



## Terrorism epicentres no longer immune to punishment: Rajnath Singh

**Calls on SCO member states to take unified stand against terrorism | Says 'Op Sindoor' sent clear message India will act against terror hubs**

Sajid Raina

New Delhi, Apr 28: Calling upon member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) to adopt a unified and consistent approach against terrorism, separatism and extremism, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday said 'Operation Sindoor' reflected India's firm resolve that "terrorism epicentres are no longer immune to justifiable punishment."

Addressing the SCO Defence Ministers' meeting in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, Singh, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) called for eliminating safe havens and rejecting political exceptions in dealing with terrorism. "There should be no double standards in combating the menace," he added.

"The sight of state-sponsored cross-border terrorism which attacks the sovereignty of a nation must not be lost. There is no place for double standards," he said.

Singh said that SCO should not hesitate in taking appropriate action against those who "abet, shelter and provide safe havens to terrorists", stressing that a



collective and uncompromising approach could transform regional security into a foundation for peace and prosperity.

Highlighting India's "zero-tolerance" policy, the Union Minister said terrorism has "no nationality and no theology" and nations must take a firm and united stand. He referred to the Tianjin Declaration of the grouping as a reflection of a shared commitment to counter terrorism, but added that "the real test of collective credibility remains in consistency".

The defence minister

underscored the role of SCO's Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure in addressing radicalisation and extremist threats, and said joint efforts were essential in tackling evolving security challenges in an increasingly uncertain global environment.

Singh also raised broader concerns about the global order, questioning whether the world needed a new framework or better adherence to existing rules. He called for a consensus-driven approach where "co-existence, co-habitation and compassion take precedence over chaos, competition and conflict".

"It is SCO's responsibility to ensure regional as well as global peace and stability," he said, advocating dialogue and diplomacy over conflict. He cautioned against a drift towards violence, urging member countries to work towards an era of peace and prosperity.

Invoking the philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, Singh said the principle reflects a sense of global unity beyond differences of race and religion, and aligns with the organisation's objectives.

He reiterated India's commitment to constructive engagement within SCO and called for greater cooperation, mutual trust and respect among member states to strengthen the grouping's role in maintaining stability.

The meeting also reviewed regional security challenges, including terrorism and radicalisation, and discussed their wider implications for global peace. Member states noted the significance of 2026, marking 25 years since the founding of SCO, and emphasised the organisation's growing relevance amid rising global uncertainty. (KNO)

## KPs endured profound hardships beyond genocide: LG Sinha

Yogesh

Jammu, Apr 28: Stating that successive generations of Kashmiri Pandits endured profound hardships beyond the genocide a wound time cannot fully heal, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday said initiatives like Radio Sharda provide a vital lifeline, reinforcing community bonds.

LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), attended the launch ceremony of the book 'The Waves of Resilience: Story of Radio Sharda' edited by Ramesh Hangloo, the founder of Radio Sharda.

The book is a collection of articles written by common listeners, litterateurs and renowned personalities from Kashmiri Pandit Community and highlights the impact of Radio Sharda on the socio-cultural activities of the community.

The Lieutenant Governor commended Hangloo and his team for preserving rich culture and values. "Kashmiri Pandit community endured genocide and was uprooted from their ancestral soil. They left behind all material possessions,



carrying only light of culture, tradition, faith, education, and language. More than two decades later, in 2011, Ramesh Hangloo transformed it into a beacon of hope and unity through Radio Sharda, connecting Kashmiri Pandits across the world to their roots," the Lieutenant Governor said. He said that Radio Sharda has preserved songs, stories, and traditions and gave platforms to poets, scholars, and artists, ensuring their voices inspire new generations. "Radio Sharda and various

government initiatives are pathways for youth from the community. Now it is their responsibility to protect and expand rich cultural heritage, breathe new life into traditions, language, music, and rituals. Youth must ensure that Kashmiri Pandit's cultural legacy thrives, evolves, and endures meaningfully for generations to come," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that successive generations of Kashmiri Pandits endured | More on P6

## MeT predicts rain, hailstorm, gusty winds across J&K

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Apr 28: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Tuesday forecast generally cloudy weather with spells of light rain and thundershowers across Jammu and Kashmir over the next two days, accompanied by gusty winds and possible hailstorms at isolated places.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), according to the Meteorological Centre Srinagar, many places are likely to witness intermittent rain and thundershowers on April 28-29, particularly during the afternoon and evening hours. Hailstorms are also expected at a few locations.

The weather is expected to improve slightly on April 30 with partly cloudy skies and brief spells of light rain at isolated places. From May 1-2, conditions are likely to remain largely dry, although brief showers cannot be ruled out.

However, another spell of generally cloudy weather with light rain and thundershowers is forecast between May 3 and 5 at scattered to many places. From May 6-9, the region is expected to remain mostly dry,



with chances of brief showers at isolated locations.

The MeT department has issued an advisory asking farmers to suspend agricultural operations on April 28-29 in view of expected rainfall, gusty winds and possible hailstorms.

Meanwhile, daytime temperatures across the Valley remain below normal. Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 21.2°C, which is 1.9 degrees below normal, while the minimum settled at 12.6°C, 3.1 degrees above normal.

Qazigund registered a high of 20.0°C, while Pahalgam recorded 18.2°C. Kupwara saw a maximum of 21.0°C and Kokernag 20.2°C. Gulmarg, the coldest among | More on P6

## Farmers custodians of tradition, culture, food security: LG Sinha

'Treat every field as national asset; preserve agriculture for generations'

Yogesh

Jammu, Apr 28: Terming farmers as custodians of tradition, culture and food security, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday said that every farmer deserves real-time climate guidance and every field must be treated as a national asset.

Addressing the national summit on "Sustainable & Climate Resilient Agroecosystems: Innovations and Policy Framework" at SKUAST Jammu, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that farmers are not merely producers of grain but they are custodians of tradition, culture, food security, and the promise of a sustainable future.

"Every farmer deserves real-time climate guidance. Every field must be treated as a national asset, safeguarded with care. Our responsibility in agriculture is clear that we need to preserve it for generations. This is our solemn resolve," the Lieutenant Governor said.



He urged the scientists, innovators and other stakeholders to come together to build climate resilience and transform sustainable Agro-ecosystems. "The moment has come to move beyond minor adjustments and embrace bold, science-led, farmer-focused transformation. Policies must champion climate-resilient crops. We must close the divide between laboratory and farm-land and researchers should make the creation of climate-adapted varieties their highest priority," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He said that our farms are the bedrock of civilization, the

backbone of economies, and the promise of tomorrow.

"Every policy, every intervention must respect that our fields and farmers have carried humanity through centuries of turmoil. Now the threat of climate change reaches far beyond the farmer's field and it imperils every life sustained by Agriculture and Allied Sectors. The urgency of this crisis leaves no room for delay," LG Sinha said.

The Lieutenant Governor stated that under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, India leads the fight and in 2024-25, agriculture production hit 357 million tonnes, up 25 million from 2023-24, with horticulture at 362 million tonnes, including high-value crop diversification. "Ahead of others, India launched nationwide soil testing, distributing 25 crore Soil Health Cards. Farmer credit limits rose from Rs. 3 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh. Rs.100 crore funds high-productivity seeds under a national mission. Pulses procurement at MSP jumped | More on P6

## Hydel power generation of J&K sees a steep 16% decline



Nearly 3-5% annual fall over five years rings alarm bells

Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Apr 28: From 17,489 Million Units (MUs) in 2020-21 to just 14,660 MUs in 2025-26, Jammu and Kashmir in nearly past five years has recorded a decline in hydel power generation by over 16 percent—reflecting an average annual fall of nearly 3-5 percent.

The official figures available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) revealing the power generation of J&K in MUs from 2020-21 to January 2026 states that there has been a power generation

fall by 16.18 percent.

The figures reveal that in the year 2020-21, J&K had generated a total of 17,489.83 MUs of power followed by 17,170.62 MUs in the year 2022-23.

It also said that during the year 2023-24, Jammu and Kashmir was able to generate only 16,282.93 MUs of energy followed by 15,595.82 MUs in 2024-25.

The figures further states that in the year 2025-2026: upto January-2026, J&K had generated only 14,659.92 MUs of power.

Stating the source and state wise generation data from various sources including thermal, hydro, nuclear and renewable energy for 2025-26 (upto January, 2026), the official figures reveal | More on P6

## PMGSY-IV BATCH-II

## In 'duniya ka swarg,' Union Min Chouhan announces Rs 8,000 cr rural push for J&K

Says no poor will remain without house | Announces ICAR team, clean plant prog, integrated farming

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Apr 28: Calling Jammu and Kashmir as 'duniya ka swarg (paradise on earth)' Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Tuesday announced Rs 8,000 crore rural push for the Union Territory.

Chouhan, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) launched PMGSY-IV (Batch-II), announcing a wide-ranging rural transformation plan for the Union Territory.

Addressing the gathering at SKICC here, the Union Minister opened up his speech in a familiar tone saying: "Mama ka sabko namaskar aur pranam," setting an informal and



personal connection with the audience.

He said he had not come with any ministerial pride or protocol but purely in the spirit of public service. "I have not come with the ego of a minister. I have come only for public service," he said.

Referring to Jammu and Kashmir, he said: "Duniya ka swarg yahi hai" (this is heaven on earth), adding that the region always draws him emotionally and personally.

Chouhan said road connectivity remains the backbone of development and without it,

progress remains incomplete. "Without roads, development remains incomplete," he said, adding that in several remote areas patients are still carried on shoulders due to lack of road access.

He said PMGSY-IV (Batch-II) marks a major milestone in bridging rural connectivity gaps in Jammu and Kashmir.

He also announced that nearly Rs 8,000 crore worth of rural development projects have been sanctioned for J&K within a year, calling it a 'major achievement'.

In major welfare announcement, the Union Minister said no poor family will be left without a permanent house. "No poor person in Jammu and Kashmir will remain without a house. | More on P6

## CM Omar calls Chouhan 'Mama', hails him as true friend of J&K

Assures swift execution of Rs 3,566 crore rural road package

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Apr 28: Asserting that government is moving ahead with large-scale road infrastructure expansion under PMGSY-IV, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said that Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing a major transformation in rural connectivity.

Addressing the launch ceremony of PMGSY-IV (Batch-II) held at SKICC here, CM Omar, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "The PMGSY-IV is aimed at linking unconnected habitations across the Union Territory."

During the event Union Minister for Rural Development, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shivraj Singh



Chouhan formally handed over the Rs 3,566 crore sanction letter to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

Pertinently, the package under PMGSY-IV (Batch-II) will connect 363 habitations through 330 roads covering around 1,600 kilometres, significantly boosting last-mile connectivity in rural and hilly

areas of Jammu and Kashmir. Welcoming the Union Minister, the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah described Shivraj Singh Chouhan as a true friend and well-wisher of Jammu and Kashmir and referred to him as "Mama"—a widely known public identity associated with him in Madhya Pradesh. | More on P6

## Rana reviews flood relief, traffic management in Poonch

‘Govt fully committed to provide relief to every affected family’

KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, APRIL 28: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, chaired a meeting on Tuesday to review the flood relief efforts, traffic management, soil conservation initiatives and key development measures in Poonch district.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by the Deputy Commissioner, Ashok Sharma, and senior district officers from the concerned departments through video conferencing.

Reviewing the status of relief structures for the flood-affected families in Kalaban, Sarhuti and Sangote, the Minister expressed concern over delays and directed the officials to speed up the process without further lapse.

Reiterating the government's commitment, Rana said that relief must reach every affected household and no one should be left behind. The government is fully committed to provide relief to every affected family, he added.



Highlighting the need for long-term resilience, he stressed the sustainable rehabilitation measures, including soil conservation, slope stabilisation, drainage improvement and plantation drives. He directed that these initiatives be carried out in convergence mode with the Forest Department to ensure optimal utilisation of resources.

Taking serious notice of traffic congestion caused by improper parking in Mendhar and other areas, the Minister instructed the administration to take immediate corrective

steps. He emphasised the regulation of heavy vehicle movement, directing that proper timing schedules be enforced to avoid disruption to school buses and emergency services, including ambulances.

The Minister also directed the officials to involve elected representatives in the planning and implementation of development programmes. He stressed that public representatives play a vital role in reflecting grassroots concerns and should be kept informed and consulted at every stage. Rana

reviewed the functioning of the Eklavya Model Residential School, directing that all pending construction works be completed within stipulated timelines. He assessed key aspects such as manpower availability, water supply reliability and infrastructure upgrades, including improvements to the dining hall and hostel facilities for the boys and girls.

