

## We have improved physical infrastructure and invested in essential services for timely and appropriate healthcare: LG Sinha

JAMMU, APRIL 17: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today inaugurated the week-long Mega Surgical Camp, at Doda and Kishtwar.

Camp at 3 different locations- Associated Hospital of GMC Doda, District Hospital Kishtwar & SDH Bhaderwah, being organised by Rotary International in collaboration with District Administrations of Doda & Kishtwar and Department of Health & Medical Education, will witness superspeciality and general surgeries by specialized and experienced Doctors in different fields.

Addressing the gathering at SDH Bhaderwah during the inaugural ceremony, the Lieutenant Governor ex-



tended his felicitations to members of Rotary International, officials of District Administrations, and Health

& Medical Education Department, Doctors, Nursing Staff, volunteers and everyone associated with the no-

ble endeavour.

"Health for All is top priority for me and J&K administration in the past few years has ensured that everyone has access to effective and quality health services. We have improved physical infrastructure and invested in essential services for timely and appropriate healthcare. There is a single resolve behind improvement in physical facilities - to provide better protection to the people during health emergencies and to ensure healthy living and well-being for people of all age groups," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor reiterated that, under the guidance of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the J&K Admin-

istration has made significant strides in strengthening the healthcare sector.

He said, the entire health system has been sensitized in the last five years to ensure essential healthcare and develop infrastructure for noncommunicable diseases like mental health and psychosocial support in every district. We have been diligently working on key areas such as ensuring availability of Doctors, access to affordable Drugs, enhancing Diagnostics, and improving Delivery Mechanisms, the Lieutenant Governor added. "I assure you all that promoting safe, healthy and better life will always be the priority of the administration," the Lieutenant

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## Chief Minister Omar Abdullah releases book by 15-year-old author Laranya R Kumar



JAMMU, APRIL 17: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today released a book titled "The Land of Souls" - A Tale of Adventure and Discovery, authored by 15-year-old Laranya R Kumar, at a function held here.

The event was graced by Minister for Education, Sakeena Itoo, Vice Chancellor of University of Jammu,

Prof. Umesh Rai, the young author herself, along with her parents, grandparents, family members and friends.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister congratulated Laranya on her remarkable achievement at such a young age and appreciated that the young author began writing the book at

the age of 13, exploring profound questions such as whether we are alone in the universe or if there is life in another world observing us. "She not only dared to imagine these possibilities but also translated them into a compelling narrative. At an age when many are still discovering themselves, she

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## "Democracy on Wheels" targets student fraternity, ELCs for enhanced SVEEP awareness in Nagrota Assembly Constituency

JAMMU, APRIL 17: A focused initiative to amplify voter awareness among the student community and Electoral Literacy Clubs (ELCs) in the Nagrota Assembly Constituency has been launched through the innovative "Democracy on Wheels" campaign.

This specially outfitted vanity van aims to engage young and future voters during the ongoing Special Summary Revision (SSR). Launch of this targeted SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) activity was spearheaded by the Addi-

tional Chief Electoral Officer (ACEO), Jammu and Kashmir, Rahul Sharma.

The event saw the participation of key officials, including Special Secretary, Dr. Narupa Rai, Nodal Officer for SVEEP, Akhtar Hussain Qazi, Electoral Registration Officer (ERO), Vinay Kumar Sharma and Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) Dansal, Ranveer Jamwal.

"Democracy on Wheels" will serve as a mobile educational platform, specifically designed to reach students and ELC members in various educational institu-

tions and community centers within the Nagrota constituency. Equipped with interactive tools, informative materials, and dedicated personnel, the van will provide on-the-spot voter registration assistance and address queries related to the electoral process.

Rahul Sharma emphasized the crucial role of young voters in strengthening democracy. He highlighted the importance of engaging with students and ELCs to ensure they are well-informed about their electoral rights and responsibilities.

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## Major reshuffle in J&K Police: DIGs, SSPs among 50 Officers transferred

Jammu, Apr 14:

The Government of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday ordered the transfer and posting of 50 IPS and JKPS officers, including several DIGs and SSPs, in a move aimed at streamlining policing operations across the Union Territory. The transfer order, issued by the Home Department under Government Order No. 207-Home of 2025, resulted in notable changes in key positions across the state's police setup.

Among the major appointments, Sheikh Junaid Mehmood IPS was posted as DIG IR Kashmir, while Sarah Rizvi IPS was assigned as DIG Udhampur-Reasi Range. Rayees Mohammad Bhat IPS, who was earlier DIG Udhampur-Reasi, has now been posted as DIG CID Kashmir, a critical position linked to counter-terrorism and intelligence gathering. The high-profile post of SSP Srinagar has been assigned to G.V. Sundeeep

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## Jammu region sees restoration of 95% power supply post windstorm

*JPDCL works on war footing to accomplish remaining restoration works*

JAMMU, APRIL 17: In the wake of a severe windstorm that disrupted the power supply across various parts of the Jammu region, the Managing Director (MD), Jammu Power Development Corporation Limited (JPDCL), springing into action, launched a vigorous restoration drive, ensuring around the clock works to bring back the shattered power scenario on track. Soon after the storm subsided, the MD JPDCL conducted a detailed assessment and directed the Chief Engineer and concerned Ex-

ecutive Engineers to initiate urgent restoration measures across all affected areas. The MD was apprised of major outages including the tripping of 220 KV Salal Circuit-1&2, 220 KV Jatwal Transmission line feeding Grid Station Gladni, 220 KV burn Kishanpur feeding grid station Burn, thereby affecting almost all 132KV/33KV Grid stations including 132kV Rajouri Grid, 132kV Canal Grid, 132kV Gladni Grid, Samba Ckt-2, Manwal Grid and a technical snag at the 220/132/33kV Grid Station

in Ramban. To keep the public informed, the MD instructed all the concerned officials to actively update the restoration status of their respective areas through local awareness channels. He also coordinated with the Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, to mobilise the necessary machinery for clearance of uprooted trees obstructing the restoration works. Further, instructions were issued to all field teams to conduct physical patrolling to check line

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## CRPF To Raise Special CoBRA Battalion For Counter-Terrorist Operations In J&K: DG

Neemuch (MP), Apr 17: The Central Reserve Police Force has decided to raise a special CoBRA battalion for counter-terrorist operations in Jammu and Kashmir, 17 years after this jungle warfare unit was raised in the paramilitary to undertake operations in Naxal-affected states.

CRPF Director General (DG) Gyanendra Pratap Singh announced this during the 86th Raising Day event of the force held in this historic Madhya Pradesh town which is the 'birthplace' of about 3.25 lakh strong world's largest paramilitary force.

The DG said the force was in the process of raising a new Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) for Jammu and Kash-



mir, as directed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Shah officiated as the chief guest of the event. According to the CRPF chief, the futuristic unit will be used to enhance operational activities of the force in the Union Territory. A senior officer said that the CoBRA unit will be tasked to undertake operations in the forested areas of Jammu and Kashmir including in the Jammu region where a

number of terrorist incidents have taken place in the recent past. In 2023, some CoBRA companies were sent to the Kashmir valley for training purposes but they were not deployed for any action. At present, regular CRPF units and its special commando unit called 'Kashmir valley quick action team (QAT)' undertake counter-terrorist operations there.

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## Did Not Write That Farooq Supported Article 370 Abrogation, Says Former Raw Chief Dulat Amid Controversial Claims In New Book

NEW DELHI, Apr 17: Amid a controversy over his new book 'The Chief Minister and the Spy', former Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) chief Amarjit Singh Dulat, on Thursday dismissed claims that former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah supported the abrogation of Article 370, stressing that the leader was deeply pained by the move and was never taken into confidence by the Centre.

Mr. Dulat is a former IPS officer who served both the Intelligence Bureau and RAW and has long experience working in Kashmir. Speaking to news agency on whether his and Mr. Abdullah's friendship has been impacted, Mr. Dulat emphasised, "Friendships don't



end just because someone said something frivolous. This book is not about Article 370; rather, it's an appreciation of Farooq Abdullah, the great man." "I am confident that he will definitely attend the book launch tomorrow. If he doesn't come, it will be his own decision, but I had spo-

ken to him about 10-15 days ago, and he had said that he would come," Mr. Dulat said. The former RAW Chief recalled that when Article 370 was abrogated, "Dr Sahab" (Farooq Abdullah) was heartbroken over what had happened to them. "It's well known that Farooq Sahab has said multiple times

that he has stood with Delhi and always has — but it is Delhi that hasn't been able to understand Dr. Sahab. The fault doesn't lie with Farooq, it lies with Delhi for failing to understand him," Mr. Dulat said. Further, when asked whether the National Conference Chief's claims backing the abrogation of Article 370 are true, Mr. Dulat said that Mr. Abdullah never supported them.

"Two days before the abrogation was announced, Dr. Sahab, Omar Abdullah, and one of their MPs had met with the Prime Minister. I don't know what was discussed there. I even asked them, but I wasn't told anything. Afterwards, Farooq Sahab had told me that if the government wanted to do

this, they should've taken us into confidence. But instead, we were put under house arrest. He has never supported the abrogation of Article 370," he said. "Nowhere in the book have I written that Farooq supported Article 370. That is nonsense and just a media stunt. No one supported the abrogation, but the manner in which it was done could have been different — through dialogue," Mr. Dulat added. The former RAW Chief asserted that his book is an appreciation of Farooq Abdullah, not a critique. "If someone is saying that I've pulled a cheap stunt to sell my book, that's fine. I have no objection," he said. Praising the former J&K Chief Minister, Mr. Dulat

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## Kailash Mansarovar Yatra To Resume Soon: India



New Delhi, Apr 17: India on Thursday said there is a possibility of resumption of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra soon and a public notice could be issued over it. India and China have been looking at resuming the

Kailash Mansarovar Yatra as part of efforts to improve ties after the two countries completed disengagement of troops at the two remaining friction points of Demchok and Depsang under the

(Contd on Pg 2)

## GLOF Hazard: J&K Govt. adopts focused, holistic & proactive approach for mitigation & risk reduction

*Glacial Lake Outburst Flood Early Warning System (EWS) to be established to enhance preparedness*

JAMMU, APRIL 17: Following imminent risk of sudden breach of Glacial Lakes in high altitude regions, particularly in the Himalayas by rapid melting of glaciers due to the climate change, government of Jammu and Kashmir has adopted a focused, holistic and a proactive approach which includes comprehensive understanding of risk landscape and the development of robust mitigation and risk reduction strate-

gies. In this connection, the Focused Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) Monitoring Committee (FGMC) constituted by the Govt of J&K has conducted Expeditions to various such lakes to enhance understanding and preparedness against the potential hazards. Subsequently, geographical field expeditions were conducted to the two glacier lakes i.e. Sheshnag and Sonar enroute Holy Amarnath Cave. The detailed report

was shared with FGMC after the field expedition highlighting the major findings and future possibilities for deliberations. As part of the initiative, a specialized expedition team carried out the expeditions and undertook a comprehensive study of three critical glacial lakes in the Kishtwar district including Mundikar Lake, Hangu Lake and Unnamed Lake in the Kishtwar region. The expedition provided valuable data on the lake

conditions, surrounding environmental factors, and potential risks of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF) events. Next Expedition was carried out to Gangabal Lake, a high-altitude glacial lake located in the north-western Himalayas. The expedition examined the physical and geological characteristics of Gangabal Lake. Particular focus was given to assessing the local geomorphology, the

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## Pak's Top General Describes Kashmir As 'Jugular Vein', Invokes Two-Nation Theory At Diaspora Event

Islamabad, Apr 17: Army Chief General Asim Munir described Kashmir as Pakistan's "jugular vein" during a diaspora event, where he asked overseas Pakistanis to pass on the country's story to their children, emphasising that their forefathers believed Hindus and Muslims were different in every possible aspect of life.

"Our stance is very clear, it was our jugular vein, it will be our jugular vein, and we will not forget it. We will not leave our Kashmiri brothers in their heroic struggle," Gen Munir said



while addressing the first Overseas Pakistanis Convention in Islamabad on Tuesday, attended by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, senior ministers and Pakistanis living abroad. India has repeatedly told

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## We have...

Governor said. On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor urged the people to identify, isolate and report divisive elements threatening peace and harmony.

"Our neighbouring country is making desperate attempts to disrupt peace. Security Forces, J&K Police and Administration are working together to combat terrorism and its supporters. We will not rest until we completely wipe out terrorism and its entire ecosystem from Jammu Kashmir.

'Don't Touch the Innocent and Don't Spare the Culprit' is our policy. Every section of the society must join this fight against terrorism," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister, J&K is witnessing unprecedented development across the sectors, with more than Rs 1.50 lakh crore worth highways and tunnel projects being executed in the UT of J&K.

He further emphasised on facilitating private investment to tap the immense tourism potential of Bhaderwah and improve tourism facilities in the region.

The Lieutenant Governor visited the stalls put up by the line departments and also interacted with the beneficiaries.

He directed the District Administration to create a database of Divyangian to ensure eligible individuals can benefit from upcoming Mega Camps to be organized in both Jammu division and Kashmir division.

The Lieutenant Governor also assured that appropriate action will be taken for redressal of the issues projected by the DDC Chairman Doda.

The week-long Mega Surgical Camp is the fourth camp of Rotary International in Jammu Kashmir, with over 2000 patients to get directly benefitted from this Camp. Earlier, similar camps were organized in North Kashmir, South Kashmir and Rajouri-Poonch.

For the camp at Doda and Kishtwar, this year, an extensive process for preliminary medical examinations to identify individuals in need of surgical intervention was made by health workers at the block level. Special teams of doctors were also constituted for screening. Based on such screening, as on date, over 750 patients have already been shortlisted for undergoing different superspeciality and general surgeries in the domains of ENT, Gynaecology, Ophthalmology, Orthopaedic Surgery, Plastic Surgery, Urology using advanced laparoscopic technologies.

Apart from surgeries, OPD facilities, Pre- and Post-operative Care and Monitoring will also be provided by special teams of Rotary and District Administrations. Free consultations, diagnostics, distribution of medicines and entire boarding/lodging of the patients as well as their attendants will also be provided free of cost by the District teams.

