholders in this intensified phase of the campaign.

She informed that the administration has launched a structured 100-day action plan, and stressed that the involvement of veterans and security agencies as "Change Agents" will be crucial in guiding youth, spreading awareness, and supporting community-level interventions to curb substance abuse.

The DC also outlined the campaign roadmap and called for active participation, sustained vigilance, and grassroots engagement to ensure meaningful outcomes. On the enforcement front, SSP Bandipora,



briefed about the measures being undertaken to curb drug trafficking and emphasized the importance of close coordination between police, security forces, and the veteran community to dismantle local drug networks and monitor vulnerable areas. He assured full support from the police to all collaborative initiatives under the campaign.

Officers from various security forces reiterated their commitment to support the campaign through awareness drives, community outreach, and logistical assistance.

The ex-servicemen present in the meeting expressed their firm resolve to contribute actively by engaging with youth, assisting in awareness generation, and supporting enforcement agencies.

The meeting concluded with a collective resolve to make Bandipora a drug-free district through coordinated action, public participation, and strengthened enforcement under the ongoing 100-day NMBA campaign.

Among others the meeting was also attended by ADC, Zaffar Husson Shawl; ACR, Shabir Ahmad Wani; Dy DEO, Hilal Ahmad; DSWO, Bashir Ahmad and DIO, Aadil Manzoor Wani.

Seerbagh-Sempora bridge nearing completion, to be opened soon: Deputy Chief Minister

Conducts inspection of under-construction projects in Srinagar

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, APRIL 14: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today informed that the Seerbagh-Sempora bridge is nearing completion and will be opened to the public at the earliest.

The Deputy Chief Minister apprised this during his visit to the project site conducted to assess the pace and quality of ongoing works. He was accompanied by MLA Chadoora, Ali Mohammad Dar; Chief Engineer, PWD Central Kashmir, Narinder Kumar; Superintending Engineer, Iram Lone and other concerned officers.

During the inspection, the Deputy Chief Minister emphasized strict adherence to quality



standards and timely completion of the project. He expressed satisfaction over the pace of work and observed that the bridge is in its final stage of construction.

Highlighting the significance of the project, he said that the bridge will greatly enhance the connectivity and accessibility for the residents of Sempora, Seerbagh,

Summerbugh and adjoining areas of Chadoora, Pampore and Srinagar, benefiting a large section of the public.

Later, the Deputy Chief Minister

inspected the PWD (R&B) Guest House at Hyderpora, Srinagar and reviewed the proposed site for construction of an Engineering Office-cum-Conference Hall.

The officers present on the occasion briefed him on the design and scope of the proposed facility.

He directed the concerned to ensure proper planning and expeditious execution of the project while maintaining quality benchmarks. He also reviewed the condition of the guest house and discussed necessary measures to improve its infrastructure and utility.

Chief Engineer PWD Central Kashmir, Executive Engineers and other officials were present during the inspection.

Three-Day Baisakhi Mela concludes at Dera Baba Banda Bahadur

HT NEWS NETWORK

REASI, APRIL 14: The vibrant three-day Baisakhi Mela held at the historic shrine of Dera Baba Banda Bahadur concluded today with great enthusiasm, religious fervour and active public participation.

A large number of devotees and visitors from across the district as well as adjoining states attended the mela to pay obeisance and partake in the celebrations associated with the auspicious festival of Baisakhi.



The event served as a platform to showcase the rich cultural heritage and traditional ethos of the region.

Throughout the duration of the mela, stalls exhibiting local handicrafts, traditional cuisine and a variety of recreational activities contributed to the vibrant festive ambience and attracted considerable public interest.

The District Administration made comprehensive and well-coordinated arrangements to ensure the smooth and orderly conduct of the mela. Adequate provisions pertaining to security, sanitation, potable drinking water, medical assistance and traffic management were put in place to facilitate the convenience and safety of the visitors.

On the concluding day, the traditional Dargal (wrestling competition) emerged as the main attraction, drawing large crowds and adding excitement to the festivities. In the keenly contested bouts, J&K Police wrestler Surjit clinched the 33rd Dera Kesari Dargal title.

Dy. SP (HQ) Vishal Jamwal, Tehsildar Reasi Suresh Singh, President J&K Indian Style Wrestling Association Shiv Kumar Sharma along with other committee members were present on the occasion.

Grand celebrations mark second day of Baisakhi Mela in Bhandarwah

HT NEWS NETWORK

BHANDARWAH, APRIL 14: The second day of the Baisakhi festival was celebrated with great enthusiasm and devotion here with meals organised at several places across the subdivision. A large number of devotees visited temples to offer prayers. ADC Sunil Kumar Bhutyal, visited various mela sites including Tesna Ganesh Temple and Bount Nag Temple at Bounta Gutasa to attend the celebrations. He was accompanied by the CEO BDA, Tehsildar, AO BDA and representatives from different departments.

The Baisakhi melas attracted a significant gathering of locals and visitors.

The sub-division administration has made all necessary arrangements to ensure smooth celebrations.