He instructed the officials to address all the pending issues on priority to enhance the overall living and learning environment

## DC Budgam, SSP chair NCORD Meeting

‘Ensure 100% CCTV coverage, Computerised Billing Systems (CBS) at all chemist shops’

KT NEWS DESK

BUDGAM, APRIL 28: The 46th District-Level NCORD (Narco Coordination) Committee meeting was held Tuesday at the DC Office Budgam under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan.

SSP Budgam, Hariprasad KK was also present during the meeting.

At the outset, the committee reviewed action taken on previous NCORD decisions. The meeting reviewed ongoing anti-drug measures and charted a strengthened roadmap for a drug-free Budgam.

The DC, as per an official statement, stressed that drug abuse is not merely a law enforcement issue but a grave social challenge impacting families and communities. He underscored that the administration will remain firm and uncompromising against peddlers, traffickers, and cultivators, while extending full support, treatment, and rehabilitation to victims of addiction.

On the occasion, the DC directed all line departments to intensify efforts against narcotics cultivation and peddling. He emphasised ensuring that roadsides, embankments, and other vulnerable areas remain free from cannabis and poppy cultivation through coordinated action.

The DC reiterated that 100% CCTV coverage and Computerised Billing Systems (CBS) must be ensured in all chemist shops, with regular inspections and strict action against violations. The Drug Inspector was directed to ensure availability of CCTV footage and billing records, while the Excise Department was asked to work in close coordination with Police, Revenue, and Agriculture departments for destruction of illicit crops and registration of FIRs.

To strengthen community participation, SDMs were directed to engage religious scholars and local stakeholders to promote anti-drug messaging and “Nasha-Mukt Panchayats.” The Rural



Development Department will organise Special Gram Sabhas, while the District Social Welfare Office will conduct mega IEC campaigns across villages, towns, and educational institutions.

On the healthcare front, the DC directed that the Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) at District Hospital Budgam remain fully functional round-the-clock and that the Drug De-Addiction Centre be strengthened for effective patient intake and rehabilitation.

He also instructed all Government Degree Colleges to install CCTV cameras within campuses to enhance preventive vigilance.

Reviewing the progress of the 100-day Intensive Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan, the DC stressed the need to scale up ground-level impact. He called for intensified IEC campaigns, wider youth engagement, and measurable outcomes in terms of counselling, treatment, and community mobilisation. “The campaign must translate into visible behavioural change and community ownership. Every stakeholder must

contribute to making Budgam truly drug-free,” he asserted.

Reiterating a zero-tolerance policy against drugs, the DC stated that the administration will continue decisive action against drug networks while ensuring a compassionate, rehabilitative approach for those affected.

During the meeting, SSP Budgam emphasised installation of CCTV cameras at identified hotspots including Nasrullapora, Chadoora, and Magam. He called for stronger inter-departmental coordination and focused counselling and rehabilitation of victims at the Drug De-Addiction Centre. He stressed that drug addicts should be treated as victims and supported in overcoming addiction through sustained care and guidance.

The meeting was attended by ADC Budgam, all SDMs, ACP, CMO, DIO, DSWO, Medical Superintendent DH Budgam, Principals of Government Degree Colleges, Executive Officers of Municipal Committees, Principals of Higher Secondary Schools, ZEOs, and other concerned officers.

## SANJY-2026: DC Anantnag reviews preparations

KT NEWS DESK

ANANTNAG, APRIL 28: Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag, Yatra Officer, Pahalgam Axis, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, Tuesday visited Nunwan Pahalgam to review and assess the preparations being made for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra - 2026.

ADC, Dr. Muzamil Maqbool Beigh, SDM Pahalgam, Amit Gupta, SE Hydraulics, CAHO, BMO Sallar, Tehsildar Pahalgam, officers from PDA and engineering wings besides other concerned officials accompanied the DC during the visit. On the occasion, the DC, as per an official statement, took a detailed and comprehensive review of the preparedness and arrangements for the upcoming Yatra. He was briefed about the logistical facilities including accommodation, tentage, water supply, power supply, health care, sanitation and

other essential services that shall be made available to the pilgrims during their journey to the Holy Cave. It was informed that round-the-clock monitoring mechanisms have been planned to ensure uninterrupted services and promptly address any emergent issues faced by the Yatris. Further, as a novel initiative, “females only kiosks” will be installed at Nunwan Base Camp to cater to the special needs and issues of the female devotees.

Expressing satisfaction on overall progress on SANJY 2026 preparations made so far, the DC directed that all necessary arrangements including essential services be put in place in a smooth and time bound manner. He instructed for providing adequate facilities to the devotees at all base camps, transit points and other important locations enroute the Holy Cave so they have a seamless and enriching experience during the entire journey.

### GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR UT OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER HYDRAULIC DIVISION URI (PINNo.193122)

Fax/Phone:01956-253266  
SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER  
e-NIT No: 03 of 2026-27 (e-Tendering)

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders (in Two Cover) on item rate basis are invited for below mentioned service from registered Contractors/MSME as transport service providers registered with Union Territory of J&K Govt./ central Government for the financial year of 2026-27

S.No	Particulars/Name of service	Qty.	Unit	Earnest Money	E NIT/ Tender fee	Tender ID
1.	Engagement/Hiring of Commercial vehicle (Mahindra Scorpio/Bolero) of 2024 or above make/model with J&K Registration only for use of Hydraulic Division Uri on monthly basis, along with the driver (must available for 24x7) for the financial year 2026-27 (excluding fuel but including the day-to-day maintenance charges of the vehicle/toll tax) etc.	1.00	One Calendar Month	5000.00	Rs.200/=	2026_IFC_308493_1

The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, set of terms and conditions and other details can be seen/ downloaded on e-procurement Portal [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per schedule of dates given below:

01	Publishing Date	23-04-2026	04:00 p.m
02	Download Date Start	23-04-2026	05:00 p.m
03	Bid submission Date Start	23-04-2026	06:00 p.m
04	Bid opening Date (Cover 1 <sup>st</sup> ) Note: Cover 2 <sup>nd</sup> shall be opened online after completion of Technical evaluation.	02-05-2026	11:30 a.m

- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in)
- The Technical cover uploaded on the Web site up to due date and time will be opened on 05-05-2026 at 11:30 a.m in the Office of the Executive Engineer Hydraulic Division Uri in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. In case of Holidays or office happening to be closed on the date of opening of the bids, the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. The complete bidding process will be online. The Financial cover shall be opened post completion of technical evaluation by the designated committee which shall be communicated through online procurement portal.
- The Technical cover shall be comprised of following documents to be uploaded by the bidders

01	Valid Registration certificate as Transport service provider.	Scanned Copy
01	Earnest Money in shape of CDR / FDR/BG other approved formats for an amount of Rs. 5,000/- pledged in favor of the Executive Engineer Hydraulic Division Uri. The issuing date of the instrument should be between Publishing date and Bid submission end date otherwise the bid shall be rejected	Scanned Copy
02	Treasury Receipt (T.R) deposited to MH: 0702 as cost of tender document fee for an amount of Rs.200/- pledged in favor of the Executive Engineer Hydraulic Division Uri. The issuing date of the instrument should be between Publishing date and Bid submission end date otherwise the bid shall be rejected	Scanned Copy
03	GST registration with latest clearance up to 03/2026 & Pan card along with Self Attested WhatsApp Number and email ID of the agency/driver (Contact details)	Scanned Copy
04	At least LMV License of the driver	Scanned Copy
05	Registration Certificate / Ownership or lease agreement if applicable, Pollution Certificate, Insurance's certificate of Commercial Vehicle, valid Route Permit for all J&K Routes.	Scanned Copy
05	The driver proposed for the vehicle must have experience of driving light Motor Vehicle for at least 03 years i. e. the issuing date of the license of the driver should be 03 years prior to publishing date of the tender	Scanned copy

All other terms and conditions as laid down in the PWD Form 25 Double, GFR-2017 with upto date amendments, Manual for procurement of Non-Consultancy Services 2025, other Government instructions shall also remain in force.

NO: HDU/CC/212-32  
Dated : 23.04.2026

DIPK-835/26  
DATED: 28-04-2026

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
HYDRAULIC DIVISION URI

### IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1<sup>ST</sup> CLASS SOPORE

In the case of: Shahnaza Bano w/o: Manzoor Ahmad Mir R/o: Brath Kalan.

Versus  
C.E.O Municipal Council Sopore/BDO Sangrama/BDO Sopore  
(Registrar of Birth and Death) ...Non Applicant

#### NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE

Whereas, the above titled case is under process in this court, seeking direction therein to the non-applicant u/s 13(3) of the Registration of Births & Deaths Act, 1969 for registration of Birth event of the applicant's Daughter namely Saiha Mazoor D/o: Manzoor Ahmad Mir as 25-07-2018 at M.C.H Sopore.

Whereas through the medium of this proclamation the public at large is informed that in case any one has any objection for issuance of direction with respect to the registration of aforementioned Birth event he /she shall file the same before this court in person or through counsel within 7 days from the date of the publication of this proclamation.If the date fixed is declared holiday,the matter will be taken on the next working day.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class, Sopore

### IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1<sup>ST</sup> CLASS SOPORE

In the case of: Shahnaza Bano w/o: Manzoor Ahmad Mir R/o: Brath Kalan.

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(Registrar of Birth and Death) ...Non Applicant

#### NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE

Whereas, the above titled case is under process in this court, seeking direction therein to the non-applicant u/s 13(3) of the Registration of Births & Deaths Act, 1969 for registration of Birth event of the applicant's Son namely Muzain Mazoor S/o: Manzoor Ahmad Mir as 9-11-2021 at M.C.H Sopore.

Whereas through the medium of this proclamation the public at large is informed that in case any one has any objection for issuance of direction with respect to the registration of aforementioned Birth event he /she shall file the same before this court in person or through counsel within 7 days from the date of the publication of this proclamation.If the date fixed is declared holiday,the matter will be taken on the next working day.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class, Sopore

### IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1<sup>ST</sup> CLASS SOPORE

In the case of: Ab Rashid Changa S/o: Gh Mohd Changa R/o: Lal Bab sb Arampora.

Versus  
C.E.O Municipal Council Sopore/BDO Sangrama/BDO Sopore  
(Registrar of Birth and Death) ...Non Applicant

#### NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE

Whereas, the above titled case is under process in this court, seeking direction therein to the non-applicant u/s 13(3) of the Registration of Births & Deaths Act, 1969 for registration of Birth event of the applicant's Daughter namely Areeba Rashid D/o:Ab Rashid Changa as 13-10-2021 at M.C.H Sopore.

Whereas through the medium of this proclamation the public at large is informed that in case any one has any objection for issuance of direction with respect to the registration of aforementioned Birth event he /she shall file the same before this court in person or through counsel within 7 days from the date of the publication of this proclamation.If the date fixed is declared holiday,the matter will be taken on the next working day.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class, Sopore

### IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1<sup>ST</sup> CLASS SOPORE

In the case of: Shabir Ahmad Bhat S/o: Ab Rehman Bhat R/o: Goripora Darpora.

Versus  
C.E.O Municipal Council Sopore/BDO Sangrama/BDO Sopore  
(Registrar of Birth and Death) ...Non Applicant

#### NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE

Whereas, the above titled case is under process in this court, seeking direction therein to the non-applicant u/s 13(3) of the Registration of Births & Deaths Act, 1969 for registration of Birth event of the applicant's Daughter namely Anabia Shabir D/o: Shabir Ahmad Bhat as 17-06-2019 at M.C.H Sopore.

Whereas through the medium of this proclamation the public at large is informed that in case any one has any objection for issuance of direction with respect to the registration of aforementioned Birth event he /she shall file the same before this court in person or through counsel within 7 days from the date of the publication of this proclamation.If the date fixed is declared holiday,the matter will be taken on the next working day.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class, Sopore

## Union minister Goyal dedicates IPD to sports innovation

### Felicitates J&K Ranji team

REHAN QAYOUM MIR

New Delhi/Srinagar, Apr 28: Dedicating World Intellectual Property Day (IPD) to the intersection of sports, innovation and youth opportunity, Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal on Tuesday announced a major policy push aimed at strengthening India's sports innovation ecosystem, while placing special emphasis on Jammu and Kashmir's emerging sporting and craftsmanship identity.

Addressing the event themed IP and Sports: Ready, Set, Innovate! in New Delhi, Goyal announced that all intellectual property registrations related to sports, including trademarks, copyrights, patents, designs, traditional knowledge and geographical indications will be exempt from fees for three years with immediate effect. He said the move is a "special drive" to accelerate innovation in the sports sector and directed that an official notification be issued without delay. The minister also said the government will extend facilitation support under existing schemes to assist innovators, students, artisans and stakeholders in securing IP rights and easing their entry into the IP ecosystem.