Shri Dhanantar Singh Kotwal, Chairman, District Development Council Doda; Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Shri Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; Shridhar Patil, DIG, Doda-Kishtwar-Ramban (DKR) range; Shri Harvinder Singh, Deputy Commissioner Doda; Dr Rajeev Pradhan and other members of Rotary International; HoDs of Medical Institutions; senior officers, Doctors, Nursing Staff and people in large number were present.

## Chief...

has gifted us with a book born out of imagination and curiosity," he remarked.

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

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

The Chief Minister expressed his delight in learning that Laranya is already working on more books. "I look forward to reading the next one, and the one after that. I sincerely hope that her work inspires other young people to take up

reading, because the habit of reading, once nurtured early, stays with us throughout life."

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

## "Democracy..."

He stated, "Empowering the student fraternity with electoral literacy is vital for building a robust and participative democracy. 'Democracy on Wheel' is a strategic step towards achieving this goal."

Dr. Narupa Rai underscored the commitment of the election machinery towards fostering a culture of informed and responsible voting. She noted that engaging with students through ELCs and initiatives like "Democracy on Wheels" is essential for cultivating future leaders and active citizens. Akhtar Hussain Qazi elaborated on the specific strategies employed to engage with students, including interactive workshops, demonstrations, and the distribution of educational resources. He expressed optimism that the campaign will significantly boost voter registration and awareness among the youth.

The "Democracy on Wheels" van will be actively visiting educational institutions and ELCs across the Nagrota Assembly constituency in the coming days, providing information and facilitating voter registration. Students and ELC members are encouraged to participate in the activities and avail themselves of the resources offered.

## Major...

Chakravathy IPS, who will be replacing Imtiyaz Hussain Mir JKPS. Ajaz Ahmad Bhat IPS has been appointed as SSP Traffic City Srinagar, a key role in managing the city's complex traffic network.

The CID wing saw a major shuffle, with Peerzada Naveed JKPS posted as SSP SB CID Kashmir, while Amit Gupta JKPS was appointed as SSP HQ CID. Other important changes include Tanushree IPS being shifted from SP SIA Kashmir to SIA Headquarters, and Bisma Qazi IPS being posted as Commandant of the 2nd Woman Battalion JKAP. Rohit Baskotra JKPS, who was handling Traffic on the National Highway, has been assigned as SSP Special Security Group. The reshuffle also addressed vacant posts in training, armed battalions, and liaison assignments. Ramesh Kumar Angral JKPS was appointed Director Home Guards Kashmir, while Tahir Sajad Bhat JKPS was posted as Additional Director of the State Investigation Agency (SIA).

## Jammu...

snapping and initiate restoration wherever possible, without waiting for complete restoration of the 220/132kV systems.

Key milestones achieved during the night included re-energising of 132kV Canal Grid, 132kV Kalakote Grid and 132kV Karra Grid, along with all lines from Kathua Grid, restoration of 132kV line from Udhampur, charging of one circuit of the Gladni Grid and restoration of nearly 90% of the transmission lines by around 12.30 pm midnight. The power load for Jammu Province was recorded at 190 MW at 1 pm, 948 MW at around 6 pm and by around 7:00 pm it had reached 1000 MW. As of 7:00 pm today, nearly 24 hours after the windstorm, the power supply restoration status stands at 93% for 11 kV feeders and 96.49% for 33 kV feeders. Overall, more than 95% of the power supply has been successfully restored across the Jammu region, with restoration works continuing on war footing in the remaining areas.

The MD JPDCL has emphasized the need to expedite the remaining restoration activities, ensuring minimal inconvenience to the public. "JPDCL remains committed towards restoring full normalcy at the earliest and grateful to the public for their patience and cooperation during this challenging period", he maintained.

## Kailash...

framework of a pact sealed in October last year.

"We will soon issue a public notice on the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra and there is a possibility of resumption of the Yatra soon," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

"The Yatra will happen this year and we are making preparations. More information will be put out for the public soon," he added. The Kailash Mansarovar Yatra has not taken place since 2020.

## GLOF...

stability of the natural dam containing the lake, and the conditions of the glaciers feeding it.

This investigation provided critical insights into the GLOF hazard potential of Gangabal Lake and contributed to broader efforts to enhance climate resilience in the region. Field expeditions for the rest of the categorized lakes are scheduled to be carried out in the coming months involving all concerned stakeholders.

The expeditions underscore the urgent need for enhanced monitoring and risk management strategies to address the growing threat of GLOFs in the Himalayas.

The insights gained will be instrumental in formulating risk mitigation strategies and enhancing the early warning systems in the region.

Understanding the potential GLOF hazards associated with specific glacial lakes is crucial for risk mitigation and disaster preparedness.

In the next phase, Department of DMRR&R will be focusing on more scientific multi-disciplinary studies like electric resistivity tomography, Bathymetric investigation, hydrological study of discharge, geological studies, topography survey, susceptibility assessment etc, and has planned to install Early Warning Systems for generating real-time alerts and AWS for regular monitoring at most of high-risk glacial lakes in UT of J&K in collaboration with National Disaster Management Authority and a technical partner.

The GLOF mitigation strategy is being implemented in phased manner in the UT involving Expedition and Data Collection, identifying and studying glacial lakes that pose a high risk of GLOFs based on the assessments provided by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), NRSC, CWC, etc.

Detailed data will be gathered through bathymetric surveys, water sampling, and meteorological data collection. Additionally, the dynamics and characteristics of these lakes will be analyzed to determine the feasibility of lake-lowering techniques for reducing the risk of potential GLOF events. Secondly a Comprehensive Risk Mitigation strategy will be devised, developing and implementing specific mitigation measures. This includes creating comprehensive plans for lowering the water levels of high-risk lakes identified earlier. A fully functional Glacial Lake Outburst Flood Early Warning System (EWS) will also be established to enhance preparedness. Personnel will be trained in the operation and interpretation of the EWS, ensuring effective responses to potential GLOF events. Where necessary, the lake-lowering techniques and site specific mitigation measures will be taken to further mitigate the risks.

Efforts to expand the mitigation programme are being expedited. Apart from these initiatives, NDRF, SDRF and ITBP have been sensitized to be prepared to deal with any emergent situation. Aapda mitras have been sensitized and activated to remain vigilant in the local areas and be prepared. Awareness generation has been specially focused. FMGC has asked the District Disaster Management Authorities to put in place the GLOF management plans and to be well prepared for GLOF Hazard.

Consistent and sustained efforts will be continued by the FGMC and department of DMRRR to address the GLOF Hazard involving all stakeholders and safeguarding the lives and livelihoods of people.

Preparedness for safe and incident free conduct of Major Mass Gathering events.

## Pak's...

Pakistan that the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh "was, is and shall forever" remain an integral part of the country.

The ties between the two countries nosedived after India abrogated Article 370 of the Constitution, revoking the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, and bifurcating the State into two Union Territories on August 5, 2019.

In the same address, the powerful general urged the diaspora to preserve the values and vision for which Pakistan was created and share its story with their children.

"You have to tell Pakistan's story to your children so that they don't forget that our forefathers thought we were different from Hindus in every possible aspect of life," he said, evoking the two-nation theory propagated by Pakistan's founder MA Jinnah.

"Our religions are different, our customs are different, our traditions are different, our thoughts are different, our ambitions are different. That was the foundation of the two-nation theory that was laid there. We are two nations, we are not one nation," he added.

The general tried to present the case of a country that had a great past and a promising future.

"No matter where you live, remember – your roots lie in a high civilisation, noble ideology, and proud identity," he said. "We have never bowed down before adversity, and we never will."

## CRPF To...

CoBRA was raised in 2008-09, a time when Left Wing Extremism (LWE) was at its peak in multiple Indian states and insurgency in certain states of the Northeast was continuing. By 2011, 10 CoBRA battalions were raised and the numbers continue till now.

The J-K unit will be the 11th CoBRA battalion.

The commandos inducted in this unit are trained to undertake specific intelligence-based jungle warfare and guerilla tactics operations.

The commando unit is provided with modern assault weapons, communication and surveillance gadgets and its profile is kept agile with the induction of young troops and commanders, a continuous challenge for the CRPF as it does not get as many lower-age officers.

As of now, most of the CoBRA units are operating in the LWE affected areas of Chhattisgarh apart from some other such states to meet the Union government's deadline of eradicating the Maoist menace from the country by March next year.

The special jungle warfare unit was raised under IPS officer K Durga Prasad who was a CRPF inspector general at that time.

The 1981-batch Telangana cadre officer used his experience of serving with the 'Greyhounds' police commando unit of undivided Andhra Pradesh that was raised specifically to counter Naxalites in that state.

Prasad, who served as the director of the Special Protection Group (SPG), retired from the post of CRPF DG in 2017.

As per official records, CRPF's first battalion was raised in Neemuch on July 27, 1939 as the Crown Representative's Police (CRP) under the British rule.

Post Independence, in 1949, it was re-christened as the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) under the Indian Union by first home minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

## Did Not...

said, "There is no leader in Kashmir who is even half the stature of Farooq Sahab, nor is there a bigger nationalist than him."

"This government formed by the National Conference — nothing could be more positive for Kashmir. And it came into power with a thumping majority. It is only the National Conference that can take Kashmir forward. This is the family that will lead it ahead. Other parties also have a role to play," the former RAW Chief said.

## Forest Div. Bandipora organizes Plantation Drive at Safapora

BANDIPORA, APRIL 17: As part of its ongoing efforts to promote environmental sustainability, Forest Division Bandipora, Ajas Range in collaboration with the Central Silk Board, India, and the School Education Department, organized a plantation drive at Safapora.

The event witnessed participation from students and teachers of Government Girls High School, Safapora, who joined hands in planting saplings and learning about the importance of conserving nature.

Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Scientist, Central Silk Board, India; SHO Safapora, Forest Block Officer Sumbal, and other officials from the Department attended the event. Speaking on the occasion, officers and officials from the department emphasized the need for such plantation drives, especially in light of



the growing threat of global warming highlighting that planting trees is one of the most effective natural solutions to combat climate change.

Speakers urged students to continue participating in such green initiatives and act as ambassadors of environmental protection.

Forest Officials further highlighted that the J&K Forest Department has launched several impactful programmes and initiatives to enhance green cover in J&K. They called upon the public, particularly the youth, to contribute actively in making the surroundings clean and green.

## Mission YUVA: Orientation Training imparted to Yuva Doots at Poonch

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

In his address, the DDC underscored the critical importance of strategic planning and active coordination in fostering an entrepreneurial spirit among the youth. He urged the Yuva Doots to serve as effective communicators and facilitators, bridging the gap between the administration and aspiring young entrepreneurs at the grassroots level. Deputy Director Employment Mohd Rafiq emphasized the vital role that Yuva Doots can play in identifying potential entrepreneurs, raising awareness about various self-employment schemes, and assisting them in accessing benefits under Mission YUVA.

The programme featured a compre-



hensive presentation delivered by Resource Persons from the Employment Department, who detailed the specific responsibilities of the Yuva

Doots within the mission framework. The presentation provided valuable insights into the various components of Mission YUVA, in-

cluding its objectives, expected outcomes, and key features such as: Interest Subvention Schemes: Financial incentives to support new businesses, Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC): A one-stop E-commerce marketing platform aimed at enhancing online business opportunities, District Level Small Business Development Units: Support units designed to assist small businesses at the district level, Sub-Divisional Level Business Help Desks: Local help desks to provide guidance and support to entrepreneurs. The session was designed to sensitize Yuva Doots about their roles and responsibilities in this ambitious initiative, which aims to promote entrepreneurship and self-employment among the youth of Jammu and Kashmir. The event concluded with an interactive Q&A session, encouraging Yuva Doots to engage actively and seek clarifications regarding their roles in implementing Mission YUVA.

ing by keeping his mind on Satyapurush, then only welfare will take place. That is the true name. Therefore, the one who reaches there is the saint Sadguru and the name received by him is Satya Naam.

It is said in the words of Paltu Sahib that worship the saint. Do not get entangled in other devotions, because there are the greatest saints in this universe. All others are in their own place, but the matter of saint is unique. But there are no groups of saints. By the will of Param Purush, a saint is capable of coming to this world and freeing all living beings from death. By giving the power of name and by explaining, he helps the living beings cross this ocean of the world.



CA Vineet Kohli Co-opted as Member of ICAI’s Prestigious Public Relations Committee for 2025-26

New Delhi: 17th April 2025 - The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) is pleased to announce that CA Vineet Kohli, Immediate Past Chairman of the J&K Branch of NIRC of ICAI, has been co-opted as a member of the prestigious Public Relations Committee of the ICAI for the year 2025-26. This notable co-optation has been made by the Hon’ble President of ICAI, CA. Charanjot Singh Nanda, and Hon’ble Vice President, CA. Prasanna Kumar D, recognizing CA Kohli’s exemplary leadership and unwavering commitment to the profession. Under the dynamic chairmanship of CA Vineet Kohli, the J&K

Branch of NIRC was conferred with the 1st Prize for Best Branch, a testament to his vision, dedication, and impactful contributions towards the growth and development of the profession at the grassroots level. The Public Relations Committee of ICAI plays a vital role in enhancing the image and outreach of the Institute and the CA profession. For the year 2025-26, the Committee will actively work towards strengthening and elevating the Institute’s image, fostering greater recognition, public trust, and impactful engagement through strategic initiatives and focused communication efforts. All actions of the Committee will be guided

by the framework of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949. Every effort will be made to further augment the brand image of the ICAI and the Chartered Accountancy profession among Government authorities, Regulatory bodies, Stakeholders, and the general public, with an aim to reinforce the role of Chartered Accountants as partners in nation-building. CA Vineet Kohli’s inclusion in this key Committee reflects ICAI’s commitment to engaging experienced professionals with proven track records of service and leadership. His experience and vision are expected to add significant value to the Committee’s objectives and outcomes.