These included proper security, uninterrupted water and power supply, traffic management, cleanliness of lanes and drains, functioning street lights, medical facilities and proper maintenance of roads. Clearance of landslides and road slips was also ensured for the safety and convenience of the public. The coordinated efforts of the administration ensured that the festival was celebrated peacefully and successfully.

Public Notice

This is to inform the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my Aadhaar Card bearing Aadhaar No 3313 4491 0070. Now I want to change my name from TAJA MUSHTAQ (Old Name) to MOHAMMAD AASIM KHAN (New Name). In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he or she may approach the concerned authorities within a period of seven days. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

**Name:- MOHAMMAD AASIM KHAN
S/O:- MUSHTAQ AHMAD KHAN
R/O:- SHEKHPOORA, BUDGAM, Jammu And
Kashmir- 191111**

Public Notice

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the name of the mother of my son has been wrongly recorded as Romysa in the school records due to an inadvertent error on the part of the parents at the time of submission of documents, and not due to any fault or lapse on the part of the school authorities.

That the correct name of the mother is Romysa Jan. That my son, Mohammad Ahrar Khan, S/o Hilal Ahmad Khan, resident of Malik Sahib, Safakadal, is presently a student of Burn Hall School, studying in Class 2nd, Section C.

Any person having any objection to the above correction may contact the school authorities of Burn Hall School within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained thereafter.

**Sd/- (Hilal Ahmad Khan)
(Father of Mohammad Ahrar Khan)
R/o Malik Sahib, Safakadal**



Asif strike hands Inter Kashi narrow win against Mohammedan Sporting

■ AGENCIES

KOLKATA: Mohammed Asif's first-half strike proved decisive as Inter Kashi edged Mohammedan Sporting Club 1-0 to secure their second consecutive victory in the Indian Super League here on Sunday.

With this result Inter Kashi climbed to eighth in the standings with 11 points from eight matches, while Mohammedan remain rooted to the bottom without a point in seven matches.

Mohammedan began on the front foot, winning a flurry of corners in the opening minutes but failed to capitalise on their early pressure. Midfielder Mahitosh Roy saw an effort blocked, while right winger Yash Chickro fired narrowly wide as Mohammedan looked to assert themselves early. Inter Kashi gradually settled into the contest and found the breakthrough in the 15th minute through a well-worked move down the left.

Left winger Rohit Danu released Sandip Mandi on the overlap, and the full-back drove into the box before cutting the ball back into the centre. Mohammed Asif timed his run



perfectly and produced a composed left-footed finish into the bottom-left corner to hand his side a 1-0 lead.

Antonio López Habas' side continued to control possession through the midfield, with Sergio

Llamas and Wayne Vaz combining effectively, although clear-cut opportunities remained limited. Mohammedan, too, showed glimpses in attack but struggled to break down a compact Inter Kashi defence.

Tomba Singh tested Padam Chettri from distance late in the first half, but the Mohammedan goalkeeper was equal to the effort as Inter Kashi carried their slender advantage into the break.

Mohammedan emerged with

renewed intent in the second half and came close to levelling in the 55th minute. Forward F Lalremsanga produced a brilliant run before delivering a lofted ball into the area, where substitute Lalngaihsaka rose well but saw his header crash against the crossbar.

Mohammedan continued to push forward, with Dinesh Meitei and Lalngaihsaka both going close from set-pieces, while Lalremsanga remained a constant threat with his movement and delivery. However, Inter Kashi held firm, maintaining their shape and limiting Mohammedan to speculative efforts from distance.

As the match entered its closing stages, Mohammedan committed numbers forward in search of an equaliser. Lalngaihsaka and Lalremsanga combined dangerously in stoppage time, but the final effort drifted just wide, summing up a frustrating evening for Mehrajuddin Wadoo side.

Inter Kashi managed the closing minutes with composure, with goalkeeper Shubham Dhas ensuring there were no late scares, as they secured a hard-fought 1-0 victory.

Sonam finishes fifth as India conclude shooting WC campaign with one gold

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Sonam Maskar put up a brave fight but finished fifth in the women's 10m air rifle final as India concluded their World Cup (Rifle/Pistol) campaign in Granada with one gold medal on Sunday.

Sonam shot 188.5, bowing out after the 18th shot of the 24-shot final.

World No. 1 Wang Zifei of China won gold with a score of 252.9. Women's 3P world champion Jeanette Hegg Duestad of Norway took silver with 252.4, while former air rifle world champion Han Jiayu of China claimed bronze with 231.5.

Indians reached seven finals, but only the 10m air pistol pair of Mukesh Nelavalli and



Palak won gold on the opening day of competition. Sonam shot 632.8 in the first qualification relay to qualify in seventh place for the final.

Mehuli Ghosh, with 627.3, was placed 44th, while Shruti, the third Indian in the field, shot 624.8 to finish 63rd in the 91-strong field. Sonam began the final with a strong 10.6 but followed that up with a 9.8, which probably cost her a podium finish in the end given the high quality final.