J&K Ranji Team Felicitated; Historic Win Highlighted In the valedictory session, Goyal felicitated the Jammu and Kashmir Ranji Trophy team for their breakthrough performance, particularly their landmark victory over eight-time champions Karnataka. The achievement, he said, came after a long gap of 67 years and stands as a "moment of



pride" for J&K cricket and an inspiration for young athletes across the region.

He noted that the development reflects sustained government efforts to expand sports infrastructure, tourism and industrial opportunities in Jammu and Kashmir, enabling greater youth participation in diverse fields, including professional sports.

GI Willow Bat Called Symbol Of J&K Craftsmanship During the programme, the minister received a GI-tagged Kashmir willow cricket bat as a warm gesture from the

J&K team, which he later acknowledged on social media.

Goyal described the bat as a powerful symbol of India's craftsmanship and intellectual property strength, stating that it is among the most prominent sports-related products to receive a Geographical Indication tag. He urged its wider global promotion and emphasised strengthening its manufacturing base within Jammu and Kashmir to boost visibility in international markets.

Push For Sports Manufacturing Hubs And

J&K Ecosystem

The minister called for developing dedicated sports manufacturing clusters in regions such as Jammu and Kashmir and Meerut, highlighting their potential to emerge as key hubs for sports goods production.

He stressed the need to scale up domestic manufacturing of equipment, including bats, balls, hockey gear, training aids and fitness equipment, saying this would strengthen indigenous value chains and generate employment. Focusing on

Jammu and Kashmir, he underlined the opportunity to build specialised manufacturing ecosystems that can support local livelihoods while positioning the region in national and global sports markets.

Goyal further urged innovators and students to convert ideas into intellectual property at an early stage, stressing the importance of ownership and value creation. He reiterated the government's guiding vision of innovate, patent, produce and prosper, noting that India's expanding free trade network is opening new opportunities for creators and manufacturers.

The minister also mentioned the India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement and recalled 100 years of sporting ties between the two countries. He highlighted the growing economic scale of sports, including rising valuations of franchise cricket teams and expanding sports viewership in India.

Goyal also referred to India's ambitions to host the 2036 Olympic Games and the inclusion of cricket in the Olympics, urging greater participation of youth from Jammu and Kashmir in global sporting platforms.

Referring to Sports Policy 2025, he emphasised strengthening school-level sports, expanding infrastructure, and ensuring equal opportunities nationwide. He cited initiatives such as sports academies for tribal talent and urged greater use of CSR funds for sports infrastructure, including open gyms and rural outreach.

Notably, the event also saw the launch of the Viksit Bharat Digital Matrix 2026, Design Hackathon, organised by DPIIT in collaboration with IIT Delhi, focusing on smart wearable technology and IP-driven innovation—(KNO)

### Goyal announces 3-year fee waiver for sports-related IP registrations

PIB

New Delhi, Apr 28: Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal on Tuesday announced that all intellectual property (IP) registrations related to sports—including trademarks, copyrights, patents, designs, traditional knowledge, and geographical indications—will be exempt from fees for a period of three years, effective immediately.

The announcement was made while addressing the World Intellectual Property Day celebrations in New Delhi, themed "IP and Sports: Ready, Set, Innovate!".

The waiver, announced as a special drive to promote innovation in the sports ecosystem, will apply across all categories of IP. The Minister also directed that a notification be issued with immediate effect and highlighted that, in addition to the fee exemption, the government will extend facilitation support under existing

schemes to assist innovators, students, artisans, and stakeholders in filing and securing IP rights, thereby easing their journey into the IP ecosystem.

The valedictory session of the programme featured the felicitation of the Jammu and Kashmir Ranji Trophy team by Shri Piyush Goyal for their historic performance. The team was honoured for securing a landmark victory after 67 years, including a notable win against an eight-time champion team, Karnataka. The achievement was highlighted as a moment of pride, reflecting the growing sporting potential of Jammu and Kashmir and serving as an inspiration for young athletes across the region.

The Minister noted that the development comes in the backdrop of sustained efforts by the Government to promote sports and create new opportunities in Jammu and Kashmir. He highlighted that increasing investments in infrastructure, coupled with expanding

avenues in tourism and industry, are enabling greater participation of youth in diverse fields, including sports. The victory was described as a signal of renewed confidence and opportunity, with young athletes from the region expected to excel at national and international levels in the years ahead.

The Minister underscored the importance of the Kashmir willow cricket bat, noting that it represents India's craftsmanship and IP strength. He highlighted that it is among the first and possibly the only sports-related product from India to have received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag, and emphasized the need to promote its manufacturing within Jammu and Kashmir to enhance its global presence.

The Minister called for the development of sports manufacturing clusters in regions such as Jammu and Kashmir, along with Meerut, highlighting their potential to emerge as key hubs in the sports goods sector. He stressed

the need to significantly boost domestic production of sports goods, including bats, balls, hockey equipment, training aids, and gym equipment, to strengthen indigenous manufacturing capabilities and support local value chains.

Focusing on Jammu and Kashmir, the Minister underlined the opportunity to leverage regional strengths to develop specialised manufacturing ecosystems, particularly in sports goods, which can enhance local livelihoods and position the region more prominently in national and global markets. He also encouraged innovation in sports formats and suggested that such innovations should be examined for appropriate intellectual property protection to ensure value creation and support the broader innovation-led growth of the sports sector.

Continued on [www.kashmirthunder.in](http://www.kashmirthunder.in)

## Delegation, Sharma call on LG Sinha



KT NEWS DESK

Jammu, Apr 28: Advocate Ankur Sharma, BJP Spokesperson called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, a delegation of LEAD - LJK Economic Growth and Development Dialogue, led by its Convener Harinder Gupta, called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

## Div Com Kashmir interacts with trade bodies

Extends invitation for Nasha Mukht J&K Pad Yatra

KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Apr 28: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg on Tuesday held an interaction with members of various trade bodies of Srinagar and representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to appreciate their active role against drug menace and extended invitation for participation in the Nasha Mukht J&K Pad Yatra, a mass movement aimed at raising awareness against drug abuse and narcotics.

During the interaction, the Divisional Commissioner stressed on the collective efforts of traders, civil society groups, NGOs and youth organizations for their enthusiastic involvement in the Pad Yatra, which will witness mass participation across the region.

He emphasized that such unified initiatives reflect the strong societal responsibility to



combat the growing menace of substance abuse.

Anshul Garg stressed that the fight against drugs requires sustained community engagement and coordination among all stakeholders. He urged trade associations and NGOs to mobilize their members for overwhelming participation in Pad Yatra on May 03 for spreading

awareness about the harmful effects of narcotics, particularly among the youth. On the occasion, participants shared their suggestions to further strengthen anti-drug campaigns, organizing awareness drives, and community outreach programs at the grassroots level.

Continued on [www.kashmirthunder.in](http://www.kashmirthunder.in)

## Jailed MP Er Rashid granted 1-week bail to visit ailing father

KNO

Srinagar, Apr 28: Delhi High Court on Tuesday granted one-week bail to jailed Member of Parliament Er Abdul Rashid Sheikh to visit his ailing father in Srinagar.

According to details available, the court observed that he has been in custody for more than 6 years. "After going through records, court is of the opinion that this is a fit case for grant of interim bail for one week," it noted.

He has been granted bail on the conditions that he will give Rs 1 lakh personal and surety bond of like amount, he will be accompanied by two police officials, he shall remain in the residence or hospital where his father is located the address of which will be provided. The court also noted that he

shall not be allowed to move out, use one mobile number which shall be in switched on mode. "He shall not try to contact any



witness or influence. There will not be any undue visitors except immediate family. The cost will be borne by the NIA," the court clarified—(KNO)

## CM's Advisor rules out dropping of Urdu syllabi from Tehsildar exams

REHAN QAYOUM MIR/ YOGESH

Jammu, Apr 28 (KNO): Senior leader of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference and Chief Minister's Advisor, Nasir Aslam Wani, on Tuesday dismissed claims regarding the removal of Urdu from the Tehsildar examination syllabus, asserting that no such decision has been taken by the government.

Responding to remarks by PDP leader Iltija Mufti, Wani told



reporters here that the concerned department had merely issued a notification inviting public objections on the subject, describing it as

part of a democratic process to gather feedback before any final decision.

Wani, who was flanked by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, underlined the continued importance of Urdu in revenue administration. "The language remains integral to official functioning, particularly for revenue officers who are required to read and interpret documents in Urdu," he added.

Continued on [www.kashmirthunder.in](http://www.kashmirthunder.in)

## LG Saxena appoints DCs, SPs for 5 new Ladakh districts within 24 hours of notification

'Remaining posts of subordinate officials to be filled on priority'

RAJA SYED RATHER

Leh, Apr 28: Just a day after the formation of five new districts in Ladakh, Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Monday approved the appointment of Deputy Commissioners (DCs) and Superintendents of Police (SPs) for all five newly created districts - Nubra, Sham, Changthang, Zaskar, and Drass

- to ensure immediate operationalisation of governance structures.

The Lieutenant Governor exhorted the newly appointed officials to take charge without any delay and work with full vigour and dedication to fulfil the aspirations of the people. Saxena said the remaining posts of subordinate officials will also be filled on priority, apart from fulfilling logistical requirements, to ensure smooth and

effective functioning. "A robust administrative framework is being put in place to support long-term governance and development goals," he said, adding that decentralised governance will significantly improve service delivery, enhance administrative efficiency, and strengthen law and order at the grassroots level.

Continued on [www.kashmirthunder.in](http://www.kashmirthunder.in)

## EDITORIAL

### A New Roadmap For Indian Sports

The Srinagar Khel Sankalp document is a big step for sports in India. For the first time, leaders from the Centre and states have sat together and made a common plan. They have promised to work as one team. This document says something new. Sport is not just about winning medals. It can grow the economy. It can bring tourism. It can create jobs. It can bring young people together. The document says

that "sports will not be a footnote but a rising chapter in India's renaissance". That means sports will no longer be ignored. It will become a main story of India's progress. One big problem in Indian sports has been that everyone works alone. Federations do their own thing. States have their own plans. The Centre does something else. The Khel Sankalp document says this must stop. Everyone must move as one. They must

speak in one voice. Another good thing is how the document looks at India's diversity. It says our different cultures, geographies, and traditions are not problems. They are strengths. Every state has its own special sports. The document says we should find talent from every corner of the country. Build sports centres based on local strengths. That is how champions are made—not by picking from a few cities, but by giving every

child a chance. Famous athletes like Abhinav Bindra, Pullela Gopichand, and Gagan Narang were part of these discussions. Their ideas come from real experience. They know what works and what does not. But a document is just paper. The real test is what happens on the ground. In playgrounds. In coaching centres. On podiums. The government must now allocate dedicated budgets, establish timelines, create monitoring

mechanisms, and hold federations and states accountable for delivering on the shared targets. India still needs better sports infrastructure. Better coaches. Better systems to find talent. And if we want to host the Olympics, we need long-term planning. The resolution has been made in Srinagar. Now the hard work begins. Every child who dreams of sports is waiting. We must not let them down.

# Manufacturing Hubs: Building Integrated Industrial Ecosystems

## Introduction

Manufacturing is a foundational pillar of India's economy, contributing around 16-17 percent of GDP and employing over 27 million workers. As the country works towards transforming from a \$3.7 trillion economy to a \$30-35 trillion economy by 2047, manufacturing is expected to play a central role, with its share in GDP rising to at least 25 percent.

In this context, India's manufacturing strategy has increasingly focused on the development of integrated manufacturing hubs—spatial ecosystems that combine physical infrastructure, regulatory support, common facilities, and connectivity. These hubs are designed to support scale, reduce transaction costs, and anchor long-term manufacturing activity, strengthening India's position within domestic and global production networks.

Manufacturing Hubs in a Changing Global Context

The Economic Survey 2025-26 observed that global manufacturing is undergoing a structural transition, with competitiveness shaped less by low-cost production and more by reliability, resilience, and strategic indispensability. As production processes become more technology-intensive and system-dependent, the ability to operate within stable, integrated manufacturing environments has emerged as a critical determinant of long-term industrial competitiveness.

Countries that are able to provide stable production environments—supported by infrastructure, logistics, skills, and institutional coordination—are better positioned to sustain manufacturing activity and retain long-term production mandates.

This global shift and the ongoing industrial momentum have been underpinned by a move towards high-technology manufacturing and a growing emphasis on strategic indispensability within Global Value Chains (GVCs). As manufacturing becomes increasingly technology-intensive and system-dependent, this underscores the importance of preparedness, productivity, and the capacity to scale. Manufacturing hubs providing integrated ecosystems with shared infrastructure, supply chain linkages, and logistics connectivity enable firms to operate at scale, move up the value chain, and integrate more effectively into global production networks.

What is a Global Value Chain (GVC)?