Majority of people endorse abrogation of 370: Sethi NC cheating people with double-sided narrative: BJP

Jammu, Apr 17: Majority of people including the political parties endorse abrogation of 370 in open or secret. The people of Jammu and Kashmir feel cheated with the double-sided narrative of the senior National Conference leaders. This was stated by Adv. Sunil Sethi, Chief Spokesperson, J&K BJP. Accompanied by Arun Gupta, Spokesperson, and Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Media Incharge, J&K BJP, he was addressing a press conference at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. Sunil Sethi accused the NC of deceiving the public mandate by practicing double-sided narrative, which is chosen according to the time, place as per their suitability. He said that new political ripples have come-up in Jammu and Kashmir with



the release of a book authored by AS Dulat, in which he has made a passing reference that former CM Farooq Abdullah was not against the abrogation of Article 370. The regional political parties favour continuation of Article 370 in the public to cheat them, but they view Article 370 was hampering the progress and the lasting peace process in J&K. Based on facts shared by AS

Dulat in his book, it is clear that the political parties in the valley believe that BJP has done a favour to Jammu & Kashmir by abrogating Article 370. "By placing counter-accusations on AS Dulat, the NC, now is attempting to save its face and escape the public wrath", said Sethi. He said that some parties and leaders have supported the abrogation openly and others secretly, displaying

their acceptance of the repeal of the controversial provision. Arun Gupta said that the common people support their leaders considering them as their role models and saviours. People expect them to be true to their words, actions and whatever is said in public should not be different from what is conceived otherwise in private. Gupta said that before inde-

pendence, even the rulers could not afford double talks and double standards. He said that this type of politics and politicians do no good to the nation. He said that NC believed J&K as its ancestral property and did whatever they felt, without any sense of public accountability. NC has been exposed for its double standards on many occasions and the latest exposure by AS Dulat makes absolutely clear that whatever BJP has been telling about NC right from their inception was right. People who support these types of leaders and parties feel hurt and their confidence from their work gets eroded. It is high time, public has to understand NC's double standard, and that their future cannot be handed over to parties and leaders who have no moral grounds.

Development of community infrastructure essential for empowering villages: Sat Sharma

Jammu, Apr 17: Jammu and Kashmir BJP President Sat Sharma CA, along with Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, BJP General Secretary & MLA Ramgarh and DDC Member S. Sarabjit Singh Johal, inaugurated two key public amenities in the village of Chak Salaria. In two separate functions, Sat Sharma CA, who was the chief guest, inaugurated Community Rooms in Chak Salaria for the convenience of the public to serve as a shared space for villagers to host gatherings, cultural events, and essential community functions. He also inaugurated a Community Sanitary Complex within the premises of Subedar Lal Singh Memorial Government Middle School, Chak Salaria, to benefit the students in particular. The funds for Community Rooms and Community Sanitary Complex



were provided by DDC Member S. Sarabjit Singh Johal. Speaking on the occasions, Sat Sharma CA highlighted the importance of public infrastructure in rural areas. He said that the development of community infrastructure is essential for empowering our villages and enhancing the quality of life of people there. The Community Rooms will become a hub for social

unity, while the sanitary complex will contribute to better hygiene and public health. He said that the provision of these facilities marks another step toward rural progress and reflects the commitment of public representatives to ensure that the growth reaches the grassroots level. Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal said that access to clean sanitation is not a luxury but a fundamental right. The

new Community Sanitary Complex will improve hygiene, especially for school children and women, and will promote awareness about cleanliness and public health. He applauded the efforts of local DDC member for ensuring timely execution of the projects. S. Sarabjit Singh Johal said that it is a proud day for Chak Salaria. The villagers have long needed such facilities. These developments reflect what we can achieve with collective effort and dedication to community welfare, he said. BJP Samba district Seh-prabhari Munish Khajuria, Ramgarh Mandal President Nancy Choudhary, former mandal president Shiv Kumar Choudhary, mandal general secretary Sunil Choudhary, senior leader Saudagar Mal and others attended the inauguration functions.

Kesri hails demolition of notorious drugs peddler Luve Gurjar house in Bishnah

Jammu, Apr 17: Shiv Sena Hindustan's Jammu Kashmir President, Pandit Rajesh Kesri, held a meeting followed by a press conference to discuss the growing issue of drug abuse in Jammu division. Kesri praised the police for launching a campaign against drug addicts and traffickers in Jammu, Samba, and Kathua districts. He emphasized that these individuals are involved in narcoterrorism and highlighted the case of notorious smuggler Labh Gujjar, who was supplying drugs from Pakistan to Jammu division, corrupting school children, college students, and the youth. The administration and police took action against Labh Gujjar, demolishing



his house built through drug trafficking, which Kesri described as commendable. Shiv Sena Hindustan and intellectuals present at the meeting appreciated this effort. Kesri also mentioned that security forces and Jammu Kashmir police have been successful in catching hundreds of drug traffickers in the past 5-7 days, showcasing a significant achievement for the po-

lice and administration. Kesri praised the police for their efforts against drug traffickers. He highlighted the link between drug trafficking and narcoterrorism. The administration demolished Labh Gujjar's house built through drug trafficking. The police and administration have been successful in catching hundreds of drug traffickers, with support from the public, social workers, and political parties. Kesri emphasized the importance of protecting the youth from drug abuse, stating that it is a collective responsibility. Shiv Sena Hindustan thanked all those who have contributed to this effort, including the police, administration, social workers, and political parties.

Domicile Policy Row in Ladakh: Jamyang Tsering Namgyal’s 1954 Proposal Rejected, APEX-KDA Demands 1989 Cutoff

Ladakh, 17th April, 2025: Former Member of Parliament from Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, has reignited a contentious debate with his recent disclosure that he had proposed a domicile policy with 1954 as the eligibility cutoff year to the APEX Committee-KDA (APEX-KDA). Namgyal claimed that the proposal had received verbal support from the Union Home Minister, but was ultimately not accepted. "I had suggested that individuals residing in Ladakh since 1954 should be eligible for domicile status. I was able to convince the Home Minister on the mat-

ter, but unfortunately, the proposal was not approved," Namgyal said while addressing the issue. The statement has triggered strong reactions from various political stakeholders in Ladakh, highlighting the region's deep-rooted concerns around demographic shifts, cultural preservation, environmental sustainability, and employment opportunities for locals. In response, Tsering Dorje Lakrook, senior leader of the APEX-KDA—an alliance that has been leading demands for Sixth Schedule protection for Ladakh—firmly rejected the 1954 suggestion. "We are clear in

our demand. The domicile eligibility cutoff must be 1989, not 1954. If 1954 was ever on the table, there should be no issue in accepting 1989 today," Lakrook stated. The APEX-KDA has consistently maintained that the 1989 cutoff year reflects a more appropriate benchmark, aligned with the socio-political dynamics of the region post-independence and prior to major migratory changes. This development comes amid broader calls for constitutional safeguards under the Sixth Schedule to ensure the protection of Ladakh's indigenous identity

BJP holds massive protest against Congress in Jammu over National Herald case

Jammu, Apr 17: J&K BJP held a massive protest against the Congress party at Kachi Chawni Chowk, Jammu. The protest was led by J&K BJP Vice-President Yudhvir Sethi (MLA) accompanied by Arvind Gupta (MLA), & BJP NEM Priya Sethi and was organized by BJP District Jammu led by its President Adv. Rajesh Gupta and BJP District Jammu South led by its President Naresh Singh Jasrotia. Hundreds of BJP leaders including Ayodhya Gupta, Veenu Khanna, Adv. Purnima Sharma, Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Sanjita Dogra, Ranjodh Singh Nalwa, Sunil Prajapati, Bawa

Sharma, Sanjay Baru, Mahajan, Keshav Chopra, Puneet Mahajan, Sanjeev Gulshan Bhagat, Surinder Sharma, Vinay Gupta, Dilbahadur Jamwal, Anu Gupta, Parveen Kerni, Ramesh Gupta, Neha Mahajan, Reema Padha, Rekha

Charak, Rahul Kumar, Geetanjali Mahajan, Swati Sharma, Arun Sethi, and others took part in the protest. Effigy of the Congress was burnt by the party activists. Yudhvir Sethi, while leading the protest, slammed

Congress party for its shameful behaviour to try to affect the course of law. He said that the top leadership of Congress has been implicated in the money laundering case by the ED.

**NOTICE**  
I, Ritu khajuria W/o Kanwal deep singh R/o ward no. 14 Tehsil and District Kathua have mother name wrongly written my son date of birth certificate my son name Mankirat singh and date of birth 26-09-2012 Ratinder kour instead of Ritu khajuria .now I am applying for issued of new date of birth certificate of my son, if any objection may be conveyed to concern authority within seven days date of publication of this notice

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
It is information of General public that I Masarat Hussain S/o Late Abdul Rehman R/o Village Mounda Tehsil Bhadarwah want to apply for opening seed Vendor shop License at village Saringal Bhadarwah. Any person having objection can complain in the office of Agriculture Department Bhadarwah within seven days of publication of this notice

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
This is to inform the general public that We Keshav Singh & Labb Singh S/o Sh.Parth Singh R/o H.No.86, Sector-2, Channi Himmat, Jammu are the owner of the property situated at Sector -2, Channi Himmat, Jammu intend to rent out the said premises to The Citizens Cooperative Bank Ltd. Any person(s) having any objection to the proposed tenancy may notify the undersigned in writing within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. If no objections are received within the stipulated time, it shall be presumed that there are no objections and the said property shall be rented out accordingly. All concerned are requested to take notice. Name: Keshav Singh & Labb Singh Address: H.No.86, Sec-2, Channi Himmat, Jammu Mobile No.: 9858510575

**NOTICE**  
It is hereby to inform, that I, Rahul gupta son of Prem sagar gupta, Bakshi nagar. Proprietor Hotel PR main road Bakshi nagar apply for NOC for Hotel and Restaurant from Jammu municipal Corporation. Objection if any, convey to concerned department within the period of 7 days of publication. Mobile No. : 9796687313

**NOTICE**  
I Ashraf Hussain S/o Khadam Hussain R/o Degwar Terwan Tehsil Haveli Distt Poonch Declared that my Name Ashrif Hussain My parentage Khadim Hussain and D.o.b 10/01/1971 is incorrect in Driving Licence record instead of Name Ashraf Hussain S/o Khadam Hussain D.o.b 06/10/1972 so i want to Correct my Name My parentage and D.o.b in Driving Licence Record if any body have any objection they can submit their objection in Arto office Poonch with in Seven days of publish this notice after this period any objection not will be accepted .

**NOTICE**  
I Subash Chander S/o Lakh Raj R/o Neota Tehsil Bhalla, District Doda Block Bhadarwah. I have applied for Date of Birth certificate, Because my record are not found in Chokider record. If anyone has any objection then contact the Tehsil office Bhalla with in 7 days

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
It is the information of General public that I Atiq Ahmad S/o Najeeb Ahmad Batt R/o Nawabad Chakka Tehsil Bhadarwah posses a Driving license bearing No. JK0620100002942 issued on 06-12-2010 valid till 05-12-2030 issued by ARTO Doda. Since, I have rectified my name on Aadhar card it is now required to update/rectify the name on Driving License too. In this connection, it is published for the general public that if anyone has any objection regarding the above said information, he or she may file an objection with the concerned authorities within a time period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice

**NOTICE**  
I BAHADAR SINGH S/o Sh. BALDEV SINGH R/o NEAR SHIV MANDIR JAKHOLE , Tehsil & District Kathua have wrongly written my name in my son namely Rohit Singh 8th class record and school leaving certificate badhur instead of Bahadar Singh .now I am applying for name correction in my son 8th class record and school leaving certificate ,if any objection may be convey to concern authority within seven days date of publication in this notice.

IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE IST CLASS BASOHLI

MOHD ABASS S/O sh. SHAMESH DIN v/s Block development office BHOOND R/O VILLAGE JANU , Tehsil Basholi application for the directing the non applicant to enter the date of birth of applicant namely MOHD AYAAN in the birth register of the non applicant as born on 09/11/2022 at home and further for directing the non applicant to issue the date of birth certificate pertaining to birth of above said of the applicant.

**NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE**  
Whereas the above named applicant has filed the above titled application for seeking direction to Block Development Officer BHOOND to enter the name and date of birth of the applicant in the birth register of block Development Officer BHOOND and issue the birth certificate pertaining to birth of above said namely MOHD AYAAN, in favour of the applicant. Therefore, through the medium of this publication public at large is informed that if anybody has any objection in respect of above mentioned application then he/she/they shall appear before this court either personally or through authorized person/agent and file his/her/their objection within a period of 10 days commencing from the date of publication of this notice in newspaper, failing which the above mentioned shall be dealt in accordance with law

IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE IST CLASS BASOHLI

SHAVETA DEVI S/O sh. YASH PAUL v/s Block development office BHOOND R/O VILLAGE SANDHAR , Tehsil Basohli application for the directing the non applicant to enter the date of birth of applicant namely GUDDI RANI in the DEATH register of the non applicant as born on 05/03/2015 at home and further for directing the non applicant to issue the date of DEATH certificate pertaining to birth of above said of the applicant.

**NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE**  
Whereas the above named applicant has filed the above titled application for seeking direction to Block Development Officer BHOOND to enter the name and date of DEATH of the applicant in the birth register of block Development Officer BHOOND and issue the birth certificate pertaining to DEATH of above said namely GUDDI RANI, in favour of the applicant. Therefore, through the medium of this publication public at large is informed that if anybody has any objection in respect of above mentioned application then he/she/they shall appear before this court either personally or through authorized person/agent and file his/her/their objection within a period of 10 days commencing from the date of publication of this notice in newspaper, failing which the above mentioned shall be dealt in accordance with law.

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

*Youth take charge in promoting traffic discipline through community outreach*

SHOPIAN, APRIL 17: In a significant step towards promoting road safety and responsible driving habits, a Road Safety Awareness programme was organized across three prominent educational institutions of District Shopian viz. GHSSs of Sedow, Kellar and Kanjullar.