She did well to save herself from elimination thrice, a perfect 10.9 on her 14th being the high point of her fight. In the end, Sonam, seeking a second World Cup individual medal, left too much to recover and despite a 10.5 to close, fell short.

Earlier, Niraj Kumar shot 589 in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions qualification round, while Akhil Sheoran shot 588 to finish 15th and 22nd respectively. Chain Singh could not make it past elimination on Saturday itself.

Asian Wrestling championships 2026: India finish with 2 golds, 6 silvers and 9 bronze

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: India signed off their 2026 Asian Wrestling Championships campaign in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on Sunday with two silver and a bronze medal to take their overall medal tally to 17, including two gold. India finished with a tally of two gold, six silver and nine bronze. The Indian freestyle wrestlers finished with two gold, three silver and two bronze medals while the women bagged one silver and four bronze medals. On the final day of competition, India had two wrestlers in gold medal bouts but both could not find a way past their respective opponents.

In the 61 kg freestyle final, Aman went down to Kwang Myong Kim of North Korea in a high scoring final that ended 13-10 in the Korean's favour. Aman, a Paris Olympics bronze medallist in 57 kg weight category, was playing in a higher weight category in Bishkek. Later, Mukul Dahiya went down 0-7 against Iran's Kamran Ghasempour in the men's 86kg freestyle final to take India's silver medal tally to six. Dinesh then signed off India campaign with a bronze medal as he registered a dominant 12-1 win over Arslanbek Turdubekov of Kyrgyzstan in the men's 125kg freestyle bout.

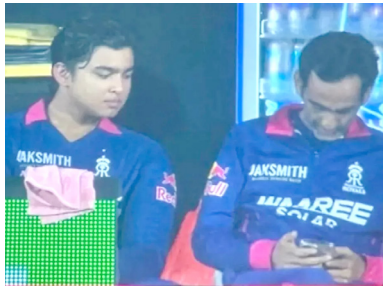
RR manager Bhinder breaches ACU protocol, BCCI to "examine the matter"

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Rajasthan Royals' long-time team manager Romi Bhinder has courted controversy after TV cameras caught him using a mobile phone in the team dugout during their IPL match against Royal Challengers Bengaluru.

The BCCI has taken a note of the matter, and secretary Devajit Saikia said the veracity of the incident will be probed by the board before reaching any "conclusion".

"We need to thoroughly examine where exactly the event happened and whether the phone was used. We will conduct an internal examination before reaching a logical conclusion. We will check the video footage and gather evidence before reaching any conclusion," Saikia told PTI.



The footage of the incident was first shared on Instagram by a social media influencer and it has been ascertained that Bhinder was indeed using a mobile phone with teen sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi sitting beside him during the Royals' six-wicket win in Guwahati on Friday.

"Yes, Bhinder has indeed breached the protocol of Players and Match Officials Area (PMOA) as cell phones are banned in the dugout during match," another

BCCI official confirmed.

On IPL's official website, the concerned clause regarding PMOA protocol 2026 states: "The Team Manager may use a phone in the dressing room but NOT in the dugout."

People in the know feel that Bhinder, who has been associated with the franchise since its inception, was expected to be fully aware of the anti-corruption protocols.

"It could be inadvertent but there has to be some action since it amounts to breach. Whether it will be warning or match ban will depend on match referee and ACU report. Based on that IPL GC can take a call," the senior official said.

Bhinder could face closer scrutiny, especially after Sooryavanshi referred to him as his "local guardian" during the post-match presentation.

India's next-gen tennis stars qualify for Wimbledon

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

COLOMBO: From Colombo to Wimbledon, India's next-generation tennis stars announced their arrival on the global stage with a stirring runner-up finish at the ITF Asia Under-14 Development Championships Finals held in Sri Lanka from March 29 to April 10.

Driven by standout performances from Puneeth Manohar and Srishti Kiran, who sealed qualification for the prestigious 2026 Wimbledon U-14 Championships, India capped off a dominant campaign that underlined the country's rising stature in junior tennis.

Competing against 14 nations over two weeks, India finished second overall behind Chinese Taipei, having topped the standings in Week 1 with a series of consistent results across singles and doubles. Puneeth emerged as one of the breakout stars of the tournament, scripting a dramatic comeback to win the boys' singles title in Week 1. The young Indian rallied from a set down to defeat Hong Kong's Him Wong 2-6, 7-5, 6-2 in a gripping final where he saved a match point. He later added to his tally with a runner-up finish in boys' doubles in Week 2. Srishti matched that consistency in the girls' section, reaching the singles finals in both weeks to finish runner-up twice. She also secured a runner-up finish in girls' doubles in Week 1, underlining her all-round impact in India's campaign.

The Karnataka trio of Srishti, Puneeth and Padmapriya Ramesh Kumar formed the backbone of the Indian squad, alongside Punjab's Taanish Nanda. Padmapriya partnered Srishti for a runners-up finish in girls' doubles, while Taanish impressed with a semifinal run in singles, including a notable win over top seed Frans Ethan of Indonesia, and finished runnerup in boys' doubles in Week 2.

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