A GVC consists of a series of stages involved in producing goods or services, with each stage adding value and at least two stages occurring in different countries.

India's Industrial Manufacturing Trajectory  
India's infrastructure approach has undergone a structural transformation, with the focus moving from project-level execution to system-level planning. Such system-level planning directly enhances the effectiveness of manufacturing hubs by reducing bottlenecks, improving logistics efficiency, and supporting timely execution.

Global investment trends increasingly recognise India as a preferred manufacturing destination. The country is currently ranked as the third most sought-after manufacturing location worldwide. At the same time, the composition of production is evolving, with medium- and high-technology activities accounting for 46.3% of total manufacturing value added, indicating a gradual shift towards more sophisticated industrial structures.

India's Manufacturing Hub Landscape

The manufacturing hub landscape across the country has evolved into a multi-layered ecosystem, reflecting differences in scale, sectoral requirements, and spatial planning. Rather than following a single model, policy interventions have supported diverse forms of manufacturing hubs. The manufacturing landscape today comprises large integrated parks, sector-specific ecosystems, MSME clusters, and corridor-linked industrial nodes, each designed to address specific production, logistics, and value-chain needs.

Large Integrated Manufacturing Hubs

These are master-planned industrial zones with plug-and-play infrastructure that host anchor manufacturers and their supplier ecosystems in one location. They provide shared utilities, logistics, and support infrastructure, enabling quick project implementation and economies of scale. These parks may be multi-sector or sector-anchored and can be developed independently or within industrial corridors.



Plug-and-Play Infrastructure: Ready-to-use facilities that minimise setup time and costs, enabling industries to operationalise quickly and achieve faster returns on investment.

National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP) is a transformative initiative designed to establish Greenfield Industrial Smart Cities across India, positioning the country as a global manufacturing hub. To date, 20 industrial smart cities have been approved by the Government of India, covering 7 industrial corridors and 13 states. Of these, 4 industrial smart cities—Dholera (Gujarat), Shendra-Bidkin (Maharashtra), Integrated Industrial Township at Greater Noida (Uttar Pradesh), and Integrated Industrial Township at Vikram Udyogpuri near Ujjain (Madhya Pradesh)—have been completed, while the other 16 are under various stages of development. These industrial nodes are being developed with plug-and-play infrastructure and multimodal connectivity.

PM MITRA (Pradhan Mantri Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel) represents large integrated manufacturing hubs tailored for the textile value chain, combining processing, manufacturing, logistics, and common facilities within a single park framework. These parks have been announced in seven states, including Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Maharashtra.

Sector-Specific Manufacturing Ecosystems

Certain manufacturing sectors require specialised and capital-intensive infrastructure, making ecosystem-based manufacturing hubs essential. These hubs integrate production units with supplier networks, testing, regulatory, and skilling infrastructure to support complete value chains.

- Bulk Drug Park Scheme: This scheme facilitates the establishment of three Bulk Drug Parks in Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, and Andhra Pradesh to reduce the cost of bulk drug manufacturing through the creation of world-class common infrastructure. These parks provide shared facilities, including solvent recovery plants and common effluent treatment systems, to improve efficiency and environmental compliance.

- Semiconductor and electronics ecosystems are supported under the Semicon India Programme and the Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS) 2.0, covering fabrication, assembly, packaging, and testing. These hubs are designed to strengthen domestic manufacturing capacity in critical sectors while improving integration with global value chains.

- Biopharma SHAKTI (Strategy for Healthcare Advancement through Knowledge, Technology and Innovation) has been announced with an outlay of 10,000 crore over the next 5 years to develop India as a global biopharma manufacturing hub.

Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Manufacturing Clusters

MSMEs constitute a core pillar of India's manufacturing ecosystem, with significant implications for manufacturing hubs at the regional level. MSMEs account for 35.4% of manufacturing output, contribute 48.58% of exports, and generate 31.1% of GDP,

highlighting their substantial role in India's industrial economy.

The MSME sector comprises over 7.47 crore enterprises and employs more than 32.82 crore persons, making it the second-largest source of employment after agriculture. With such scale, MSMEs are central to the development of manufacturing hubs, particularly in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, where clusters often form around shared skills, local supplier networks, and cost advantages.

- The Micro & Small Enterprises - Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP) supports infrastructure creation, Common Facility Centres (CFCs), and technology upgradation in MSME clusters. Under MSE-CDP, a total of 580 projects have been approved, comprising 227 CFCs and 353 Infrastructure Development (ID) projects.

- The India Industrial Land Bank (IILB) maps industrial estates, clusters, parks, and zones across the country.

- State Industrial Development Corporations develop and manage industrial estates for MSMEs.

Corridor-Linked Industrial Nodes

Complementing these hub models are corridor-enabled industrial regions, which emphasise spatial integration and logistics efficiency as part of a broader industrial ecosystem, rather than functioning as standalone production units. These corridors provide trunk infrastructure, freight connectivity, and multimodal logistics, enabling industrial concentration at scale.

Trunk Infrastructure: Higher-order infrastructure development with the primary purpose of serving 'catchment' areas to be shared between developments, commonly provided by local governments. It includes the development of water supply, drainage, sewerage/septage, roads, street lighting,

electricity, etc.

Industrial corridors such as the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC), Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (CBIC), Amritsar-Kolkata Industrial Corridor (AKIC), and Vizag-Chennai Industrial Corridor (VICC) are designed to support manufacturing hubs and clusters by improving connectivity and facilitating integrated planning across regions.

State Capacity and On-Ground Execution  
The performance of manufacturing infrastructure hubs is overall shaped by state capacity in land aggregation, trunk infrastructure provisioning, and regulatory approvals. Strengthening execution and coordination has therefore been a key focus of recent infrastructure policy initiatives.

To address coordination challenges in infrastructure planning and delivery, the Government has launched the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan, an integrated platform that brings together infrastructure-related data and projects of 44 central ministries and 36 states and Union Territories. The initiative enables coordinated planning of transport, logistics, and utility infrastructure, with a focus on multimodal connectivity, last-mile linkages, and time-bound execution.

To reinforce infrastructure creation, public capital expenditure has increased substantially in recent years. Government capital outlay has grown from 2 lakh crore in FY2014-15 to a Budget Estimate of 12.2 lakh crore in 2026-27. This sustained increase has strengthened the physical backbone required for large manufacturing ecosystems, including industrial parks, logistics infrastructure, and freight connectivity.

What Is Capital Expenditure?

When the Government incurs expenditure to create assets such as schools, hospitals, buildings, roads, bridges, canals, and railway lines, or reduces its liability (such as repayment of loans), such expenditure is known as capital expenditure.

Institutional mechanisms have also been introduced to improve project preparedness and execution capacity. The India Infrastructure Project Development Fund (IIPDF) supports Central and State authorities by financing transaction advisers to develop bankable infrastructure projects, helping create a robust project pipeline. In parallel, the National Infrastructure Enablement Index (NIEI) has been developed to assess the institutional preparedness of States/UTs and Central Ministries and Departments for infrastructure delivery.

These measures have improved the enabling environment for manufacturing hubs. State-level initiatives across the country illustrate the development of manufacturing hubs across different sectors and regions:

- Uttar Pradesh is developing the Defence Industrial Corridor across six nodes, including Aligarh, Agra, Chitrakoot, Jhansi, Kanpur, and Lucknow, to support defence and aerospace manufacturing.

- Tamil Nadu, also known as the Detroit of Asia, has expanded electronics and automobile manufacturing clusters, supported by dedicated industrial parks and logistics infrastructure.

- Gujarat continues to leverage industrial estates and port-linked manufacturing hubs to attract large-scale manufacturing investment.

- Meanwhile, industrial corridors, including the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor and the Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor, further reflect coordinated Centre-State execution, with industrial nodes developed through joint institutional frameworks and phased infrastructure provisioning.

Policy Support for Infrastructure Hubs and Budget Announcements

The policy framework in recent years has focused on the creation of integrated infrastructure-led manufacturing, recognising that sustained industrial competitiveness depends on infrastructure, coordination, and execution rather than firm-level interventions alone.

This strategic approach is reflected in mission-oriented initiatives such as the National Manufacturing Mission, PM MITRA Parks, PM Gati Shakti, Digital Public Platforms (like ULIP), sector-specific capacity-building measures, and the development of industrial corridors, parks, and clusters that combine physical infrastructure with institutional support. Together, these interventions aim to minimise logistics friction, financing delays, and coordination losses that previously constrained industrial competitiveness.

The Union Budget 2026-27 lays the foundation by advancing infrastructure-led manufacturing through focused support for manufacturing parks, shared facilities, and improved connectivity. The Budget reinforces the hub-based approach to manufacturing, with an emphasis on scale, reliability, and stronger linkages across value chains.

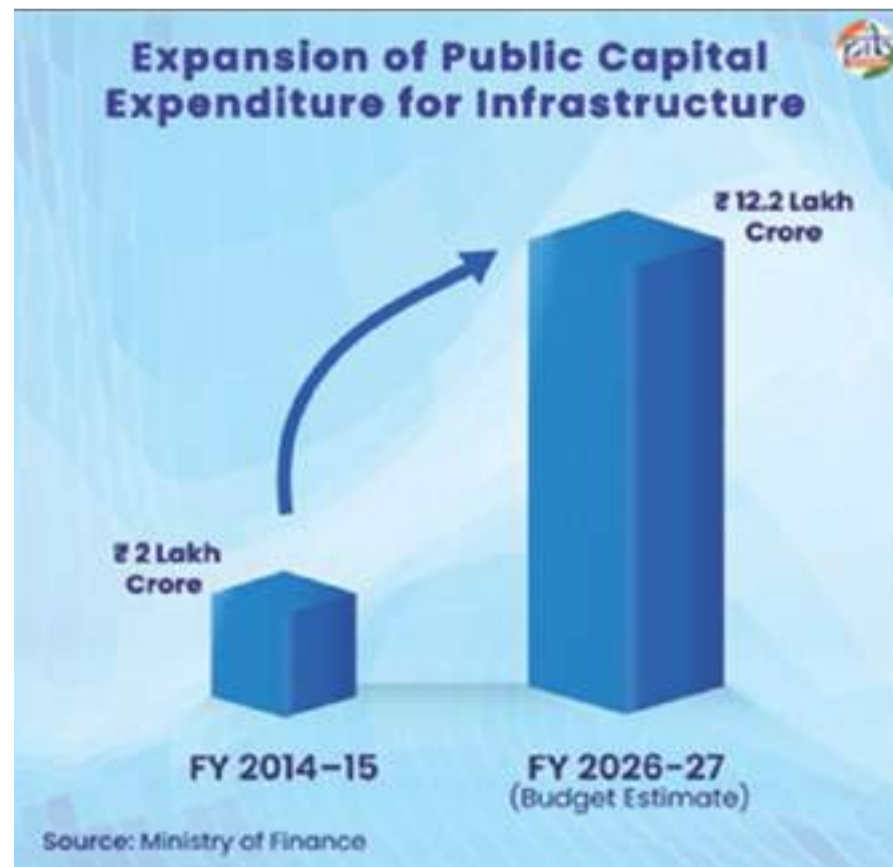
2026-27 Key Budget Announcements: Manufacturing Hubs

The government has announced several key initiatives across different sectors. In the chemicals sector, three new chemical parks will be established to strengthen cluster-based chemical manufacturing with shared utilities, safety infrastructure, and logistics connectivity. In the textiles sector, the government will continue implementation of seven PM MITRA parks approved earlier, aimed at creating large, integrated textile manufacturing hubs. For MSME manufacturing clusters, cluster-based manufacturing and common facility centres will be strengthened to support MSME access to shared production, testing, and quality infrastructure. In capital goods and industrial support infrastructure, support will be provided for tool rooms, testing, and calibration facilities to strengthen domestic capital goods and industrial manufacturing capability. Regarding infrastructure planning linked to manufacturing, the rollout of PM Gati Shakti will continue for coordinated, multimodal planning of infrastructure connected to industrial and manufacturing locations. For the global biopharma and manufacturing hub, an initiative called Biopharma SHAKTI has been launched with an outlay of 10,000 crore over five years to build a biopharma-focused manufacturing ecosystem, which includes three new National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPERs) and a national network of over 1,000 accredited clinical trial sites.

Conclusion

As India works towards its goal of becoming a Viksit Bharat by 2047, manufacturing is expected to play a crucial role in supporting sustained economic growth and employment generation. The Economic Survey and Union Budgets reflect the importance of policy support and public investment in strengthening manufacturing through infrastructure-led development and integrated industrial ecosystems.

An important element of this strategy is the growing focus on Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, where manufacturing hubs are benefiting from cost advantages, local skills, and improved connectivity. Continued emphasis on such regions, supported by coordinated government policies and infrastructure development, will be essential for ensuring that manufacturing-led growth is broad-based, resilient, and aligned with India's long-term development objectives.