The initiative aimed to sensitize students about traffic rules, safe commuting, and the life-saving importance of following road norms. Students, staff, and local stakeholders participated enthusiastically in the pro-



gramme, which included awareness sessions, speeches by officials, and student-led rallies in their respective localities. Carrying banners and placards with powerful messages, students took to the streets to engage the local community. These rallies garnered strong support from residents, who appreciated the proactive involvement of students in spreading awareness. School authorities and invited officials addressed the gatherings, emphasizing the

## Annual Scholarship, Mobility Appliances Distribution Camp held at Kamsar - Poonch

POONCH, APRIL 17: The District Administration Poonch and Pritam Spiritual Trust Poonch today organized the annual Scholarship and Mobility appliances Distribution Camp at Kamsar. The event aimed to support underprivileged members of the community by providing essential resources and financial assistance. The camp was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal as the chief guest. During the event, he distributed scholarships to 24 needy, orphaned, underprivileged, and disabled students, ensuring they have the neces-



sary support to pursue their education. In addition to scholarship assistance, the camp also provided vital mobility aids, including wheelchairs, hearing aids, and walking sticks, to individuals in need. This initiative reflects the commit-

ment of the District Administration to enhance the quality of life for all residents, particularly the most vulnerable groups. In his address, the DC emphasized, "The District Administration Poonch is always ready to fulfill its social responsi-

bilities for the overall development of the district. We recognize the importance of supporting our youth and the specially abled persons, as they are the pillars of our future."

He also commended the Pritam Singh Trust for their unwavering dedication to social responsibilities, highlighting the importance of community collaboration in achieving sustainable development goals. The event was attended by the local officials, community leaders and residents, all coming together to celebrate the spirit of giving and support for those in need.

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

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



Speaking on the occasion, DC said that the operationalization of the new healthcare infrastructure is a step forward in ensuring improved and accessible healthcare for the local population. He said the district

administration is committed to completing all approved and sanctioned projects within stipulated timelines and dedicating them for public use at the earliest. He directed the concerned authorities to ensure robust

functioning of the new health centre and the delivery of quality health services to the patients. Later, DC interacted with a local deputation, attentively listened to their issues, and assured that all genuine demands would be taken up with relevant departments for prompt redressal. The tour also included an on-site inspection of the ongoing Sitharan-Tosamaidan road project, a 13-km stretch being constructed under NABARD funding. While reviewing the project, DC emphasized the transformative potential of the road, stating that it will significantly enhance tourism opportunities in the picturesque Tosamaidan meadows and open up new livelihood avenues for the youth of Khag and adjoining areas.

"The completion of this crucial road will not only improve local connectivity but also serve as a catalyst for tourism growth and economic upliftment of the region," the DC noted. He further observed progress made on the works including protection and drainage works at various stretches. He also said macadamization of the 7-km stretch will be started soon. DC directed the executing agencies to expedite the remaining works while ensuring quality standards and timely completion of the project. The DC was accompanied by SDM Beerwah, Chief Planning Officer Budgam, CMO Budgam, Tehsildar Khag, BMO Khag, Ex. Engineer R&B Beerwah and other senior district and sectoral officers.

## DIC Kulgam organises Awareness programme under RAMP

KULGAM, APRIL 17: District Industries Centre (DIC) Kulgam under Directorate of Industries and Commerce, Kashmir conducted awareness cum outreach programme under RAMP (Raising and Accelerating of MSME Performance) at Conference Hall of Mini-Secretariat Kulgam. Officers from line departments viz. Lead District Manager Kulgam, District Agriculture Officer Kulgam, District Officer NRLM Kulgam, District Nodal Officer, EDI Kulgam, District Manager, SICOP Kulgam, District Coordinator, CSC Kulgam, representatives from Handicrafts/Handloom and Cooperatives Department, IPOs and other officials of DIC Kulgam were present in the programme.



115 beneficiaries from various departments, viz. Handicrafts/ Handloom, NRLM, Cooperatives, EDI, Agriculture, CSC operators, Khidmat centre operators and industrial unit holders of DIC Kulgam attended the programme. In the inaugural address, General Manager DIC Kulgam, Dr. Bashir Ahmad Lone sensitized the participants and other stakeholders

about the importance and vibrancy of Udyam Registration for taking their business and industrial establishments to new heights in collaboration with the Government and the flagship schemes run by it. The process flow and benefits under Udyam Registration was explained to the participants through a detailed powerpoint presentation.

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

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

The event aimed to empower and equip the nominated YUVA DOOTS with essential knowledge and skills to guide youth in career development and employment opportunities effectively. The programme commenced with a comprehensive overview of the training agenda provided by Arshid Qadir Bhat, Assistant Director Employment, Kupwara. He emphasized the significance of Mission

YUVA in fostering youth employment and entrepreneurship in the district. An overview of various components of Mission YUVA, including skill development initiatives, job placement support, and government employment schemes was presented by Employment Officer Kupwara. Career Counselling Officer, Kupwara deliberated on IEC techniques to cater to the underserved and unaware populace of the district who want to start their own enterprises under Mission YUVA. Nodal Officer, JKEDI (Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute) highlighted entrepreneurial opportunities, startup support, and financial assistance available under the Mission YUVA

scheme which can be availed through the Mission YUVA App. The training included hands-on workshops, group discussions, and Q&A rounds to ensure active participation and practical understanding among the YUVA DOOTS. Participants were encouraged to collaborate with DECC Kupwara to implement learning at the grassroots level, ensuring maximum outreach and impact. Functional Manager, DIC Kupwara and officials/officers from Agriculture Department Kupwara were also present at the training programme. Asstt Director DE&CC Kupwara urged Yuva DOOTS to serve as catalysts in bridging the gap between job seekers and employment opportunities.

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

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

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



need for formulating a supplementary contingency to augment the accommodation for temporary halt of the yatries in wake of expected huge footfall as the yatries may travel through train service this year to pay obeisance at holy cave via Srinagar route. On the occasion, Dr Biall asked the concerned to take necessary measures to ensure all basic amenities at the transit camps so that yatries may not face any difficulty. With regard

to sanitation, SMC authorities were directed to ensure proper sanitation in and around the transit camp, beside, adequate arrangements for mobile public convenience facilities at the camp. They were also asked to keep sufficient staff at the camp to maintain sanitation and proper cleanliness. Additionally they were asked to ensure measures to combat water logging issues, if any caused due to inclement weather.

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

## Parliamentary Standing Committee on Rural Development & Panchayati Raj visits Anantnag

*Interacts with beneficiaries of flagship Rural Development schemes at Akad Park*

ANANTNAG, APRIL 17: A high level delegation of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Rural Development and Panchayati Raj led by its Chairman, Sapthagiri Sankar Ulaka, today visited Anantnag district as part of its nationwide tour to assess the on-ground implementation of centrally sponsored schemes under the Ministries of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj. The visit focused on evaluating the progress and impact of key rural development initiatives such as the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), National Rural

Livelihood Mission (NRLM) and the Lakshpati Didi Scheme among others. The committee held a detailed interaction with scheme beneficiaries at Akad Park, where the citizens from various Panchayats of the district shared their personal experiences. They highlighted how these schemes have transformed their lives. The beneficiaries expressed gratitude to the Central Government for launching inclusive and people-centric schemes aimed at uplifting rural communities. The beneficiaries also offered suggestions for further improvements in delivery of scheme entitlements at the grassroots level.



During the visit, the Committee also inspected several stalls set up by different departments, including the Rural Development Department, highlighting the processes adopted for effective

implementation of the schemes. The district and sectoral officers briefed the Committee on achievements, ongoing projects, monitoring mechanisms and innovative practices being adopted to

enhance transparency and efficiency. In addition, the Committee members undertook spot visits to project sites, including infrastructure works completed under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and housing units sanctioned under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY). While addressing the gathering, members of the Parliamentary Committee reiterated the Government's strong commitment towards welfare of the rural population. They emphasised that the government is focused on strengthening rural infrastructure, creating employment opportunities and empowering

women and self-help groups at the grassroots level. The Committee was accompanied by District Development Commissioner Anantnag, Syeed Fakhruddin Hamid, Director Rural Development Department, Shabir Hussain Bhat and other officers representing different line departments. The officials presented detailed data on the district performance under each scheme and the measures being taken to further improve the scheme delivery. The visiting Committee commended the efforts of the local administration, Panchayati Raj Institutions and frontline workers for their proactive role in implementing various UT and

centrally sponsored schemes. They underscored the importance of community participation, transparency and accountability in achieving the objectives of rural development programs. The Committee assured that the feedback received from beneficiaries would be compiled and shared with the relevant Ministries for necessary policy interventions and improvements in scheme design and execution. The Committee consisted of 31 members; 21 members from Lok Sabha, nominated by the Speaker, Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha nominated by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha.

## North in News

### EDITORIAL

## RESTORATING J&K STATEHOOD.

It is said that the restoration of Statehood to Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory will be a beginning of a healing process, reclaiming the constitutional rights and protecting the identity of people of Jammu & Kashmir. It has been reported that the Cabinet has authorised the Chief Minister- Sh. Omar Abdullah to take up the matter with the Prime Minister and Government of India for restoration of Statehood. Just remembering the past, The Maharaja Gulab Singh, by his courage, wisdom and farsightedness, laid the foundations of Jammu & Kashmir State. Under the compelling security situation, the Christian rulers of British India, had accepted and recognized, Raja Gulab Singh of Jammu as the Maharaja of Jammu & Kashmir State. For all practical purposes, the Jammu & Kashmir State was a buffer State between the British India Empire and Afghanistan-Russia and also as a counter balance against the remaining Sikh kingdom of Lahore. A ray of hope became visible and the people joined the mainstream civilisation of their origin. The Regions of Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir converged/ emerged as 'Independent' Jammu & Kashmir State, in British India. There is no parallel to this event in the world history to bring so divergent societies to converge under one umbrella and to save and secure it from Sun & Shower to let it blossom like a Lotus. In the words of K. M. Panikar, "An area of more than Eighty thousand Square Miles, including parts of the Tibet as well as Pamier, besides the genuinely kingdoms of Jammu & Kashmir came into Maharaja Gulab Singh's possession. This area have never been effectively united under one rule and much of it, with of course, the exception of the Valley of Kashmir, had never known any settled Government." P. N. Bomzai writes, "Maharaja Gulab Singh is the only Indian ruler, to have carved out a State, during the 19th Century, out of the wreckage of great Kingdoms of Sikhs. Moreover, he is the only Indian ruler to have extended the frontiers of India to their National boundary." India got its freedom from the British Christian rulers, on 15th August' 1947. The descendent of Maharaja Gulab Singh, Maharaja Hari Singh- the then ruler of Jammu & Kashmir State, acceded to India on 26th October' 1947. Later, the State Constituent Assembly adopted the Constitution of Jammu & Kashmir, declaring the State to be an integral part of the Union of India. (Contd.)

RAJNI SHARMA.....

# Deep tech needs deep investments

Dinesh C Sharma

THE debate triggered by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal's remarks about the focus of Indian startups has revolved around innovation and job creation. He wants startups to work in deep tech areas like artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, electric mobility and global logistics. This is a reasonable expectation, given the government's thrust on the promotion of startups and the opportunities that the vast consumer market of India presents. However, it would be difficult for startups to meet the expectation unless we address the underlying reasons for the situation described by the minister. Most Indian startups are good at the application and adaptation of new technologies. Very few are engaged in novel technology development or commercialisation or scaling up of technologies and processes developed by Indian entities. Technology development needs an ecosystem of fundamental research, link-ups with universities and a supply of requisite manpower. India did well in technology services because it had an ample supply of engineering manpower and this line of business did not need fundamental research. The country has performed reasonably well in life sciences with a good research system, partnership with acad-



emia and trained manpower. Indians working in outsourced R&D centres of foreign companies are developing new products and intellectual property for their parent companies. They can do so because they are backed by investment and are provided necessary tools. Deep tech areas are driven by cutting-edge discoveries and high-level innovation, which in turn, can come only through deep and sustained investments in basic research and upgrading of universities. It is unrealistic to expect startups to come up with breakthrough innovations while the country spends less than 1 per cent of its GDP on research and development. Quantum computing, for instance, has been one of the deep tech areas in the spotlight in India for the past couple of years. The government announced the National Quantum Mission (of which quantum computing is a focus area) with a funding of Rs 6,000 crore (about \$735 million) up to 2031. It may sound like a

big amount, but it pales in comparison with others — China has committed \$15 billion of public investment for its quantum technology initiatives. Publication of research papers is another important attribute of fundamental research in any field. The National Natural Science Foundation of China is significantly ahead of its US counterpart in quantum computing research publications. When it comes to patents, IBM, Microsoft and Google as well as specialised quantum companies like D-Wave and Quantinuum hold a large number of quantum computing-related patents. These are the sources of the quantum software stacks that other companies depend on. This could result in 'international dependency' in future due to possible export controls and restrictions, points out a new report on quantum science and technology prepared by the office of the Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA). Deep tech is already being deployed to address prob-

lems in fields ranging from energy to medicine. One example is the combination of AI and high-performance computing (HPC) to hunt for new battery materials. By deploying an AI model developed by Microsoft, scientists at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory of the US Department of Energy could screen an amazing 32 million potential candidate materials and find a novel material that could slash lithium electrolyte requirement by almost 70 per cent. The breakthrough work was led by material scientist Vijay Murugesan, who did his PhD from Bharathiar University in Tamil Nadu. This is a classic case of how deep tech innovation can address a pressing problem through industry and research institute partnerships. India has had an HPC mission for several years and strong material sciences groups, but we have yet to see such collaboration and outcome. If the minister had cared to look at the draft of the National Deep Tech Startup Policy, prepared by the office of the PSA in 2023, he would have got answers to the questions he posed at the recent startup event. The policy, which still remains on paper, proposed "an increase in gross expenditure on R&D to provide renewed impetus to basic R&D, which would expand the emerging science base for deep tech startups and the critical base of trained

scientific human resource." It also suggested amendments to existing research assessment systems in academic institutes and research labs to enable the translation of knowledge generated into entrepreneurial ventures. This could be done by creating technology commercialisation offices in research labs and providing necessary guidelines. In addition, faculty members need to be given incentives to let them undertake entrepreneurial risks. This way, they can either launch their own startups or transfer the technology to existing ones. Besides enhanced R&D expenditure and industry-academia collaboration, the deep tech development depends on access to critical materials like lithium and rare earth minerals — the global supplies of which are controlled by China. Then there are strategic materials like advanced composites, carbon and ceramic materials that go into the sectors of defence, nuclear, space, aerospace and electronics. Access to such materials is also restricted. Amid the tariff war unleashed by US President Donald Trump, deep tech development will become more challenging for both startups and large corporations in India. We need strong policy initiatives backed by necessary public investments to boost the deep tech innovation system.