The views expressed by contributors on this page are their own and do not necessarily reflect the policies or positions of the newspaper

## Sports, culture, skills key to channel youth energies positively: ACS Tourism

KT News Desk

BUDGAM, APRIL 28: The district administration Budgam Tuesday organized a comprehensive programme under the 100 Day Jammu and Kashmir Nasha Mukht Abhiyan at Sheikh-ul-Alam Degree College, Budgam, aimed at strengthening the public awareness and collective action against drug abuse.

The programme was graced by Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) Tourism, Dr. Ashish Chandra Verma, who is also the district mentor for Budgam.

The event, as per an official statement, commenced with the flag-off of the "Run for Nasha Mukht JK", symbolizing a united pledge towards a drug-free society. This was followed by a plantation drive, reinforcing the message of sustainable and healthy living.

A signature campaign witnessed enthusiastic participation of the students and stakeholders, highlighting community commitment to the cause.



In his keynote address, Dr. Verma lauded the district administration and participating institutions for their proactive role in implementing the Nasha Mukht Abhiyan.

The ACS stressed the need for sustained awareness campaigns, community participation and institutional accountability in curbing the drug abuse. He directed all the departments to adopt a mission-mode approach, ensure regular outreach in educational institutions and strengthen the counseling and rehabilitation mechanisms. He further emphasized the importance of youth engagement

through sports, culture and skill-based initiatives to channel their energies positively.

Dr. Verma also underscored the need for inter-departmental coordination, strict enforcement against drug peddling and enhanced vigilance at vulnerable points. He called for leveraging local leadership, including Panchayati Raj Institutions and civil society, to amplify the impact of the campaign.

Deputy Commissioner Budgam Athar Aamir Khan in his remarks, reiterated the district administration's commitment towards making Budgam a drug-free district through

coordinated efforts. He highlighted that a multi-pronged strategy involving awareness, enforcement and rehabilitation is being actively pursued.

Senior Superintendent of Police Budgam Hariprasad KK and Principal Degree college Dr. Amin also spoke on the occasion.

The programme concluded with the administration of a pledge against drug abuse by the chief guest, followed by a vote of thanks.

Others present were PO ICDS, CHO, district officers, students, NSS volunteers, NCC cadets and local citizens.

## DIPR Cultural Unit Jammu promotes anti-drug campaign

KT News Desk

JAMMU, APRIL 28: Continuing its outreach under the "Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir - 100 Day Campaign", the Cultural Unit of the Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR) Jammu Tuesday organised a Symposium-cum-Theme Based Cultural Programme here at Doon International School.

The programme, as per an official statement, was aimed at sensitising students about the harmful effects of drug abuse and motivating them to adopt a healthy and responsible lifestyle.

Students actively participated in the symposium and shared insightful views on the subject, reflecting awareness towards building a drug-free society. Ashuaya Malik secured the first position for an impressive presentation, whereas Gurveer Singh and Prikshit Singh were adjudged second and third respectively.

The Chief Guest, Vice Principal Dr. Sarita Moza Kaul along with Special Guest Sajjad and Headmistress Shivali Singh,



appreciated the initiative and encouraged students to act as ambassadors for spreading awareness against drug abuse. They also acted as jury for the symposium.

The competition was coordinated by Amardeep Kaur and Avneet Kour, while the proceedings were conducted by Maleena Mushtaq.

Adding further impact to the programme, a Nukkad Natak on Nasha Mukht was presented by the students of the school, effectively conveying a strong social message. The artists of

the Cultural Unit Jammu also presented theme-based songs in Hindi and Punjabi, which inspired the audience and reinforced the campaign's message.

The programme witnessed active participation from students, staff members and faculty, making it a meaningful awareness initiative.

The programme was conducted under the direction of Joint Director Information Jammu Deepak Dubey and under the supervision of Cultural Officer Mohit Sharma.

## Unity March Rally held in Srinagar



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, APRIL 28: Department of Physical Education and College Well-Being And Anti-Substance Cell (CWASC) of Government College of Education (IASE), M.A. Road, Srinagar, in collaboration with the Nodal Principal, Kashmir Division Colleges, and the District Administration Srinagar, organized a Unity March Rally under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) to spread awareness against substance abuse and promote a sense of collective social responsibility among students and the general public.

On the occasion, Prof. (Dr.) Seema Naz, as per an official statement, highlighted the objectives of the rally, stressing the crucial role of youth in building a drug-free society.

She said such initiatives are aimed at sensitizing students about the ill effects of substance abuse and strengthening community participation in prevention efforts.

The rally commenced from Government College of Education, M.A. Road, Srinagar, and passed through Maulana Azad Road, Polo View, and the GPO, footbridge Raj Bagh and culminating back at the college premises.

The event witnessed wide participation from students, faculty members, and officials, reflecting strong support for the nationwide campaign against drug abuse.

Among those present on the occasion were Prof. Lateef Shah, Prof. Alaf Shah Syed, Prof. Shawana Manzoor, Arshad Sauleh, Daljeet Kour, Dr. Qazi Inam, and others.

## Baramulla buzzes with sporting spirit

KT News Desk

BARAMULLA, APRIL 28: Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) Baramulla continues to energize the sporting landscape of the district through a series of Inter-School Zonal Level Competitions held under the dual banner of the Annual Sports Calendar 2026 and the ongoing Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan (100 Days Campaign).

In Zone Kunzer, an Inter-School Zonal Level Badminton Competition for Boys Under-14 and Under-17 categories was successfully conducted at the Playfield, HSS Kunzer. The event witnessed spirited participation from 32 teams representing various government and private institutions, reflecting the growing enthusiasm for sports among youth.

Meanwhile, Zone Wagoora organized an Inter-School Zonal Level Volleyball Tournament for Under-14 boys at HS Watergam, drawing participation from 180 students across multiple institutions. Similarly, Zone Nehalpora conducted Inter-School Volleyball Tournaments for Under-14 and Under-17 girls at BMS Waripora, with 70 students actively participating.

Zone Chandanwari also marked its presence by



successfully organizing an Inter-School Zonal Level Volleyball Tournament for Under-17 boys under the banner of NMBA (Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan) and Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir. The tournament witnessed participation from various schools, with a total of 96 students showcasing their talent and sportsmanship.

In Zone Singhpora Pattan, Inter-School Zonal Level Badminton Competitions for both boys and girls in Under-14 and Under-17 categories were kick-started under the NMBA initiative, aimed at building a drug-free society. On the opening day, more than 100 participants enthusiastically took part in the competitions.

Adding to the sporting fervor,

Zone Baramulla organized an Inter-School Badminton Competition for Under-14 boys at the prestigious Bipin Rawat Stadium. The competition, as per an official statement, saw 26 teams competing in the doubles category and 23 teams in singles, with students from diverse educational institutions participating with zeal and determination.

Speaking on the sidelines of these events, DYSSO Baramulla, Sheikh Shafiq Iqbal stated that these competitions are being conducted as part of the Annual Sports Calendar 2026, alongside the dedicated schedule issued under the Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan, aimed at engaging youth in constructive activities and steering them away from substance abuse.

## GCOE Srinagar holds awareness drive



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, APRIL 28: College Wellbeing and Anti-Substance Cell of Government College of Education (GCoE), M.A. Road, Srinagar, on Monday organised an awareness programme at its auditorium in collaboration with the Nodal Principal, Kashmir Division Colleges, and the District Administration Srinagar.

The programme, as per an official statement, was held under the theme "From Awareness to Action: Combating Substance Abuse with Community and Police Support," with the objective of sensitising students and the wider community about the harmful effects of substance abuse and the need for collective action.

Prof. (Dr.) Seema Naz, Nodal Principal, Kashmir Division Colleges, served as the patron of the event. Umar Shah, SP Headquarters Srinagar, and Syed Sleet Shah, DySP Headquarters Srinagar, were the key speakers.

Among others who addressed the gathering were Prof. Lateef Shah and Syed Bilquees Alsam Shah.

The speakers underscored the vital role of community participation and coordinated efforts with law enforcement agencies in tackling the growing menace of substance abuse.

The event saw active participation from students, faculty members, and officials, reflecting a shared commitment towards building a drug-free society.

## Yoga session held at Mini-Secretariat Ganderbal

KT News Desk

GANDERBAL, APRIL 28: District Administration Ganderbal Tuesday organised a large-scale yoga session at the DC Office Lawns, bringing together students, government employees, and residents in a united stand against drug abuse.

The event, as per an official statement, was presided over by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Ganderbal, Syed Faheem Bihagi, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Principal, Government College of Physical Education; Deputy Superintendent of Police Hqs; and other officers and officials at the Mini-Secretariat Lawns, with parallel sessions held simultaneously across schools, colleges, and public spaces throughout the district.

The initiative is part of the Nasha Mukht Abhiyan (NMBA@100), a structured 100 day campaign being implemented under the vision of the Honorable Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir to free the Union Territory drug-free. Ganderbal's administration has drawn up a dedicated 100-day district calendar anchoring health awareness at the centre of this mission.

On the occasion, trained yoga instructors led the participants through a series of structured yoga sessions, guiding them



step by step through postures and breathing exercises aimed at promoting physical fitness and mental calm.

Speaking on the occasion, the ADC said that yoga activity has dual impact as it builds physical resilience while also strengthening mental well-being, both of which are recognised as key protective factors against substance dependency. He said the administration believes that nurturing healthy daily habits, particularly among young people, is among the most sustainable ways to keep communities drug-free.

"Tuesday's yoga drive, however, is only one component of a broader and coordinated district-wide effort.

On the enforcement front, authorities are carrying out sustained action against drug peddlers and supply networks operating across the district. Alongside this, the administration is running sports competitions, public awareness marches, and door-to-door outreach campaigns to engage communities directly," Bihagi said.

He added that schools and colleges are also at the heart of this effort, with targeted educational programmes designed to reach young people before substance abuse takes hold. Taken together, these measures are driving home a single, clear message "Say No to Drugs, Yes to Life" into every household across Ganderbal.

The administration has set a clear and time-bound target to declare Ganderbal a drug-free district within the 100-day campaign window. Officials have emphasised that achieving this goal calls for participation from every section of society viz. families, teachers, religious leaders, youth groups, and local institutions alike and that the momentum built so far is a strong foundation for the days ahead.

"Physical wellness and community solidarity are our strongest tools in this fight. When people are healthy, engaged, and connected, they are far less vulnerable to the trap of substance abuse. We invite every citizen of Ganderbal to be an active part of this mission," the ADC added.

## Leagues of Classics Cricket Tournament begins at Padder



KT News Desk

KISHTWAR, APRIL 28: The League of Classics-An Inter District UT Level Cricket tournament for U/17 Boys began Tuesday at Sports Stadium Padder amid a grand inaugural ceremony. The Department of Youth Services & Sports has organized the sports event under the ongoing 100 Day Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan.

The tournament, as per an official statement, is witnessing the participation from 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir, reflecting a remarkable spirit of unity, discipline and healthy competition among young cricketers from across the Union Territory.

The inaugural function was attended by local SDPO Vijay Bhagat as the Chief Guest, who formally declared the tournament open.

The Chief Guest encouraged the participating players to exhibit sportsmanship, discipline and dedication while utilizing sports as a constructive tool to stay away from social evils, particularly drug abuse. He appreciated the Department of Youth Services & Sports for organizing such a

prestigious event in the remote region of Padder and thanked all departmental officials for their dedicated efforts.

Earlier, the inaugural ceremony began with the recital of the National Anthem, followed by the administration of the Nasha Mukht pledge, where players, officials and spectators collectively pledged to work towards building a drug-free society.

The event was organized under the direction of Director General Youth Services & Sports J&K Anuradha Gupta and under the supervision of District Development Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma and guidance of DYSSO Jaffer Haider Sheikh.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by officials from civil and police departments, besides officials from Army, whose presence added grandeur to the occasion.

The inaugural match of the tournament was played between Jammu and Bandipora amid great enthusiasm and cheering from spectators. The match set the tone for an exciting tournament ahead and showcased the talent and competitive spirit of the young players.

## KU organises free medical camp for respiratory diseases, mental health

KT News Desk

Srinagar April 28: The University of Kashmir's (KU) Health Centre in collaboration with J&K Association of Chest Physicians and Paras Health Srinagar organised a free medical camp for respiratory disease and mental health under the Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyaan at the Main Campus under the aegis of the Department of Students Welfare (DSW) KU. The camp, as per a KU statement, aimed to promote health awareness and provide medical support services, including respiratory care, mental health counselling, and basic diagnostic facilities.

During her visit to the camp, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, said, "Universities must actively promote preventive healthcare and mental well-being by creating awareness and ensuring access to timely medical guidance and counselling services for students and the community."

Registrar KU, Prof. Naseer Iqbal, said that collaborative health initiatives within educational institutions are important for encouraging awareness, early diagnosis, and informed lifestyle choices among young people.

Coordinator, Health Centre KU, Dr. Khalid Nazir, said that the camp was organised to

encourage timely medical consultation and provide accessible healthcare services, particularly in areas related to mental well-being and respiratory-related health concerns.

Medical experts who participated in the camp included Dr. Rajinder Singh, Chest Specialist, former Dean GMC Jammu; Dr. Naveed Nazir, Professor and Head, Pulmonary Medicine CD Hospital GMC Srinagar; Dr. Naeem Firdous, Senior Consultant, Pulmonary Medicine, Paras Health; Dr. Arshid Ahmad Sofi, Senior Resident, Pulmonary Medicine, CD Hospital GMC Srinagar; and Madeeha Mukhtar, Clinical Psychologist, IMHANS.

The camp included facilities for Pulmonary Function Test (PFT), HbA1C, blood sugar testing, Forced Oscillation Technique (FOT), allergic rhinitis detection through Kribado Machine, and targeted mental health sessions.

Participants expressed satisfaction with the facilities and consultations provided during the camp. Huge number of students, scholars, employees, and members of the university community attended the camp and availed the healthcare services.

The camp was managed by Dr. Surayya Jan and Dr. Azhar Ahad, Medical Officers, Health Centre KU.

## RTI 'exposes' PDP's 'political duplicity' in RS polls: NC

Accuses party of enabling BJP victory in Rajya Sabha elections

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Apr 28: National Conference (NC) on Tuesday launched a scathing attack on the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) following an RTI disclosure that has raised serious questions over the PDP's role in the recent Rajya Sabha elections.

Reacting sharply, NC State Spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar, in a statement issued here, said the RTI findings have "completely exposed the duplicity and double-speak" of the PDP. He pointed out that the PDP was the only political party in Jammu and Kashmir that failed to appoint a chief election agent to monitor voting during the Rajya Sabha polls.

"In a contest of such

significance, the absence of a polling agent from a major political party is not just negligence, it's criminal and raises serious questions on PDP's claim of being a pro-Kashmiri party. The outcome, where the BJP secured the seat despite lacking the required numbers, now appears far from coincidental," he said.

He added that the revelations, brought to light through the Right to Information Act, have "made it clear where the BJP's additional support came from". "This is no longer a matter of coincidence. The facts have emerged through an institutional mechanism, exposing the real source of support that enabled the BJP's victory," he asserted.

Lambasting the PDP's "hol-

low anti-BJP rhetoric", Imran said the party has consistently misled the people of Jammu and Kashmir. "On one hand, they pretend to oppose the BJP in public rallies; on the other, their actions directly aid and strengthen the same party in Parliament and beyond. This is nothing but a continuation of the opportunistic politics we saw during the 2014 PDP-BJP alliance," he said.

The NC spokesperson further said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir deserve to know the truth, not stage-managed narratives and covert understandings. He asked the PDP leadership to come clean before the public instead of resorting to what he termed as political theatrics. "The mask has now fallen. The people can clearly see who stands where," Imran added.



A herd of sheep grazing in the lush green meadows of central Kashmir's Budgam district. Pic: Jahangir Shah (KNO/KT)

## SC to deliver verdict on pleas concerning hate speeches today

PTI

New Delhi, Apr 28: The Supreme Court will pronounce its verdict on a batch of petitions related to hate speeches on Wednesday.

According to the apex court's cause list of April 29, a bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta will deliver the judgement.

On January 20, the apex court observed that it would close most of the petitions related to hate speeches pending since 2021, and in which the court had asked the police to suo motu register FIRs.

The bench reserved its verdict on these petitions, filed by various individuals, after the Centre, Delhi Police, and the Uttar Pradesh government asserted that they had substantially complied with the court's directives.

The bench had said that the petitioners could pursue their remedies in accordance with the law.

On April 28, 2023, the top court extended the scope of its 2022 order beyond three states and directed all states and Union Territories to register cases against individuals guilty of making hate speeches, regardless of whether a formal complaint was lodged.

It termed hate speeches a "serious offence capable of affecting the secular fabric of the



country". The top court noted that its October 21, 2022, order shall be made applicable irrespective of religion, warning that any delay in registering cases will be treated as contempt of the court.

Emphasising that the Constitution envisages a secular nation, the apex court had in 2022 directed Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Delhi to promptly register criminal cases against the offenders without waiting for a complaint to be filed.

The apex court had warned that any delay from the administration in taking action on this "very serious issue" would invite contempt action.

The top court's order came on one of the pleas, which had initially sought direction to the governments of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand to register cases against those delivering hate speeches.

Later, an application was filed in the court seeking implementation of the October 2022 order across states and UTs.

## Allahabad HC says 'kinnar' community not entitled to seek 'badhai'

PTI

Lucknow, Apr 28: The Allahabad High Court on Tuesday held that members of the 'kinnar' community do not have any legal right to demand the traditional 'badhai' or 'neg' -- customary monetary offerings on auspicious occasions -- observing that such demands could amount to an offence under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

Justice Alok Mathur and Justice Amitabh Kumar Rai of the Lucknow bench passed the order while dismissing a writ petition filed by one Rekha Devi, a transgender person from Gonda district, who had sought demarcation of a specific territory for

collecting 'neg'.

The petitioner sought to earmark an area from Kati Ka Pul in Jarwal town to Ghaghra Ghat and up to Saryu Bridge in Colonelganj as her exclusive zone, claiming she had been collecting 'badhai' there for several years.

Her counsel argued that frequent disputes and clashes occur when others from the community enter the same area and that the long-standing practice amounted to a customary right.

Rejecting the plea, the court held that any levy, tax or fee can only be collected under authority of law and the practice of collecting money in the name of 'badhai' or 'jajmani' has no legal sanction.

"Extraction money from any individual wilfully or otherwise cannot be permitted, and any citizen can only be directed to pay such amounts as are legitimately authorised by law," the bench observed.

The court also noted that the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, does not provide for any such right.

Dismissing the petition, the bench said granting such a plea would effectively legitimise illegal extortion and could encourage criminal activities. It added that such extraction has never been sanctioned by law and may attract penal provisions under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

## UK summons Iranian ambassador over 'unacceptable' social media comments

REUTERS

London, Apr 28: Britain said on Tuesday the Iranian ambassador to London had been summoned over what the government described as the Iranian embassy's "unacceptable and inflammatory" comments on social media.

Britain's minister for the Middle East, Hamish Falconer, made clear that the embassy "must cease any form of communications that could be interpreted as encouraging

violence in the UK or internationally," the Foreign Office said in a statement.

Iranian officials in Tehran could not be immediately reached for comment on Britain's move.

A statement posted by the Iranian embassy on its Telegram channel earlier this month called on Iranians in Britain to volunteer for a campaign to declare their willingness to sacrifice their lives in a war in defense of their country.

The British government did not specify which of the embassy's social media comments it was referring to. British lawmakers have warned of significant and wide-ranging threats posed by Iran to Britain.

The government also summoned the Iranian ambassador last month after an Iranian national and a British-Iranian dual national were charged on suspicion of helping Iran's intelligence services.

## Two senior JKAS officers accorded grand farewell on superannuation



KT News Desk

Jammu, Apr 30: Two senior JKAS officers, Naresh Kumar, Joint Director Hospitality and Protocol Jammu, and Kartar Singh, Additional Secretary, Rural Development Department, were accorded a grand farewell on their superannuation during a function held at the Conference Hall, Guest House, here on Wednesday.

Senior officers of the Civil, Police, and Accounts services of the 2004 batch, including Director Industries Jammu, Director Education Jammu, and Director Hospitality and Protocol, were present on the occasion.

On the occasion, the contribution of both officers in their

capacities as DSWO, BDO, SDMS, and Joint Directors was highlighted, and their work for the welfare and development of the common people of Jammu in particular and Jammu and Kashmir in general was highly appreciated.

The speakers appreciated their roles in Revenue, the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, and other developmental departments. The speakers underlined that the illustrious careers of both officers, spanning over 20 years, will be written in golden letters and shall remain a beacon for youngsters for ages to come.

On the occasion, the superannuating officers were also felicitated with mementos as a mark of respect.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### KPs endured

profound hardships beyond the genocide, a wound time cannot fully heal. He said initiatives like Radio Sharda provided a vital lifeline, reinforcing community bonds.

The Lieutenant Governor also felicitated prominent citizens of the community from diverse fields for their contribution to the society. (KNO)

### Hydel power

that a total of 14,659.92 MUs from renewable sources were generated by J&K including 375.01 MUs by the small hydro projects and 14,284.91 MUs from large hydro projects.

As already reported by KNO, Jammu and Kashmir has indicated that a power load requirement of up to 7 Gigawatts (GWs) by the coming five years needs to be considered in the winter season—signalling major infrastructure upgrades to avoid seasonal blackouts.

The officials have conservatively trimmed the load requirement to 5 GW by the financial year 2029-30.

As per the documents, the statutory body Northern Regional Power Committee (NRPC) in a joint study meeting has said that "J&K indicated that a load of 6-7GW needs to be considered in the winter season by 2029-30."

"However, on conservative side load is considered to the tune of 5 GW," it reads. Stating the details of Northern Region states load considered in Power System Simulator for Engineering (PSSE) for 2029-2030, the committee has projected 4211 Megawatts (MWs) of Emergency Power Supply (EPS) load in J&K by 2029-2030 timeframe.

Pertinently, the news agency has reported that Jammu and Kashmir was importing more than 95 percent of its electricity in the month of December.

The officials earlier in the month had informed that Jammu and Kashmir is importing electricity ranging from 2900 MWs to 3100 MWs during the peak hours.

It also said that during the other hours, the region is importing electricity ranging from

2400 MWs to 2800 MWs.

Earlier KNO had reported that Jammu and Kashmir is likely to face a four percent Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) increase in electricity requirement and six percent increase in peak electricity demand for the period of 2025-26 to 2035-36. (KNO)

### Farmers custodians

7,350% and oilseeds 1,500% since 2013-14. However, climate impacts are intensifying and last year witnessed extreme weather across states," he said.

LG Sinha called upon scientists and innovators for seven commitments for climate-resilient agriculture-farmer-led research partnership, expansion of climate-responsive insurance, green credit, localised climate advisories for all, safeguard traditional seeds, policy integration and transparent evaluation.

He also emphasized precision and regenerative farming, water management, diversification, and tech integration. The Lieutenant Governor said that innovations must reflect real-world needs, not remain trapped in seminar rhetoric and governments must scale protection to shield livelihoods from escalating risks.

He also asked the banks to prioritize sustainable agricultural financing, conserve heritage varieties as anchors of resilience, align every initiative for seamless, coordinated execution and assess each program openly, adapt swiftly, and refine continuously.

The Lieutenant Governor said that scientists and policymakers must recognize that small and marginal farmers contribute least to climate change yet endure its harshest blows. Calling for protection, the Lieutenant Governor said that farmers are not merely producers of grain but they are custodians of tradition, culture, food security, and the promise of a sustainable future.

"Every farmer deserves real-time climate guidance. Every field must be treated as a national asset, safeguarded with care. Our responsibility in agriculture is clear that we need to preserve it for generations. This is our

solemn resolve," the Lieutenant Governor said. Satish Sharma, Minister for Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Science & Technology; Prof. B. N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu; Dr. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, Director General, Meteorology, India Meteorological Department (IMD); Prof. A.K. Dhawan, President, Indian Ecological Society; Dr. S. K. Gupta, Director Research, SKUAST-Jammu; Dr. Syed Sheraz Mahdi, Organizing Secretary, scientists, academicians, policymakers, experts, and students in large number also attended the inaugural session. (KNO)

### MeT predicts rain

the recorded stations, registered a maximum of 15.0°C.

In the Jammu region, Jammu city recorded a maximum temperature of 32.6°C, 3.1 degrees below normal, and a minimum of 25.1°C. Banihal and Batote recorded 21.6°C and 20.1°C, respectively, while Katra registered 30.0°C.

Light rainfall was recorded at several stations during the day, including Pahalgam (7.2 mm), Kupwara (2.0 mm), and Kukernag (1.8 mm), while Srinagar recorded 0.1 mm.

The department said the weather conditions may lead to temporary disruptions and advised people to remain cautious during the afternoon and evening hours. (KNO)

### In 'duniya ka swarg

Everyone will get a permanent home," he said.

Chouhan said women empowerment remains central to development strategy and Self-Help Groups will be further strengthened. "My sisters should not have tears in their eyes. They should live with dignity and pride," he said, adding that rural women entrepreneurs will be supported at every level.