# How festivals have become stages for fear and control

Siddharth Pandey

As spring swiftly turns into summer, it is worthwhile to revisit the months gone by for the ideals they have long represented: renewal and new beginnings. World over, spring augurs hope and joy, and the most explicit way to legitimise this spirit is by celebrating festivals. Perhaps, more than any other country, India presents a masterfully diverse vocabulary for such celebration as the events honouring the season are manifold and distinct in style and sensibility. From Basant Panchami to Holi, Baisakhi to Ugadi, Vishu to Eid-al-Fitr and more, the list is a long one. Along with food, festivals define the core of 'Indianness'. And yet, for some time now, there is a disturbing codicil that has come to sully this marker, acting almost out of habit. This is an aggregate of violence and vindictiveness, condescension and control that is commonly observable across the country, where power manifests itself in the ugliest fashion. The festival of Holi arguably presents us with the largest number of negative examples, ranging from inflicting mischief upon members from within the Hindu community to those belonging to other

faiths. From until a few decades ago, when one didn't think twice before participating in the joyous madness of colour and water, to the current times, when so many of us have become scared of even stepping out during the season, the jubilant mood of yore has become tarnished. Women have been at the forefront of such suffering as well as people from non-Hindu faiths. From using stones to semen in water balloons to causing ruckus outside mosques and Muslim homes, the frequency of malicious examples is increasing. Politicians have found it easy to threaten their bodyguards to 'dance', lest the latter get suspended (like Deepak Kumar, a constable-turned-bodyguard from Bihar, who was bullied into the act by his boss, RJD MLA Tej Pratap Yadav). This year's Holi was fraught with added anxiety as it shared the day with the second Friday of Ramadan. To 'allay' communal tensions, the UP Government was prompted to 'cover' 10 mosques with tarpaulins, advising Muslims to stay in. This took me to my Delhi University days, where, instead of controlling the haywire behaviour of male students during Holi, the onus of responsibility fell on female hostellers, who

were instructed by the warden to lock themselves in their hostels. It is also telling that we have now reached a stage where inter-faith expressions of solidarity and celebration within educational institutions (let alone general society) provoke hatred and intimidation. A few weeks ago, when the principal of a prestigious convent school in Shimla suggested Eid celebrations in customary clothes for nursery and primary class students, numerous parents and Hindu nationalists found it impossible to contain their anger over the perceived 'hurt' and 'sacrilege', forcing the head to withdraw the appeal. This is a country where we are quick to sing praises of our 'inclusivity' when we see a burqa-clad woman taking her son to a fancy-dress competition dressed as a Krishna or Rama. The opposite, however, is something we find hard to digest or even appreciate. It isn't only traditional festivals that have become besmirched by spite. The spirit of celebration spreads across other forums, especially victory events in sports, when the whole country finds instant justification to indulge in Diwali-like festivities. Once again, nasty expressions of power become visible, as was observed in Mhow during India's recent ICC Champions Trophy

victory celebrations, where stone-pelting and heated confrontations quickly got the better of a rally march. And on the same day, a man and his sister were harassed, chased and threatened in Faridabad for not participating in the celebrations, with the sister sustaining injuries from fireworks and their car damaged from physical attack. Popular cinema has occasionally broached this entanglement of power and celebration in subtle ways. In Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra's 2009 film Delhi-6, when low-caste trash collector Jalebi (brilliantly played by Divya Dutta) visits an upper-caste household to make her offerings during the Navratri aarti, she is stalled from doing so on account of her 'impurity', that too by a house-help (clearly belonging to a 'better' social strata than her). More recently, towards the end of the much-acclaimed film Mrs (2025), directed by Arati Kadav, lead protagonist Richa decides to cut off her relationship with her married family during the birthday celebration of her father-in-law. For, this event marks the culmination of the series of harassments and societal pressures she has been put through, particularly through her confined position as an unacknowledged cook for one and all.

## Govt advises coaching centres to adhere to guidelines for preventing misleading ads

New Delhi, Apr 16:

The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has advised coaching centres to strictly adhere to the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 and Guidelines for the Prevention of Misleading Advertisements in the Coaching Sector, 2024.

The CCPA has clearly outlined that it is essential for the coaching centres to ensure that their representations are accurate, clear, and free from misleading claims or the concealment of important information from consumers.

Additionally, coaching centres should avoid making assurances of guaranteed success. Coaching centres must clearly disclose key details in their advertisements, including the student's name, rank, course type, and whether the course was paid. Disclaimers must be prominently displayed in the same font size as other important information to ensure consumers are not misled.

Following the recent declaration of results for examinations such as IIT-JEE and NEET, the CCPA observed that coaching



centres are not adhering to the Guidelines for the Prevention of Misleading Advertisements in the Coaching Sector, 2024.

Considering the violation of the Act and the Guidelines, the CCPA recently has issued Notices to few coaching institutes pertaining to following issues: – Guaranteed placement/selection Assurance of rank in JEE/NEET, Violation of consumer rights, Misleading advertisement and Unfair trade practices including promised services not provided,

admission cancelled but fee not refunded, deficiency in service, non/partial refund of fees.

These claims and practices, according to the CCPA, appear to be violating various provisions of the Act, including Sections 2(28) and 2(47) of the Consumer Protection Act and Guidelines for Prevention of Misleading Advertisement in the Coaching Sector.

The Guidelines for the Prevention of Misleading Advertisements in the Coaching Sector, 2024, were issued on 13 Novem-

ber 2024. These guidelines prohibit coaching centres from making false or misleading claims/advertisements to promote their services and from engaging in deceptive or unfair practices. These guidelines represent a vital step toward preventing the exploitation of students and ensuring that they are not misled by false promises or compelled into unfair contracts. The guidelines are framed to enhance transparency and fairness in the sector, helping students and their families make informed decisions based on accurate and truthful information. These guidelines supplement existing regulations and further strengthen the regulatory framework governing advertisements in the coaching sector.

In a significant move to protect consumer rights and ensure transparency in the coaching sector, the CCPA has, over the past three years, taken action against misleading advertisements, unfair trade practices, and violations of consumer rights by coaching centres.

## WAVES: Top finalists of Cosplay Championship announced

New Delhi, Apr 16:

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has announced the top finalists of the Cosplay Championship, a part of the upcoming World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES).

Organised by the Media and Entertainment Association of India (MEAI), Indian Comics Association, and Creators Street, in collaboration with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, TVAGA, and Forbidden Verse, a series of Cosplay Championship Meetups was organised in Mumbai and Hyderabad.

A statement from the I&B Ministry said that following the meetups, the organisers shortlisted 29 cosplayers who will showcase their skills and creativity at Creatosphere during WAVES 2025. On April 19, a Wildcard Meetup is planned in Mumbai to select wildcard entries whose names will be added to the finalists. The top 29 finalists include Kaizad Sheshbaradaran (Mumbai), Puneeth V (Bengaluru), Shaikh Sameer Kalim (Latur), Tejal Sanjay Mulik (Mumbai), Anup Bhatia (Pune), Navdeep Singh Pannu (Mumbai), Akashi Gautam (Lucknow), Aditya Kalebere (Pune), Swaraj Kalebere (Pune), Shreeharsh Narwade (Pune), Vivek Dilip Mane (Pune), Esha Joshi (Mumbai), Kedar Pandit (Mumbai), ArshyDeori (Guwahati), Marshy Deori



(Guwahati), Md Piyal Shaikh (Mumbai), Pranay Panpatil (Mumbai), Gaurav Vishwakarma (Pune), Akhil (Hyderabad), Staya (Hyderabad), Nupur Munda (Hyderabad), Nakshatra (Hyderabad), Ruchira Corolin (Hyderabad), Sonali (Hyderabad), Neeraj Kumar (Hyderabad), Sravani (Hyderabad), Akhil CH (Hyderabad), Nayana Sai Sree (Hyderabad), and Leeladhar (Hyderabad).

The finalists were selected based on their craftsmanship, originality, performance, and dedication to character authenticity, the statement read. Describing what sets the championship apart from other competitions, Ajay Krishna, Founder of Forbidden Verse and one of the organisers for the Cosplay event, said that it is specially designed to shift

## India to host Int'l Big Cat Alliance Headquarters



New Delhi, Apr 16:

The Government of India and the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) on Thursday signed the Headquarters Agreement, which provides for India to be the host for the IBCA Headquarters and Secretariat.

The agreement was signed by Mr P Kumaran, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, and Dr S P Yadav, Director General, IBCA.

The IBCA is a mega global alliance launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 9 April 2023, during an event "Commemorating 50 years of Project Tiger" at Mysuru. It aims at the conservation of the world's seven principal big cats, which include the tiger, lion, snow leopard, leopard, jaguar, puma, and cheetah.

The accord signed today entails necessary provisions to enable the IBCA to meet its intended objectives and also for the efficient discharge of its official functions. The text pertains to visas, privileges and immunities to be extended to the IBCA Secretariat and personnel, premises, entry into force, supplementary agreements, and some general provisions.

The initiative seeks to foster international collaboration for the sustainable future of big cats, as well as underscores India's leadership and commitment to global wildlife conservation.

The Government of India shall provide a budgetary support of Rs 150 crore to the IBCA for creating a corpus, building infrastructure, and meeting recurring expenditure for five years from 2023-24 to 2028-29.

## Maha to implement NEP 2020 with Hindi as compulsory third language in classes 1 to 5 from 2025-26

New Delhi, Apr 16:

The Maharashtra government has taken a policy decision to implement the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 with Hindi as a compulsory third language from the academic year 2025-26. As per a detailed government notification, Hindi will be a compulsory third language for students in Classes 1 to 5 studying in Marathi and English medium schools. The new curriculum under NEP 2020 will follow a phased timeline, starting with Class 1 in 2025-26 academic year and expanding to all grades by 2028-29. According to the notification, other medium schools in Maharashtra are already following the three-language formula since English and Marathi are compulsory in the state; and



they also teach the language which is their medium of instruction. However, in English and Marathi medium schools, only two languages were taught. In the case of Curriculum and Structure, the state government of Maharashtra will adopt the 5+3+3+4 model, with localised curriculum development by SCERT (State

Council of Educational Research and Training) and Balbharati the state textbook bureau. The SCERT has also prepared a bridge course for classes where students will be transitioning directly from the old to new curriculum. The government aims to train 80 per cent of teachers in new pedagogical methods and digital tools

by 2025. "The 5+3+3+4 educational structure, introduced by the NEP 2020 under the new curriculum, divides school education into four stages: Foundational stage, preparatory stage, middle stage, and a secondary stage. "This new policy restructures the previous 10+2+3 system into a 5+3+3+4 format, covering education from foundational to higher levels. The policy is being gradually implemented in the state. It is built on five pillars: Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability, and Accountability, and aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be achieved by 2030," Deputy Secretary of the state education department, Tushar Mahajan said in a notification. According to the notification,

the government will launch the commencement of the 5+3+3+4 structure of school education, as recommended under NEP 2020 wherein first five years (3 years of pre-primary and classes 1 and 2) will be foundational stage, classes 3 to 5 will be Preparatory stage, Classes 6 to 8 will be covered under Middle school and final four years (Classes 9 to 12) will be Secondary Education. The three language formula, too, will be implemented as per the prescribed phases, starting with Class 1 from the upcoming academic year. Further, the textbooks of Maharashtra State Board will now be based on curriculum developed by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) along with modifications.

## Resolving public grievances is top priority of our govt: UP CM

Lucknow, Apr 16:

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath held a 'Janta Darshan' at his official residence on Thursday, where over 125 individuals from various districts presented their grievances.

Personally meeting each of the attendees, the Chief Minister listened to their concerns and issued immediate directives to officials for swift resolution.

Reiterating his government's commitment to justice, the Chief Minister stated, "Our objective is to bring a smile to every victim's face by ensuring timely redressal of their problems." Grievances related to police, revenue, medical assistance, pensions, and infrastructure—including road construction—were raised during the session.

The Chief Minister instructed the departments concerned to respond promptly upon receiving the applications.

In a compassionate gesture,



CM Adityanath also provided electronic charging walking sticks to two differently-abled youths, Rajesh and Chandrashekhar, who had come from Chandauli, seeking assistance. Demonstrating his human side, he interacted warmly with children, accompanying their parents, holding them in his lap, feeding them, and giving them chocolates.

The Chief Minister instructed all officials to be present in their offices by 10 AM and ensure that public grievances are heard immediately. He emphasised that local-level issues must be resolved at the district level, and only those requiring state-level intervention should be forwarded to higher authorities.

"Resolving public grievances

is a top priority of our government. Officials must treat these matters with utmost seriousness and sensitivity, ensuring speedy and satisfactory solutions," he said.

Applications received at the 'Janata Darshan' were handed over to senior officials on the spot. The Chief Minister specifically instructed the Director General of Police to act on complaints related to law enforcement, while revenue matters were referred to the Chairman of the Revenue Board. He assured the attendees that appropriate action would be taken and their issues would be resolved.

Chief Secretary Manoj Kumar Singh, Additional Chief Secretary (CM) SP Goyal, Principal Secretary (Home/CM) Sanjay Prasad, Director General of Police Prashant Kumar, Chairman of Revenue Board Anil Kumar, and several senior officials were present during the session.

## SEBI bars Gensol promoters from directorship for diverting EV loans to purchase DLF flat

New Delhi, Apr 16:

Market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has barred Gensol Engineering Limited (GEL) promoters Anmol Singh Jaggi and Puneet Singh Jaggi from holding any directorial position in the company.

The regulator has debarred the two brothers from accessing the market.