Highlighting agriculture as the backbone of the rural economy, he said Jammu and Kashmir has small and fragmented landholdings that require scientific intervention. "As Agriculture Minister, I know land holdings here are small. We will increase farmers' income," he said. He announced promotion of integrated

farming systems combining agriculture, horticulture, fisheries, livestock and beekeeping to increase income from multiple sources.

"We will promote integrated farming so farmers can earn from multiple activities together," he said.

Chouhan said horticulture productivity in J&K needs improvement and stressed the need for high-quality planting material. "We need good plants. Earlier apple and walnut plants were not of good quality," he said.

He also announced a Clean Plant Programme in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir University to produce certified and disease-free planting material, along with development of modern nurseries.

He announced that a team of ICAR scientists will be deputed to Jammu and Kashmir to study soil, climate, water resources and agricultural potential. "They will prepare a scientific roadmap for agriculture and horticulture development in Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Chouhan said the youth of Jammu and Kashmir are highly talented and capable of achieving global success if given opportunities. "The youth of Jammu and Kashmir are highly talented. If given opportunity, they can excel globally," he said.

He said, "We are not outsiders. We are your family. Do not call us chief guest—we are part of your home."

Pertinently, under PMGSY-IV (Batch-II), road projects worth Rs 3,566 crore were approved as part of a larger rural connectivity package of nearly Rs 8,000 crore. A Rs 4,568 crore Mother Sanction under DAY-NRLM was also released for women Self-Help Groups across 24 States and Union Territories. (KNO)

### CM Omar calls

"You are not only a friend of J&K but also a true well-wisher. Even in Madhya Pradesh, people call you 'Mama' and that acceptance reflects the respect you have earned," CM Omar said.

He said the Union Minister has consistently supported Jammu and Kashmir's development

agenda over the last one and a half years of the elected government.

Omar said coordination between the Centre and UT administration has strengthened through continuous engagement on developmental matters.

He stated: "Whatever sanctions have been given, we will ensure work starts on the ground. In the coming months, we will begin implementation and take forward remaining requirements as well."

Referring to rural connectivity, the Chief Minister said PMGSY has significantly transformed life in remote and mountainous regions of Jammu and Kashmir.

"People who once had to walk four to five hours to reach a road now have access to motorable connectivity. Due to Phase 2, Phase 3 and now Phase 4, access to hospitals, schools and markets has improved," he said.

He added that roads remain the lifeline of development and the government's focus is on connecting every remaining habitation, especially in scattered and hilly areas.

"Our real strength lies in villages. Our heritage and economy are rooted in rural areas and our effort is to strengthen the rural economy in every possible way," he said.

CM Omar also highlighted ongoing initiatives under rural development and livelihood missions, particularly Self-Help Groups under NRLM, saying efforts are being made to expand opportunities for women-led enterprises.

He expressed optimism about women empowerment outcomes, stating his vision of "Lakhpati Didis" progressing towards "Crorepati Didis" through sustained support and capacity building.

He also stressed the need for stronger crop insurance mechanisms to protect farmers from weather-related risks affecting agriculture and horticulture sectors.

Meanwhile, during the event, the Union Minister also released Rs 4,568 crore Mother Sanction under DAY-NRLM for women Self-Help Groups across 24 States and UTs, including support for Jammu and Kashmir. (KNO)

## India set to receive 4th unit of S-400 missile systems early next month



PTI

New Delhi, Apr 28: India is expected to receive the fourth unit of the S-400 Triumf surface-to-air missile system from Russia in the first part of next month that is expected to further enhance the IAF's air defence mechanism, sources in the security establishment said on Tuesday.

In October 2018, India signed a USD 5 billion deal with Russia to procure five units of the missile systems and three of them have already been delivered.

The sources said the fifth unit of the missile will be delivered by November under an updated timeline for supplying the weapon system.

The S-400 missile systems played a crucial role during Operation Sindoor.

Last month, New Delhi cleared the procurement of a fresh batch of five S-400 missile systems from Russia that will take the total number to 10. It is learnt that the fourth unit of the missile system has

already been shipped and it is expected to reach India in the next few days.

India had signed the deal for procurement of the S-400 missiles over seven years back notwithstanding a warning by the US that going ahead with the contract may invite US sanctions under the provisions of Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA).

The sources said India is not expecting any possible hindrance from US sanctions as the new procurement will be a "follow on" order of the previous order.

The missile systems were used extensively by the Indian Air Force (IAF) during the May 7-10 military conflict with Pakistan.

Weeks after the conflict, a proposal was moved to procure another batch of the S-400 missiles.

Russia has already trained a group of Indian personnel to operate the missile systems.

The S-400 is known as Russia's

## Advance action needed to protect vulnerable groups from heatwaves: NHRC to 21 states, Delhi

PTI

New Delhi, Apr 28: Pointing to the disproportionate impact of rise in heatwave frequency and intensity on the marginalised sections, the NHRC on Tuesday asked 21 states and Delhi to take advance action to protect the vulnerable population.

The elderly, children, infants and newborns are especially susceptible to the health impacts of extreme heat. Additionally, heatwaves can lead to the loss of livelihoods and an increased risk of fire accidents, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) said in a statement.

Mercury levels have soared in various states in the country over the past few days and in Delhi, temperature readings have breached the 40 degrees Celsius mark at many places.

In this context, the NHRC asked 21 states and Delhi to take advance action and implement relief measures to protect the vulnerable population during heatwaves.

The states are Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar,

Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

The Commission has observed that the "rise in the frequency, duration and intensity of heatwaves, disproportionately affects the marginalised, economically weaker sections, outdoor workers and the homeless due to the lack of adequate shelter and resources".

Therefore, the NHRC, in a letter to the chief secretaries of these states and the Union Territory of Delhi, has emphasised the urgent need for integrated and inclusive measures.

The rights panel also highlighted the risks faced by economically weaker sections, outdoor workers, the elderly, children, newborns and especially the homeless due to heatwaves amid inadequate shelter and resources, the statement said.

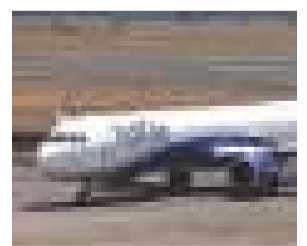
## AI, IndiGo, SpiceJet seek ATF price relief

PTI

Mumbai, Apr 28: Air India, IndiGo and SpiceJet have told the government that the country's airline industry is under extreme stress and on the verge of "stopping operations", as they sought revision in ATF pricing and financial support.

The West Asia turmoil has pushed up oil prices, and airspace restrictions have increased airlines' operating costs, especially on long-haul routes. Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) accounts for around 40 per cent of a carrier's operational expenses.

Against this backdrop, the Federation of Indian Airlines (FIA) has written to the civil aviation ministry, seeking steps to extend the same fuel pricing mechanism uniformly across both domestic and international operations as was done in the past with the establishment of the crack



band. With an unprecedented rise in jet fuel prices and exorbitant crack/differential between crude and ATF, the federation said the operation of airlines is being challenged in totality.

"... any ad hoc pricing (domestic vs international) and/or irrational increase in the price of ATF will result in unsurmountable losses for airlines and will lead to grounding of aircraft, resulting in cancellation of flights," the federation, which represents Air India, IndiGo and SpiceJet, said.

## Govt committed to 'Act East, Act Fast' for India's 'Ashtalakshmi' in northeast: PM



PTI

Gangtok, Apr 28: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said his government was not only committed to its 'Act East' policy but was resolved to 'Act East, Act Fast' for the eight northeastern states, which he described as India's 'Ashtalakshmi' -- representing the multifaceted nature of prosperity, wealth, and auspiciousness.

Asserting that tourism was the mainstay of Sikkim's economy, Modi said his government's focus is on boosting the state's connectivity, which would increase tourist inflow.

"The government is committed to augmenting Sikkim's infrastructure, including building an expressway from West Bengal's Bagdogra, and a ring road in Gangtok to increase tourist inflow," Modi said during his 35-minute speech at a grand function at Paljor Stadium here to mark the conclusion of the year-long celebrations of 50 years of Sikkim's statehood.

He also said that ropeway and skyways projects are on the anvil for the state, while an expressway would be built in

Nathula to ensure more tourist inflow.

"The northeast, including Sikkim, is India's 'Ashtalakshmi'. The government is resolved to 'Act East, Act Fast'," Modi said.

Reflecting on the state's biodiversity, he said, "Nature and culture become alive in Sikkim. The cleanliness of the state's roads and its air purity shows that people here are true brand-ambassadors for the conservation of nature."

Modi asserted that the northeast, including Sikkim, is set to become the hub of futuristic growth and sustainable development through initiatives such as organic agriculture.

He heaped praise on Sikkim for being an abode of peace, spiritualism and wellness, and urged tourists to visit the Himalayan state in large numbers.

"Sikkim has immense scope in eco-wellness tourism, which the government is promoting. As many as 1,000 homestays are being built, and adventure tourism is getting an infrastructure boost," the PM said.

He said that the Himalayan state "reflects 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' at a time

when efforts are made to divide the nation based on "faith and political affiliation".

Describing Sikkim as the heaven of the East, the Prime Minister also appealed to tourists to visit the state for its natural beauty, especially its diverse orchids.

The PM, who played football with budding talents in the morning, said, "The government is making all efforts to augment sports infrastructure in Sikkim and hone talents, especially in football and archery."

He availed the opportunity to take potshots at successive Congress governments, accusing them of keeping Sikkim's development projects on the back burner.

"I will do whatever is possible for the development of Sikkim and other northeastern states, which the Congress had ignored. The Congress neglected health services in Sikkim," the PM alleged.

The current government is committed to augmenting health infrastructure and providing quality and affordable service to people, he claimed.

Modi cited the example of an excruciating delay in the construction of the Sevoke-Rangpo rail project connecting Sikkim with the rest of the country.

The Sevoke-Rangpo rail project was approved by the UPA government in 2008-09, but the construction could not begin due to the "lackadaisical approach" of the then government, which could not acquire land for the project, the PM said.

Modi said that the rail project was fast-tracked only after the NDA came to power, and the work is "progressing at a rapid speed".

## PM plays football with boys, girls in Sikkim



PTI

Gangtok, Apr 28: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is on a two-day tour of Sikkim, played football with some boys and girls here on Tuesday morning, and described the soccer session as "energising".

Modi shared on social media a few photographs in which he is seen playing soccer with youngsters.

"Nothing like playing some football with my young friends in Sikkim on a lovely Gangtok morning! Clearly, an energising football session with these youngsters!" the PM said on X.

Modi also took a photograph with the players, with the Lok Bhawan building seen in the background.

During the day, the PM will attend the closing ceremony of 50 years of Sikkim's statehood and launch projects worth Rs 4,000 crore.

## Amit Shah lauds NCB for securing drug trafficker Salim Dola's return from Turkiye



PTI

New Delhi, Apr 28: In a major breakthrough, the Narcotics Control Bureau on Tuesday secured the return of notorious drug trafficker Mohammad Salim Dola from Turkiye, Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced here.

Dola (59) was arrested in Turkiye on the basis of an Interpol Red Notice issued on India's request in March 2024. He was wanted in multiple narcotics trafficking cases in India and had been absconding from the law enforcement agencies.

Calling it zero tolerance against the Narco syndicate, the Union home minister said on X, "Under Modi government's mission to ruthlessly smash drug cartels, our anti-narcotics agencies have extended their claws across borders through a robust network of global agencies."

"Now, no matter where they hide, no place is safe for drug kingpins," Shah said.

In a statement, the Ministry of Home Affairs said that Dola was brought from Turkiye, under "Operation Global-Hunt".

He was taken into custody on his arrival at IGI Airport, New Delhi, early this morning by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), it said.

"The successful return of Salim Dola, under the leadership of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and guidance of Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, reflects the firm resolve of the Government to bring all narcotics fugitives and members of organised crime syndicates to justice, by pursuing

them relentlessly across the globe," the ministry said.

The Interpol Red Notice database states that Dola, born on December 31, 1966, speaks Hindi and Marathi and faces multiple charges under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act.

A Red Notice is Interpol's request to law enforcement agencies worldwide to locate and provisionally arrest a person pending extradition, surrender, or similar legal action.

Over the years, Dola, a close aide of international terrorist Dawood Ibrahim, had allegedly established a major transnational drug trafficking syndicate spanning a number of countries in the Middle East, Africa and Europe.

His two-decade-long criminal antecedents include direct involvement in cases involving multiple high-value seizures of heroin, charas, mephedrone, mandrax and methamphetamine in Maharashtra and Gujarat, the ministry said.

Dola's role consistently emerged as that of a bulk supplier to downstream distribution networks in India, and it was also sought by ATS Gujarat and the Mumbai police.

Earlier, his son Tahil Salim Dola and other associates were arrested by Mumbai police after deportation/extradition from the UAE in 2025, the ministry said.

This effort exemplifies close cooperation and coordinated action between the authorities in Turkiye, Interpol and Indian agencies, it said.

## Rajnath meets Chinese Defence Minister in Bishkek



PTI

New Delhi, Apr 28: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday held talks with his Chinese counterpart Dong Jun on the margins of a mul-

tilateral conclave in Bishkek.

It is learnt that the two ministers reviewed the overall situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

"It was a pleasure to interact with the Defence Minister of

China Admiral Dong Jun during the SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting in Bishkek," Singh said on social media.

There is no official word yet on what transpired during the talks between Singh and Dong.

The defence minister also met his Russian counterpart Andrei Belousov.

"Great interaction with Russian Defence Minister, Andrei Belousov during the SCO Defence Ministers' Meet in Bishkek," Singh said.

Singh landed in the capital city of Kyrgyzstan on Monday to attend the conclave of defence ministers of the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

## Blast at railway track in Patiala was attempted detonation, killed operator: Punjab Police



PTI

Chandigarh, Apr 28: A blast that took place at a railway track near the Shambhu area in Punjab's Patiala was an attempted detonation, a senior police officer said on Tuesday.

The person who was trying to carry out the detonation on Monday has died, Patiala SSP Varun Sharma said.

The blast took place near the Shambhu-Ambala rail track. Police earlier said that an unidentified body, which was blown into pieces, was recovered from the spot.

blast. However, investigation has revealed that it was an attempted detonation.

The explosion occurred at around 10 pm at the rail track dedicated for freight trains, police said.

The explosion also caused some damage to the track.

"Late night, we had received information about a low intensity explosion at a railway track near Shambhu-Haryana border. Immediately, I, along with the deputy inspector general of police and other senior officials, rushed to the spot to take stock of the situation."

"We found that it was not a low intensity explosion but an attempted detonation," the SSP said.

During the attempt, the person who was trying to carry out the detonation died, and his body has been recovered, he said.

Police said they have recovered a SIM card from the spot.

"After getting whatever scientific evidence including a SIM card from the spot, police have launched technical investigation," Sharma said.

"We expect that we will soon unravel the whole conspiracy," he said.

He further said the Government Railway Police, the Railway Protection Force and other agencies are involved in investigation.

Earlier in January, a blast on a dedicated freight corridor railway track in the Fatehgarh Sahib district's Sirhind had damaged the engine of a train and left a loco pilot injured.

### Australia plans 2.25% levy on Meta, Google, TikTok unless they strike local news deals



REUTERS

Sydney, Apr 28: The Australian government said on Tuesday that Meta, Alphabet's Google and TikTok could face multimillion-dollar charges if they did not negotiate deals to pay local media outlets for news on their platforms.

A proposed News Bargaining Incentive would tax the three big tech companies 2.25% on their local revenues unless they struck agreements, with the proceeds to be directed to news companies to boost Australian journalism.

"People are increasingly getting their news directly from Facebook, from TikTok and from Google, and we believe it's only fair that large digital platforms contribute to the hard work of journalism that enriches their feeds and that drives their revenue," Communications Minister Anika Wells told a news conference.

### Ukraine says it shot down 33,000 Russian drones in March

AP

Kyiv, Apr 28: Ukraine used interceptor systems to shoot down more than 33,000 Russian drones of various types in March, a record monthly figure since Moscow launched its all-out invasion more than four years ago, Ukraine's defence minister claimed.

Meanwhile, Ukraine's domestically developed long-range attack drones struck a Russian oil refinery and terminal on the Black Sea for the third time in less than two weeks, prompting the evacuation of local people as a precautionary measure.

Ukraine has developed cutting-edge and battle-tested drone technology that has proved essential in holding back Russia's bigger army and has drawn military interest from around the world.

Interceptor drones as part of a comprehensive air defence system are now being sought by Middle East and Gulf countries amid the Iran war, according to Ukrainian officials.

Ukraine is scaling up supplies of interceptor drones to thwart Russian aerial attacks, and its military has introduced a new command within the air force to boost the country's capabilities, Defence Minister Mykhailo Fedorov said in a post on Telegram late Monday.

## Trump unhappy with latest Iran offer to end war, oil prices rise amid conflict

REUTERS

Washington, Apr 28: U.S. President Donald Trump is unhappy with the latest Iranian proposal on resolving the two-month war, a U.S. official said, dampening hopes for a resolution to the conflict that has disrupted energy supplies, fuelled inflation, and killed thousands.

Iran's latest proposal would set aside discussion of Iran's nuclear program until the war is ended and disputes over shipping from the Gulf are resolved.

That is unlikely to satisfy the U.S., which says nuclear issues must be dealt with from the outset, and Trump was unhappy with Iran's proposal for that reason, a U.S. official briefed on the president's Monday meeting with his advisers said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

White House spokeswoman Olivia Wales said the U.S. "will not negotiate through the press" and has "been clear



about our red lines" as the Trump administration looks to end the war against Iran it began in February alongside Israel.

A previous agreement in 2015 between Iran and multiple other countries including the U.S. sharply curtailed Iran's nuclear program, which it has long maintained is for peaceful, civilian purposes. But that deal fell apart when Trump unilaterally withdrew from it in his first term in office. Hopes of reviving

peace efforts have receded since the U.S. president scrapped a visit planned for last weekend by his special envoy Steve Witkoff and son-in-law Jared Kushner to Islamabad, the Pakistani capital, where Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi shuttled in and out twice during the weekend. Araqchi also visited Oman and on Monday went to Russia, where he met President Vladimir Putin and received words of support from a longstanding ally.

### Iran eases Internet curbs for businesses

REUTERS

Dubai, Apr 28: Iran's top security body has approved a temporary scheme for businesses to access the global Internet with fewer restrictions, a government spokesperson told Iranian media on Tuesday, after the authorities had imposed a blackout since the start of the war against the US and Israel.

Most Iranians have been unable to access the worldwide web for the last 60 days according to the Internet observatory NetBlocks, with only a few citizens having access to expensive and advanced VPNs that circumvent the restrictions.

"The Supreme National Security Council approved the 'Internet Pro' scheme to preserve businesses during times of crisis," said

government spokesperson Fatemeh MoHajjerani. She did not say when the new measures, which had not been previously disclosed by the government, had been introduced.

"Once the situation is announced to be normal by relevant authorities, the situation of the Internet will also change," she added, stressing that the government was receptive to people's demands and believed in access to the Internet as a civil right. Authorities initially imposed an Internet blackout from January 8 in response to nationwide anti-government protests, with connections gradually coming back to normal in February until a new blackout was initiated following the start of US and Israeli strikes against Iran on February 28.

### New York City to hold free World Cup fan events in each borough



AP

New York, Apr 28: New York City will hold a series of free events for soccer fans who hope to experience the excitement of the World Cup but can't afford the hefty ticket prices to the matches, officials announced Monday. The events — one in each of the city's

five boroughs — will include watch parties for the matches and other festivities. They will be staged at Rockefeller Center in Manhattan, the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in Queens, Brooklyn Bridge Park in Brooklyn, a shopping center near Yankee Stadium in the Bronx and a minor league baseball stadium in Staten Island.

A separate fan event planned for Sports Illustrated Stadium in Harrison, New Jersey, where the New York Red Bulls play, will cost \$10.

World Cup matches will be played at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey, where just getting to and from the matches on public transit could cost \$150.

New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani, a noted soccer devotee, announced the free events alongside New York Gov. Kathy Hochul, a fellow Democrat.

"Every fan should be able to watch the greatest tournament on earth without dipping into their savings," Mamdani said.

Similar fan events are being planned for other U.S. host cities.

### Batters don't practice enough against hard lengths: Steyn



PTI

New Delhi, Apr 28: After Delhi Capitals' stunning collapse, South African great Dale Steyn said modern batters are not preparing enough for hard lengths, a flaw exposed by Josh Hazlewood and Bhuvneshwar Kumar in the IPL here on Monday night.

Hazlewood and Bhuvneshwar ripped apart the Delhi Capitals' batting line-up by taking six wickets in first four overs, helping Royal Challengers Bengaluru dismiss DC for a mere 75

in 16.3 overs.

Steyn said batters are not scared anymore but they just do not practice enough for the lengths that the likes of Hazlewood, Bhuvneshwar, Kagiso Rabada and Jofra Archer tend to bowl.

"Watching Buvi, Hazlewood, throw KG and Archer in there too, there's a genuine fear from batters not because they're scared, but they know exactly where these greats are going to bowl but don't practice enough in that area to have answers," (sic) Steyn wrote on X. "The fear

is technical skill, too deep into the tournament to change now, watch these bowlers continue to dominate. It's called a HARD length for a reason..." (sic) Steyn added.

Former South African batter Herschelle Gibbs gave the batting perspective to Steyn's observations, saying that batters do not charge against bowlers down the pitch enough against these bowlers to disturb their lengths.

"No batter keen to run at them to get them off their lengths," Gibbs replied.

Delhi Capitals, who had slipped to 8 for six at one stage, eventually crawled to 13 for six after six overs to record the lowest-ever powerplay score in the IPL.

In only their previous outing, Delhi Capitals had amassed 264/2 against Punjab Kings but could not defend.

## Indian lifters bag 4 gold in Commonwealth Youth & Junior C'ships



PTI

New Delhi, Apr 28: Indian lifters impressed at the ongoing Commonwealth Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships and the corresponding Universal Cup (Senior) in Apia, Samoa, securing four gold medals on the second day of competition.

Sunil Singh lifted a total of 271kg (126kg in snatch and 145kg in clean and jerk) to clinch the gold in the 65kg men's category, while Aisangfa Gogoi won the top prize in women 58kg and Abhinob Gogoi bagged the yellow metal in men's 71kg division.

Aisangfa lifted a total of 185kg (79kg in snatch and 106kg in clean and jerk) to bag gold in the 58kg

women's category, while Abhinob totalled 284kg (129kg in snatch and 155kg in clean and jerk) to secure top finish in the 71kg men's division.

In the Universal Cup, Arunachal Pradesh's Charu Pesi bagged the gold medal in the men's 65kg category with a total lift of 289kg (127kg in snatch and 162kg in clean and jerk).

Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWF) president Sahdev Yadav congratulated the athletes, coaches and support staff for their performances in the tournament.

"These achievements reflect the hard work and commitment of our athletes and support team. India continues to rise as a strong contender on the global weightlifting stage," Yadav said in his congratulatory message.

## Indian TT team builds up for centenary World Championships with SAI-backed overseas camp

IANS

New Delhi, April 28: The Sports Authority of India (SAI) put in place a comprehensive support worth over 90 lakh to ensure the Indian table tennis team put their best foot forward at the milestone centenary ITTF World Team Table Tennis Championships (WTTC), which gets underway in London on Tuesday and ends on May 10 at the OVO Arena in Wembley.

A 19-member Indian contingent, comprising 10 players, three coaches, three support staff, and three sparring partners, are representing the country at the prestigious global event, with leading names such as Manika Batra, Gnanasekaran Sathiyam, Manav Thakkar, and Harmeet Desai spearheading the challenge across men's and women's competitions.

The Indian men's team is drawn alongside Slovakia, Tunisia, and Guatemala, while the women's team will take on Ukraine, Uganda, and Rwanda in the group stages. The group stage matches are scheduled between April 28 and May 1. The Indian teams will be looking to go further this time around; both the men's and women's teams advanced to the knockout stages but exited in the Round of 32 in the 2024 edition of the



competition in Busan.

Table Tennis will not feature in the Commonwealth Games 2026, but the WTTC London will provide a good litmus test ahead of the Asian Games 2026 in Japan, and also determine India's preparation and bench strength as the games set to return at the centenary Commonwealth Games 2030 in Bharat.

In the lead-up to the 2026 World Team Table Tennis Championships, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) sanctioned a series of preparatory

camp to fine-tune the team's performance. A national coaching camp was held at the Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports Centre in Bengaluru from April 13 to 19 at a cost of 13.26 lakh, followed by an overseas training stint in Sheffield from April 21 to 26, backed with 20.92 lakh. This phased preparation, combining domestic conditioning with international exposure, was done with the aim of sharpening match readiness and adapting Massimo Constantini's players to the

European playing conditions.

SAI also released a total fund of approximately 60.1 lakh to the Table Tennis Federation of India to ensure the team's participation, including airfare, boarding and lodging, out-of-pocket allowances and entry fees, for our athletes and officials in the event.

Indian Teams for ITTF World Team Table Tennis Championships 2026:

Men's team: Manav Thakkar, Manush Shah, G Sathiyam, Harmeet Desai, Payas Jain