In its interim order, SEBI explained how loans taken for buying new EVs for BluSmart were diverted by the duo for personal use, including the purchase of a luxury apartment in Gurgaon.

It detailed various instances of fund diversion, including how Gensol raised money to procure electric vehicles (EVs). The order lists that Jaggi transferred Rs 6 crore to his mother, Rs 2 crore to



his wife, and Rs 50 lakh to Grover's Third Unicorn.

Notably, Gensol took term loans worth Rs 978 crore from IREDA and PFC between 2021 and 2024, with Rs 664 crore allocated for the purchase of 6,400 EVs set to be leased to BluSmart.

Gensol was set to provide an additional equity (margin) contribution of 20%, bringing the total ex-

pected deployment for the purchase of EVs to approximately Rs 830 crore.

SEBI said there is a complete breakdown of internal controls and corporate governance norms at Gensol, despite its status as a listed company. "The promoters were running a listed public company as if it were a proprietary firm," the order stated.

## Himachal Congress leaders hold protest, condemning ED chargesheet against Sonia, Rahul

New Delhi, Apr 16:

Congress leaders and workers held protest outside Enforcement Directorate Office in Shimla on Wednesday, condemning the BJP-led Central government after ED's chargesheet against senior party leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi in connection with the National Herald money laundering case.

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh was accompanied by State Congress President Pratibha Singh along with cabinet ministers Vikramaditya Singh and Anirudh Singh, MLA Kuldeep Singh Rathore other party leaders and workers.

Sukhu said that the chargesheet has been filed out of political vendetta. It has been done to divert attention of the public from the real issues, he said.

"Who so ever speaks against the Central government, BJP takes action against them through ED. The leader who bows down and compromises gets washed clean in the washing machine of BJP," he alleged.



Taking a dig, he said that the ED has now turned into intimidation department. The Central government has no answers to the questions relating to public issues, so those who question are being targeted, said the Chief Minister.

## Mayawati slams SP's PDA politics, says exploiting Dalits for political gains

Lucknow, Apr 16:

Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati has launched a sharp attack on the Samajwadi Party (SP), accusing it of exploiting Dalits for political gains.

In a series of posts on X on Thursday, the BSP leader said the SP, like other parties, has been trying to incite tension and violence by using Dalits as political tools.

She posted on X in Hindi (loosely translated as), "It is known that, like other parties, SP too is creating an environment of tension and violence by putting forward people of the party, especially Dalits, and its controversial statements, allegations and counter-allegations and programmes etc., seem to be their politics of extreme narrow selfish-



ness." She cautioned Dalits, OBCs and Muslims against SP's political tactics, saying the party can go to any extent to get Dalit votes.

"Because SP can go to any extent to get Dalit votes. Therefore, along with Dalits, Other Backward Classes and the Muslim

community should not get influenced by their aggressive instigations and not fall prey to the political tactics of this party," she wrote on X.

The BSP chief said the SP should stop commenting on the history of others. "Also, instead of commenting on the history of others, it would be better if the opportunistic Dalits associated with such parties tell about the goodness and struggles of the saints, gurus and great men of their society, due to which these people have become worthy of something."

The former four-time Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh attacked Akhilesh Yadav's party following the SP's efforts to consolidate support among Backward Classes,

Dalits, and minorities in the state. Under the guise of its recent PDA campaign, the SP has been focusing on these groups to consolidate its position in the state and take on the BJP.

This was clear in the Samajwadi Party (SP) chief's long post on X on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Ambedkar.

Akhilesh Yadav said only the unity of PDA (Pichda, Dalit, Alp-sankhyak or backwards, Dalits and minorities) can save the Constitution and the reservation.

He wrote in Hindi (loosely translated as), "Let us strengthen our sense of 'self-respect' and unite to establish the 'rule of social justice' and give new strength to the PDA's movement to save Baba Saheb's gift."



## US Congressional delegation visits Taiwan, reaffirms strengthening free and open Indo-Pacific

United Nations, Apr 14:  
A US Congressional delegation led by Republican Party Senator Pete Ricketts began its April 16-19 Taiwan visit – first since US President Donald Trump began his second term at the White House – on Wednesday as part of a larger visit to the region underscoring Washington’s commitment to strengthening a free and open Indo-Pacific.  
Other members of the bi-partisan delegation include Senator Chris Coons from the Democratic Party and Senator Ted Budd from the Republican Party.  
The delegation will engage in a series of high-level meetings with senior Taiwan leaders to discuss US-Taiwan relations, regional security, trade and investment, and other significant issues of mutual interest.  
Earlier this month, the US had condemned China’s joint military exercises near Taiwan, slamming Beijing’s growing assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific region.



“Once again, China’s aggressive military activities and rhetoric toward Taiwan only serve to exacerbate tensions and put the region’s security and the world’s prosperity at risk. In the face of China’s intimidation tactics and destabilising behaviour, the United States’ enduring commitment to our allies and partners, including Taiwan, continues,” read a state-

ment issued by the US State Department spokesperson Tammy Bruce.  
“The United States supports peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait and opposes unilateral changes to the status quo, including through force or coercion,” it added.  
The remarks followed after China confirmed that it had con-

ducted joint army, navy, and rocket exercises around Taiwan. Taiwan’s Defence Ministry also condemned the act and stated that China continues to escalate military activities in the Taiwan Strait and the Indo-Pacific region by intensifying military threats and challenging the international order and regional stability, thereby becoming the greatest “troublemaker” in the eyes of the international community.  
Last month, a bipartisan group of US lawmakers reintroduced the Taiwan International Solidarity Act in the House of Representatives after the pro-Taiwan legislation stalled in the Senate in 2023. The act “encourages the US to work with allies and partners to oppose China’s efforts to undermine Taiwan’s diplomatic relationships and partnerships globally,” said a press release issued by the office of US Representative Gerry Connolly, a Democrat who introduced the bill.

## US tariff hikes no longer make economic sense: China



Beijing, Apr 14:  
A Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said on Thursday that the United States’ 245 per cent tariff on certain products from China no longer makes economic sense.  
If the US continues to play the “tariff numbers game”, it will pay no attention to it, according to the spokesperson, Xinhua news agency reported.  
The statement came in the wake of White House’s statement that China faces tariffs of up to 245 per cent due to its retaliatory action.  
China now faces up to 245 per cent tariffs on imports to the US as a result of its retaliatory tariffs, according to the White House Fact sheet.  
This came after Beijing ordered its airlines not to take any further deliveries

of Boeing jets in response to the earlier US decision to impose 145 per cent tariffs on Chinese goods.  
According to the White House, the US President is open to making a trade deal with China, but Beijing should make the first move.  
“More than 75 countries have already reached out to discuss new trade deals. As a result, the individualised higher tariffs are currently paused amid these discussions, except

for China, which retaliated,” it said.  
The White House also accused Beijing of banning exports to the US of gallium, germanium, antimony, and other key high-tech materials with potential military applications. There are no winners in a trade conflict and the tussle between China and the US raises the risk of economic and geopolitical fallout, a report by S&P Global Ratings said this week.

## DOGE targets community service programme in latest cost-cutting effort

Des Moines (US), Apr 14:  
A 30-year-old community service programme that sends young adults to work on projects across the US was the latest target of the Trump administration’s campaign to slash government spending. AmeriCorps’ National Civilian Community Corps informed volunteers Tuesday that they would exit the programme early due to programmatic circumstances beyond your control, according to an email obtained by The Associated Press. The unsigned memo to corps members said NCCC’s ability to sustain programme operations was impacted by the Trump administration’s priorities and President Donald Trump’s ex-



ecutive order creating the Department of Government Efficiency. Members would be officially dismissed April 30.  
AmeriCorps did not respond Wednesday to an AP email seeking comment.  
What programme was affected and why?  
AmeriCorps NCCC, which completed its 30th year last year, employs more than 2,000 people

ages 18 to 26 participating for a roughly 10-month service term, according to the programme’s website. The teams of corps members are tasked with working on several projects related to education, housing, urban and rural development, land conservation, and disaster relief, driving from one assignment to another across the country.

## UN report reveals gender gap in labour force participation in Arab region

United Nations, Apr 14:  
A new report released on Wednesday by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) reveals a significant gap in labour force participation between males and females in the Arab region.  
Dubbed ‘Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals, A gender snapshot of the Arab region 2024’, the report said that only one in five women in the region is employed or seeking employment, compared to the global average of 49 per cent.  
Women in the region continue to shoulder a disproportionate share of unpaid domestic and care work, spending 4.7 times more hours per day on it than men.  
“At current pace, it will take a staggering 115 years to close the gap in labour force participation between females and males,” the



report said.  
According to the report, 29.4 million girls in the Arab states were married before age 18.  
The report also revealed some progress in advancing the empowerment of women and girls in

the region.  
It said that women now hold 18 per cent of parliamentary seats, a significant increase from a decade ago, and maternal mortality declined by 45 per cent, from 246 to 139 deaths per 100,000

live births between 2000 and 2020.  
Additionally, 5.5 million more girls are completing each level of education from primary to lower secondary compared to 2015, Xinhua news agency reported.  
The gender gap in primary education completion rates has narrowed to 3 percentage points, and girls in secondary school have outperformed boys, with a 68 per cent completion rate compared to 66 per cent for boys.  
In the labour market, 23 per cent of employed women in the region hold jobs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.  
The report called for a renewed regional consensus to accelerate efforts toward closing the gender gap and advancing the rights and empowerment of all women and girls.

## Gaza 'annexation' part of military strategy, says Israeli defence minister

Jerusalem, Apr 14:  
Israel’s Defence Minister, Israel Katz, has affirmed that Gaza’s annexation was part of a military strategy and troops will remain in the security zones created in Lebanon and Syria indefinitely, Al Jazeera reported.  
Defence Minister Israel Katz said the Israeli military will continue to block humanitarian aid from entering Gaza in order to pressure Hamas to surrender.  
Meanwhile, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) on Thursday stated that 3,696 Palestinian children were newly admitted for acute malnutrition, which marked a stark increase compared with the number in February, which was 2,027.  
“Food consumption in Gaza has sharply deteriorated due to the blockade on the entry of humani-



tarian aid and other critical supplies now in its seventh week,” OCHA said.  
“Consumption of key food groups - such as meat, poultry, dairy, vegetables, and fruits - remains critically low,” it added.  
The lack of access to water in

Gaza is also fuelling “a severe survival crisis with far-reaching consequences for public health and protection. Water is essential for survival, yet access to safe water has become dangerously limited,” the UN Humanitarian Affairs agency said.

The US special envoy for hostage affairs, Adam Boehler, told Al Jazeera that a ceasefire in Gaza will only be possible once all the captives held by Hamas in the Palestinian enclave are released. Boehler’s statement comes as ceasefire negotiations continue amid the Israeli military’s intense renewed assault on Gaza. The envoy emphasised release of the remaining captives by Hamas is an essential non-negotiable precondition for any lasting truce.  
The United Nations said an estimated 5,00,000 people have been “newly displaced or uprooted once more” in Gaza since Israel broke the ceasefire with Hamas on March 18.  
Israel’s Defence Minister Israel Katz said his country’s “policy is clear” and preventing all humanitarian aid from entering Gaza is a “tool” to pressure Hamas.

## Japan, US agree to more discussions over tariffs, reach deal soon

Tokoyo, Apr 14:  
The United States and Japan have agreed to more discussions over US tariffs during ministerial talks in Washington with another round of talks scheduled later this month Japan’s chief negotiator said on Thursday.  
Japan’s Economic Revitalization Minister Akazawa Ryosei who headed his country’s delegation held a first round of trade negotiations with his US counterparts in Washington DC on Wednesday (local time).  
Talking to reporters later, Akazawa said that the president indicated that talks with Japan on the levies should take top priority, Japanese state media Kyodo reported today.  
US President Donald Trump, who joined the



negotiators in a session at the White House, described the meeting as “big progress.”  
Trump posted on social media that it was “A Great Honor to have just met with the Japanese Delegation on Trade. Big Progress!”  
Akazawa held talks with US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Trade Representative Jamieson Greer and also met with

Trump at the White House ahead of the ministerial-level negotiations.  
The talks were held following Trump’s suspension of “reciprocal” tariffs for 90 days. The Japanese minister said he shared Ishiba’s message during the meeting that Tokyo wants to seal a deal as soon as possible that would help further strengthen the Japanese and U.S. economies.

## Homeland Security threatens to revoke Harvard's ability to enrol foreigners

Newyork, Apr 14:  
The US Department of Homeland Security has threatened to revoke Harvard University’s ability to enrol foreign students if it failed to provide by April 30 records on its international student visa holders’ “illegal and violent” activities.  
It also cancelled grants totalling more than \$2.7 million to Harvard University.  
The latest action from the Trump administration against Harvard comes on the heels of a \$2.2 billion federal funding freeze because the university rejected a list of demands. The administration also proposed the revocation



of the university’s tax-exempt status over its radical ideology.  
“Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Kristi Noem announced the cancellation

of two DHS grants totalling over \$2.7 million to Harvard University, declaring it unfit to be entrusted with taxpayer dollars,” the DHS said in a statement on Wednesday.

## Operation Brahma: Indian sends prefabricated office and housing units to quake-hit Myanmar

Myanmar, Apr 14:  
India’s humanitarian assistance to earthquake-hit Myanmar under Operation Brahma continued on Wednesday as the next set of prefabricated office and housing units carried by the Indian Air Force C-17 plane arrived at Mandalay airport. The units were received by Defence Attache, Col. Jaswinder Gill and Sundeep Kaushal, Consulate General of India in Myanmar. They also bid farewell to the remaining Indian Army field hospital team from Myanmar.  
Earlier in the day, the Indian Army’s 60 Parachute Field Hospital returned home after conducting an extensive 14-day international Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operation in disaster-hit Myanmar, during which dedicated medical



care was extended to 2519 patients. The team had won praise from Myanmar authorities and people alike for their contribution. On Tuesday, First Secretaries Ritu Yadav, Amit Shree-anish and A. Sowmiya received the Indian Air Force C-17 carrying prefabricated office/housing

units under Operation Brahma, with Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement DG Min Thein and Ministry of Defence Col Minn Zaw, at Naypyidaw, the Embassy of India in Yangon stated. Last week, a team of Indian safety and demolition engineers conducted a comprehensive

assessment of earthquake-affected sites in Mandalay and the capital city of Naypyidaw. Additionally, a medical team from India including an orthopedic surgeon, assisted in the treatment of 70 patients injured during the devastating earthquake at a Naypyidaw Hospital. India had launched Operation Brahma to provide necessary support, including Search and Rescue (SAR), humanitarian aid, disaster relief, and medical assistance, following the devastating 7.7 magnitude earthquake that struck Myanmar on March 28.  
Acting as the ‘First Responder’ in times of crisis in its neighbourhood, India sent several aircraft and five naval ships to deliver 625 MT of Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief (HADR) material.

## Sakeena Itoo emphasises wider awareness, improved accessibility at AIIMS Jammu

*Reviews functioning of AIIMS Jammu, hails institution's potential as model healthcare hub*

VIJAYPUR (SAMBA), APRIL 17: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today emphasised on improving public accessibility and aggressive outreach campaign to aware people about wide range of medical care services being offered at AIIMS Jammu.

The Minister made these remarks while chairing a meeting held to review the functioning of AIIMS Jammu.

Deputy Commissioner, Samba, Rajesh Sharma; Executive Director and CEO AIIMS Jammu, Dr. Shakti



Kumar Gupta; Director Co-ordination New GMCs, Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad; HoDs of different departments of AIIMS Jammu, Professors, doctors and other concerned officers were present in the

meeting. During the meeting, Sakeena assessed the current operational status of AIIMS Jammu besides reviewing progress on several ongoing works at the facil-

ity. She also discussed strategies for maximising awareness among the public about the facilities available at this premier health institution. Addressing the officers, the

Minister emphasized on the transformative role that of AIIMS Jammu in the healthcare landscape of the region, adding that it is one of the finest institutes in terms of healthcare in North India after AIIMS Delhi. "AIIMS Jammu is not just a hospital or an academic institution, but it is a symbol of hope, a beacon of advanced healthcare for the people of Jammu and Kashmir", Sakeena stated. "Aware public about facilities and services available here so that they can utilize them to the fullest without moving outside for treatments", she said.

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

JAMMU, APRIL 17: Directorate of Fire and Emergency Services J&K Jammu, in collaboration with People's Hut Foundation and with support of Ujala Cygnus JK Medicity, organised a Day long medical camp here today at the Headquarters of Fire and Emergency Services Gandhi Nagar to provide essential medical check-ups and medicines to the Jawans, local population, particularly elders, women, and children.

The camp was held as a part of ongoing Fire Service Week activity and under the "Mobile Health Clinic Program" of the People's Hut

Foundation aimed at providing healthcare accessibility to citizens in the country, specifically J&K.

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

widely appreciated by the communities, reinforcing the positive impact of such outreach programs on the lives of the people in J&K.

The Ayush Department also rendered its services in the camp under the guidance of Director Ayush J&K Dr. Nuzhat Bashir Shah. The services provided to patients included Diagnostic tests, Ortho and Physiotherapy treatment and Eye Testing and Screening.

Similar Camp was organised at Batmaloo Hqrs Srinagar under the supervision of Medical Officer Dr Abrar in which a large section of patients including local families participated.

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

JAMU, APRIL 17: A one day block level workshop cum awareness programme on Awasi Plus 2.0 (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna Grameen) was today organized by the Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj at Block HQ Bhalwal to provide people valuable insights into the features, benefits and implementation strategies of the scheme (AWAS Plus 2.0).

The Workshop was jointly inaugurated by Chairman District Development Council Bharat Bhushan and Member Legislative Assembly Jammu North Sham Lal Sharma.

Ex PRI members of Block Bhalwal and a large number of PMAY-G beneficiaries of



Block Bhalwal participated in the workshop. Block Development Officer, Dr Sunil Sharma, in his welcome address informed that 221 PMAY-G houses

have been constructed in Block Bhalwal upto 31 March 2025 and 931 households in all the 24 Panchayats of Block Bhalwal have been surveyed by the sur-

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

MLA Sham Lal Sharma, who was guest of honour, in his address congratulated 221 PMAY-G beneficiaries of Block Bhalwal for getting their houses constructed and also thanked Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi for provid-

ing huge funds for homeless households. The MLA stressed upon the holistic development of the rural areas by providing them benefits under SBM-G, LPG under PMUY and provision of functional tap water (Har Ghar Jal) under Jal Jeevan Mission. He appealed to the Ex PRIs to involve themselves for identification of eligible PMAY-G beneficiaries in their respective Halqa Panchayats and no houseless person should be left over.

He also applauded the working of officers and officials of Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj District Jammu in general and Block Bhalwal in particular.

## ADC reviews arrangements for Hajj Pilgrimage 2025 at Kishtwar



KISHTWAR, APRIL 17: A meeting to review the arrangements for the Hajj Pilgrimage 2025 was held today under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Pawan Kotwal.

The Hajj Incharge apprised the ADC that a total of 33 pilgrims from District Kishtwar will be undertaking the Hajj pilgrimage this year. The pilgrims are

scheduled to depart from Kishtwar to Hajj House Srinagar on May 12, 2025. The meeting deliberated on various logistical and administrative aspects related to the smooth conduct of the pilgrimage. The ADC urged the Police Authorities to ensure adequate security arrangements for the pilgrims. It was informed that vaccination for the pilgrims is scheduled from April 20,

2025 to April 25, 2025.

The Chief Medical Officer was directed to provide an ambulance along with a doctor to accompany the pilgrims to the Hajj House Srinagar.

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

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



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

Deputy SP Hqrs Jammu Farha Nishat, Senior Prosecuting Officer DPO Jammu Altaf Hussain, PA to SSP Jammu Inspector M K Chowdhary, and members of the Range Technical team, including ASI Dheeraj Kumar Magotra, Sgts Anil Raina, Sgts Vishal

Bandral and District Rollout Manager IRAD Jammu Mohit Ahluwalia were present on the occasion.

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

The SSP further stated that the newly established lab will greatly facilitate the smooth functioning of CCTNS Projects in Jammu District by enabling efficient tracking of case disposals and records from various police stations. Furthermore, it will contribute to the digitization of policing by incorporating modern technologies such as e-Sakshya, e-FIRs, e-Summons, and electronic record-keeping.

He said that the Lab was essential for the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System, which would provide training for IOs and CCTNS operators, and on the first day, 23 IOs and operators received training on various portals and digital services under the New Criminal Laws.

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

**Session Highlights Government's Commitment to Strengthening MSMEs under ₹74.03 Cr RAMP Initiative**

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

The event was held under the guidance of Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department, Vikramjit Singh and Managing Director, JKTPO Sudarshan Kumar. It was organized in collaboration with the Grant Thornton-led

State Project Implementation Unit (SPIU) and District Industries Centre (DIC), Reasi.

General Manager, DIC Reasi Kishor Singh Karoch addressed the participants, emphasizing the vital role of MSMEs in the district's economic development. He encouraged MSME units and stakeholders to actively leverage the RAMP scheme's support mechanisms for enhancing productivity, market access, and institutional linkages.

This workshop is part of a series of outreach programs planned across the Union Territory to build awareness and capacity among MSMEs, stakeholders and implementing agencies under the RAMP initiative.

Jammu and Kashmir has been allotted ₹74.03 crore under the RAMP scheme, comprising ₹66.63 crore from the Central Government and ₹7.40 crore from the UT's contribution. The Department of Industries and Commerce is steering the implementation, with JKTPO serving as the Nodal Agency for seamless coordination and execution.

During the event, the SPIU team delivered a comprehensive presentation outlining the approved interventions under RAMP in J&K. Key highlights included the formalization of MSMEs through Udyam Registration and the strategic packaging and promotion of GI-tagged, ODOP, DEH and other distinctive regional

products. The presentation also emphasized cluster development efforts by supporting the creation of producer companies and associations, alongside initiatives like Buyer-Seller Meets (BSMs), Reverse Buyer-Seller Meets (RBSMs), and the launch of the J&K MSMEs Health Clinic. Further, the team showcased plans for a dedicated Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Dashboard, along with robust Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programs (ESDPs) and Management Development Programs (MDPs). Promoting digital financing solutions emerged as a pivotal component, aimed at empowering MSMEs and fostering economic resilience across

the region.

The workshop saw active involvement from MSME entrepreneurs, officials from the Industries and Commerce Department, ITI Reasi students, financial institution representatives, and other significant stakeholders. SPIU consultants clarified doubts and reaffirmed the administration's dedication to ensuring effective implementation on the ground.

The event wrapped up with a unified commitment to broadening the scope and influence of the RAMP scheme throughout the Union Territory, empowering MSMEs in J&K to become more robust, competitive, and prepared for the future.

## DDC Rajouri reviews development works amid whirlwind tour of Khawas Block

*Assures relief to nomad family affected by thunderstorm*

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

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

The DDC also inspected the ongoing construction work of the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) Hostel in Khawas. Expressing satisfaction over the progress, he directed the executing agency to complete the remaining



work at the earliest and shift the students to the new facility soon after its completion to ensure better accommodation and learning environment.

Later, the District Development Commissioner took stock of the

Khawas-Baila road project and emphasized timely execution with adherence to quality standards to ensure improved road connectivity for the people of the area.

The DDC also visited the office of the Block Development Officer to

review administrative functioning and public grievance redressal mechanism.

In a humanitarian gesture, the Deputy Commissioner met a nomadic resident whose livestock perished due to lightning amid recent Thunderstorm. Expressing sympathy, he assured the affected individual that the loss would be duly compensated in accordance with government norms.

The visit reflects the administration's continued commitment to development, welfare, and responsive governance in far-flung areas.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Kotranka Dil Mir; SP Operation Wajahat Hussain; DSEO Sandeep Sharma; Tehsildar Khawas, Sohan Lal; and other district and sectoral officers.

## Annual Scholarship, Mobility Appliances Distribution Camp held at Kamsar - Poonch

POONCH, APRIL 17: The District Administration Poonch and Pritam Spiritual Trust Poonch today organized the annual Scholarship and Mobility appliances Distribution Camp at Kamsar. The event aimed to support underprivileged members of the community by providing essential resources and financial assistance.

The camp was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal as the chief guest. During the event, he distributed scholarships to 24 needy, orphaned, underprivileged, and disabled students, ensuring they have the necessary support to pursue their education.

In addition to scholarship assistance, the camp also provided vital mobility aids,



including wheelchairs, hearing aids, and walking sticks, to individuals in need. This initiative reflects the commitment of the District Administration to enhance the quality of life for all residents, particularly the most vulnerable groups.

In his address, the DC emphasized, "The District Administration Poonch is always ready to fulfill its social responsibilities for

the overall development of the district. We recognize the importance of supporting our youth and the specially abled persons, as they are the pillars of our future." He also commended the Pritam Singh Trust for their unwavering dedication to social responsibilities, highlighting the importance of community collaboration in achieving sustainable development goals.

## Conduct of Medical Patrol for Locals at Patli Top, Rajouri



Rajouri: 17 Apr 2025

Indian Army has always been known for its ethos, values and traditions of highest order. The professional and humane face of Indian Army is well known and is always praised and commended. Following its ethos and traditions, Indian

Army has been at the forefront and working along with the Awam in their fight against the medical related issues. Indian Army at Samote organised medical patrol in far flung areas of Patli Top, Rajouri. A total of 32 locals including 14 men, 11 women and 07 children

from village of Patli Top availed the benefit of free medical treatment & free distribution of medicines. Medical representative from the Indian Army provided treatment to all patients during medical patrol which was organised with the objective of providing medical aid to people. The local populace appreciated selfless efforts of the Indian Army and said such events not only help in taking medical aid to the doorstep of the people but also help in the synergy between the Indian Army and the Awam towards development of the region.

Jammu April 17: In a vibrant display of camaraderie and celebration, Jammu College of Physiotherapy (JCP) organized a grand Fresher's Party to welcome the incoming batch of 2024-25. The event, held on campus, was a joyous occasion marked by colorful cultural performances, fun-filled games, and enthusiastic participation from both freshers and seniors. The senior students extended a warm and spirited welcome to their juniors, creating an atmosphere of warmth and inclusion. The event was graced by the Principals of various col-



leges functioning under the aegis of Shri Sain Charitable Trust, along with the faculty members and students of JCP. One of the highlights

of the event was a talent competition among the freshers, where Mr. Gulshan was crowned Mr. Fresher and Miss Bhoomika earned

the title of Miss Fresher. Their performances and enthusiasm won the hearts of all in attendance. The event was also honored by the presence of Mr. Ravish Sharma, Managing Director of Shri Sain Charitable Trust, along with esteemed members of the management including Ms. Japna Sharma, Ms. Jasuda Sharma, and Dr. Nitin Mahajan, all CEOs of the trust. The dignitaries distributed prizes to the winners and lauded the students for their enthusiastic participation. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Navinderpal Singh, Principal of Jammu College

of Physiotherapy, congratulated the students for organizing a successful and engaging event. He appreciated the collective efforts of both students and faculty in making the celebration a memorable one. Dr. Singh also extended heartfelt gratitude to the trust's management for their continued support and encouragement. He specially acknowledged the contribution of Ms. Suman Sharma, Chairperson of Shri Sain Charitable Trust, for encouraging such initiatives and promoting holistic development.

## COAS GENERAL UPENDRA DWIVEDI REVIEWS OPERATIONAL PREPAREDNESS OF SUDARSHAN CHAKRA CORPS AND HONOURS VETERANS

New Delhi : 17 Apr 2025

General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of Army Staff (COAS), undertook a comprehensive review of the operational preparedness of the Sudarshan Chakra Corps, reinforcing the Indian Army's steadfast commitment to high combat readiness, innovation and professional excellence. During his visit, he was briefed on ongoing initiatives and the incorporation of cutting-edge technologies. He interacted with troops and praised their focus on operational efficiency, adaptive training, and battlefield innovation. A significant highlight of the visit was the felicitation of five distinguished veterans with the Veteran Achiever Award, celebrating their continued contribution to society and nation-building:

Brigadier Ramnarayan Vinayak, VSM (Retd): Actively involved in ex-servicemen welfare, he established a Directorate General of Re-settlement (DGR) -sponsored security agency employing more than



300 veterans, enabled Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) benefits for Veer Naris of 1962, 1965 and 1971 wars, and advocated for liberalised family pensions. Along with his spouse, he promotes the legacy of bravehearts through educational presentations at Shaurya Smarak. Colonel Vaibhav Prakash Tripathi (Retd): As Vice President of the Madhya Pradesh Ex-Servicemen League, he is associ-

ated with Ojas Shikshan evam Prashikshan Sansthan in Betul, a veteran-run institute providing training and education to tribal youth aspiring to join the defence forces. Colonel K P Singh (Retd): Known for his legal support to veterans and widows, he facilitates biometric life certification and SPARSH issue resolution. He also provides free SSB guidance and supports local charitable institutions

for the elderly and differently-abled.

Naik Anil Kumar Verma (Retd): Converted his ancestral home into a girls' hostel and founded a school for underprivileged tribal children in Bilaspur, which has been achieving remarkable board results. A symbol of social commitment, he continues to inspire fellow veterans. Lance Dafadar Pradeep Kalaskar (Retd): Actively helps resolve pension and financial issues of ex-servicemen. He risked his life to save five individuals from a fire and was honoured as 'Vrikshamitra' for planting over 1,000 saplings. These awards underscored the Indian Army's deep respect for its veterans and their continued impact on THE society. Concluding the visit, General Dwivedi visited Yodhasthal, narrating the valour and history of the Indian Army. Designed as an immersive and educational experience open to the public to promote civil-military cooperation and inspire future generations.

## Police organizes grand finale of football tournament in Baramulla



Baramulla, April 17: As part of its continued efforts to promote sports and engage youth in constructive activities, Police in Baramulla successfully organized the final match of the Football Tournament under the Civic Action Programme at Govt High School Khawajabagh, Baramulla.

The electrifying final match was contested between SWFC Football Team and Dash FC Team, with the latter emerging victorious in a thrilling encounter. SWFC team lifted the winner's trophy along with a cash prize of Rs. 20,000, while the Dash FC team, finishing as runner-up, was awarded a trophy and a cash prize of Rs. 15,000. The event was graced by DIG North Kashmir Range, Shri Maqsood-Ul-Zaman-IPS, SSP Baramulla, Shri Gurinder Pal Singh-IPS, DySP Hqrs Baramulla Shri Altaf Ahmad Khan-JKPS, SHO PS Baramulla Shri Rishabh Shukla-IPS & DySP Ops Baramulla, Ms Rupali Singh-JKPS. The dignitaries appreciated the participants for their commendable sportsmanship and encouraged the youth to take part in similar positive activities. The tournament witnessed enthusiastic participation from local youth and saw a large turnout from Baramulla areas, reflecting the growing interest in sports in the district. A total of sixteen teams from various parts of District Baramulla participated in the tournament.

## Awareness-cum-sensitization session hosted for Krishi Udyamis at Udhampur



UDHAMPUR, APRIL 17: An awareness-cum-sensitization session for Krishi Udyamis of the KKG was today organised by the Agriculture and Allied Departments here in the Conference Hall DC Office Complex. The session was chaired by Additional District Development Commissioner Rajinder Singh and witnessed

the active participation of officers from allied departments. During the session, Krishi Udyamis were sensitized about the key features and benefits of the Kisan Sathi and Daksh Kisan Portals. The officials highlighted the importance of these digital platforms in streamlining agricultural support services and improving farmer out-

reach. Speaking on the occasion, the ADDC emphasized the need for widespread awareness and active involvement of Krishi Udyamis in mobilizing farmers to register on the Kisan Sathi Portal and on the Daksh Kisan Portal to equip farmers with updated skill sets and technical knowledge for modern farming practices.

## Joint enforcement drive conducted in Marh to curb traffic violations



JAMMU, APRIL 17: To ensure compliance with traffic rules and promote road safety, a joint enforcement drive was conducted today in the Marh area by the District Administration involving Motor Vehicles Department, Traffic Police and local Police.

The enforcement teams were led by ARTO Flying Squad Er. Bipen Singh Charak, DySP Rural Daljeet Singh and Tehsildar Marh R. K. Rathore. They were accompanied by MVI Er. C. S. Billowria, DTI Anayat Hussain, MVTA Taranjot

Singh and supporting staff from the police and traffic departments. During the drive, approximately 780 vehicles were checked at various locations. A total of 76 vehicles were e-challaned for violation of the Motor Vehicles Act and one vehicle was seized. The fine expected from the e-challans stands at ₹1,62,000. The drive also included on-the-spot awareness for vehicle operators and commuters regarding traffic discipline and the importance of following safety norms.

## Police Organises Lok Darbar-cum-awareness programmes on New Criminal Laws across PD Handwara

April 17: As part of its continuous efforts to strengthen community ties and enhance legal awareness, Police in Handwara organized Lok Darbar-cum-awareness programmes across all Police Stations and Police Posts under Police District Handwara. The initiative focused on resolving public grievances and educating citizens about the newly introduced Criminal Laws. Conducted at multiple locations, the programmes aimed at ensuring inclusive participation and maximum outreach. During these interactive sessions, senior police officers engaged directly with the public, addressed concerns related to

policing, and provided on-the-spot redressal where feasible. Issues outside police jurisdiction were documented and assured to be taken up with the relevant departments for necessary action. As part of the awareness drive, officers presented the key highlights of the New Criminal Laws, emphasizing their relevance in daily life. The sessions encouraged active public participation, with attendees asking questions and seeking clarifications to better understand the legal reforms. The initiative was well-received by the public, who appreciated the police's proactive approach and pledged cooperation.

## Health Department organises free medical camp at AAM Kalimasta- Gool

RAMBAN, APRIL 17: The Health Department today organized a comprehensive free Medical Camp at AAM village Kalimasta in Gool. The medical camp catered to the healthcare needs of residents from the far-flung areas of Kalimasta and Gagra. Over 450 patients availed medical consultations and were provided free medicines. Facilities for Haemoglobin and Diabetes Mellitus testing were made available on the spot, along with screening for Tuberculosis (TB) and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). The healthcare services were provided as part of the outreach initiative of Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary to enhance healthcare access in remote areas.

The team of Doctors led by BMO Gool Dr. Ashfaq Hassan provided comprehensive medical consultations, ensuring satisfactory Medicare to all attendees.



The camp was held under the overall supervision of Chief Medical Officer Ramban, Dr. Kamal Je Zadu, and the guidance of Sub-Divisional Magistrate Gool, Intiaz Ahmed. Local representatives and senior citizens expressed deep appreciation for the Health Department's outreach, acknowledging the efforts of Dr. Ashfaq Hassan and his team for bringing specialized care directly to the community's

doorstep. During his interaction with senior citizens, the BMO addressed several concerns, particularly regarding the issuance of disability certificates. In a significant development, he announced that such certificates will now be issued at CHC Gool, eliminating the need for patients to travel to District Hospital Ramban thus streamlining the process and greatly benefiting the local population.

## Ritika Slams Congress Protest Against ED as "Thief Crying Foul"\*

Jammu, April 17, 2024 - Chief Spokesperson of BJP Mahila Morcha, Ritika Trehan, today held a press conference criticising the Congress party for protesting against the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) investigation into the National Herald case involving Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi. Trehan likened Congress's protest to a "thief crying foul," asserting that the party is trying to deflect accountability. She emphasized that the ED's charge sheet is a legal consequence of the Gandhis' actions, not a political vendetta. Trehan pointed out that the case originated during Con-



gress's own rule, dismissing claims of political bias. She criticized Congress for turning a legal issue into a political storm, suggesting that the Gandhi family's "greed" led to their current predicament. Ritika reiterated the BJP's

commitment to upholding the rule of law and ensuring those who violate it face consequences. The ED's investigation is a legitimate legal process aimed at addressing financial irregularities. Individuals who have engaged in wrong.

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

KISHTWAR, APRIL 17: A review meeting to assess the implementation and progress of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana was held today here with District Development Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan in the chair. At the outset, the Executive Engineer JPDCL briefed the District Development Commissioner on the current status of applications received and consumer registrations under the scheme. While reviewing the progress, the District Development Commissioner directed all Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) of the government departments to actively publicize the scheme. He emphasized seamless access to loan services by



facilitating the interested persons in registrations and linking with banks. The DC also laid special emphasis on achieving visible results, including in cases of slackness. Furthermore, he instructed the Executive Engineer to widely circulate the step-by-step procedure for availing the scheme from registration to vendor selec-

tion, bank linkage, and finally installation and commissioning. The meeting was attended by CPO Shahnawaz Bali; ACR Idrees Lone; SDM Marwah Mohd. Ashraf; SDM Chatroo Nayeem Ur Rahman; DSWO Zubair Ahmed; Dy. Registrar Cooperative/EO Municipality Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal; AD FCS.

National Tobacco Control Programme

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

JAMMU, APRIL 17: Divisional level Sensitization workshop for District Programme Managers cum Consultants of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes was today organized here in Conference Hall Directorate of Health Services under the aegis of National Tobacco Control Programme. The workshop, held under the supervision and guidance of Director Health Services Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar, was attended by 40 government functionaries from across Jammu Division.



The participating officials were sensitized regarding the Epidemiology and Burden of Tobacco, Tobacco Control Laws including COTPA 2003, WHO FCTC and PECA 2019. The deliberation further focused on Tobacco Free Educational Institutions and

Tobacco Free Villages initiatives of Government of India which aim to reduce the tobacco use at grassroots level. The speakers were Divisional Nodal Officer, National Tobacco Control Programme Dr. Mridula Singh and Divisional Coordinator Shweta Raina.

Four Indian Grey Wolves translocated from Gujarat to Jambu Zoo

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

under a mandatory quarantine care and observation period of two weeks at Jambu Zoo. A dedicated team comprising Zoo Veterinary Officer Dr. Ranjit Singh Katoch, Range Officer Sumit Kumar and skilled animal keepers has been overseeing their translocation and acclimatization in Jambu Zoo. The wolves will be introduced to the public exhibits after successful completion of the quarantine, in accordance with established animal welfare protocols. The Indian Grey Wolves, known for their sharp intelligence, live in small family packs, often forming monogamous pairs.

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



UDHAMPUR, APRIL 17: District Development Commissioner Saloni Rai today handed over keys and ice boxes of three-wheeler e-rickshaws to progressive fishermen of the district under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana. While interacting with the beneficiaries, the District Development Commissioner congratulated them and highlighted the Government's continued efforts to support the fisheries sector. She informed that the Department of Fisheries, besides generating employment through the construction of carp ponds, trout

Raceways and Backyard Mini-RAS units, is also extending financial and logistical assistance to fish farmers and fishermen by providing them with three-wheeler e-rickshaws. She added that this initiative aims to strengthen the marketing and transportation infrastructure for fish and fish products. The provision of e-rickshaws will enable the fishermen to transport their produce more efficiently to nearby markets, while the ice boxes will ensure the freshness and quality of the fish is maintained during transit, the DC added.

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

POONCH, APRIL 17: District Development Commissioner Vikas Kundal reviewed the ongoing progress and activities at Raja Sukhdev District Hospital at a meeting held today in the Meeting Hall of the DC Office complex. The DDC initiated the meeting with a comprehensive evaluation of achievements under various health schemes, focusing on the hospital's functioning, addressing issues and grievances related to the department, upgrading infrastructure, and enhancing healthcare services for patients. Chief Medical Officer (CMO) and Medical Superintendent (MS) of the Hospital provided a detailed briefing on the health services and achievements recorded by the hospital. The Deputy Commissioner assessed different operational aspects, including services offered in outpatient (OPD) and inpatient departments (IPD), major and minor surgeries, laboratory tests, institutional deliveries, 108 ambulance services, and staff rationalization. The meeting also addressed issues projected at different



platforms with a commitment to bring in further improvement in the services. The DDC directed to submit a monthly report on the 108 ambulance services provided by health institutions in the district by tomorrow. He further instructed doctors to prescribe only generic medicines with names written in capital letters. To rationalize staff, the DDC asked for proposing a rotation-wise system for underserved areas and instructed the cancellation of any staff attachments. Reiterating the importance of meeting patient expecta-

tions, the DDC emphasized delivering quality, accessi-

ble and affordable health-care services. He also directed the ACR Poonch to retrieve encroached land within the District Hospital premises. The meeting was attended by ADC Tahir Mustafa Malik, ACR Mohd Sayeed, PO ICDS Khalid Hussain Wafa, CMO Dr. Parvaiz Ahmed Khan, Executive Engineer of PWD (R&B), Jal Shakti, JPDCL, Medical Superintendent DH Poonch and other concerned stakeholders.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao

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

DODA, APRIL 17: An awareness programme on Menstrual Hygiene was today organised at Gujjar and Bakarwal Girls Hostel by Mission Shakti, Social Welfare Department under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative. The programme was graced by Gender Specialist at the Hub for Empowerment of Women, Dr. Sanya Khan and Centre Administrator at One Stop Centre (OSC) Sandiya Thakur along with the warden and staff of the hostel. Dr. Sanya Khan sensitised adolescent girls about the biological and emotional changes during puberty, especially menstruation. She emphasized the importance of maintaining proper men-

strual hygiene to prevent long-term health issues and stressed the need to normalise menstruation and eliminate the social taboos attached to it. She also highlighted the significance of nutrition and recommended iron-rich foods and regular physical activity for better menstrual health. Sanitary pads were distributed among the girls during the session. Sandiya Thakur elaborated on the importance of personal hygiene and health awareness during adolescence and briefed the participants about the objectives of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. She discussed its role.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL DIVISION JAMMU

INFORMING ORDER

DATE: 18.04.2025

TO: ALL DISTRICT OFFICERS, JAMMU DIVISION

FROM: JAMMU DIVISION

SUBJECT: [Detailed administrative order text]

DIP/J-382/25

