

Kashmir Convener



Stock market slide:
Akhilesh Yadav says
common people losing money,
blames Centre

P/02



Chardham Yatra Route
Split Into Zones For Better
Management; Over 6,000
Personnel To Be Deployed

P/02



UP to emerge as
prosperous state in next 3
years with eradication of
poverty: Adityanath

P/02

Amit Shah to arrive in Jammu today for 3-day J&K visit

Will chair Unified Headquarters meeting, visit frontier areas; inaugurate development projects

Yogesh

JAMMU: Union Home Minister Amit Shah would arrive in Jammu on Sunday for a three-day J&K visit aimed at assessing the region's security landscape and inaugurating key development projects.

The visit, originally scheduled for April 7, has been advanced by a day, reflecting the urgency of addressing the evolving security situation in the Union Territory.

MLA Bahu, Vikram Randhawa told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the Union Home Minister would arrive in the afternoon and would chair two high-level security review meetings and also a meeting of BJP leaders.

"The Home Minister is likely to chair a Unified Headquarters meeting, to evaluate counter-terrorism operations, border security, and infiltration challenges," sources said.

The security review meetings will be attended by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, top officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Army,



paramilitary forces, Jammu and Kashmir Police, intelligence agencies, and senior civil administration officers.

A key focus will be on strengthening strategies to ensure "zero infiltration" along the Line of Control (LoC) and International Border (IB), a directive Shah

has consistently emphasized in past reviews. "The Home Minister has been regularly reviewing the operations in J&K and has directed that the aim should be that of 'zero infiltration' at the Line of Control and International Border, while dismantling the network of overground workers who support infiltrated terrorists and the narco-network which funds their acts," said an official.

Shah's itinerary, as per KNO, includes a tour of forward areas along the International Border in Jammu to assess security arrangements firsthand and boost the morale of troops stationed there.

He is also expected to meet the families of police martyrs, paying tribute to their sacrifices amid recent encounters, such as the Kathua operation where four police personnel lost their lives combating infiltrating terrorists.

In addition to security-focused engagements, the Home Minister will virtually inaugurate and lay foundation stones for several major development projects across the Union Territory. He will also meet with BJP MLAs

>>>SEE ON P-7

PM Modi to flag-off Vande Bharat Express on April 19

KC News Network

JAMMU : Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA, Ranbir Singh Pathania, on Saturday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will flag-off the first Vande Bharat Express to Kashmir from Katra on April 19.



Pathania, who is also MLA from Udhampur East, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "History will be written in the political, social, and economic landscape of Kashmir. Kashmir is ours, and it was a dream to connect Kashmir with rail lines. We will warmly welcome PM Modi on April 19."

>>>SEE ON P-7

J&K sees decline in child marriage cases over past three years

KC News Network

NEW DELHI: Jammu and Kashmir has seen a decline in child marriage cases in the country over the past three years, according to official data tabled in Parliament.

Despite the decline in numbers, the officials and rights groups urged government for regular vigilance, especially in rural pockets and conflict-affected areas where underreporting remains a concern.

According to data shared by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in the Lok Sabha on Friday, only



five cases were registered in Jammu and Kashmir under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA), 2006, between 2020 and 2022 – one in 2020, two each in 2021 and 2022.

With decline in numbers, the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir has been placed at 30th out of 36 states and union territories in terms of reported cases. The neighbouring Ladakh, meanwhile, recorded zero cases in this period.

The source of the data is the Crime in India report published annually by the National Crime

>>>SEE ON P-7

Rajnath Singh Stresses Role of India in Indo-Pacific Security

KC News Network

KARWAR: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday reviewed the maritime security situation and the Indian Navy's operational preparedness during the first phase of the Naval Commanders' Conference 2025, held at Karwar Naval Base in Karnataka.

Addressing top naval commanders, Singh underscored India's critical role in ensuring peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific, calling the 21st century "Asia's century." He stressed that India stands for a free, open, and rules-based international order, in line with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).



"Security is a continuous adaptation process. We must assess the changing circumstances and plan, resource, and exercise accordingly," the minister told the commanders. He lauded the Navy's contribution to national security and their consistent

performance under dynamic challenges.

The Defence Minister was accompanied by Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Defence

>>>SEE ON P-7

Surrender and embrace peaceful development: HM Amit to Maoists

KC News Network

DANTEWADA (CHHATTISGARH): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday extended a heartfelt appeal to those involved in Maoist activities to lay down arms and walk the path of peace and development.

The Home Minister, who was visiting Chhattisgarh's Bastar to participate in the "Bastar Pandum festival" and to review the anti-Maoist initiatives launched by the Union government with an ambitious goal of a Maoist-free India by 2026, stressed the importance of reintegrating into the mainstream and contributing to the developmental strides being made under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"No one rejoices in the loss of life, not even when it is that of a Naxal (Maoist). The Prime Minister envisions a flourishing Bastar, but such a vision can only be realised in an atmosphere of peace," he said in this address at the festival event.

Painting a hopeful picture, he called upon the people to imagine a Bastar where children freely attend school, every village has access to medical



facilities, and each individual benefits from seven kg of free rice and comprehensive health insurance.

"These aspirations can only come to fruition when the people of Bastar collectively resolve to rid their villages of Naxalism (Maoism)," he said. To incentivise this transformation, Amit Shah cited the announcement of

>>>SEE ON P-7

Passport processing drops from 89 to 10 days in Srinagar

Sajid Raina

SRINAGAR: The time taken to issue passports in Jammu and Kashmir has changed notably over the past five years, with recent years showing a trend

towards more consistent processing.

According to data of the Ministry of External Affairs accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), in Jammu, passport processing for normal applications took an average of 4 days in 2020. This figure increased sharply to 62 days in 2021. However, the timeline came down significantly to 6 days in 2022, and stabilized at 11 days in both 2023 and 2024.

The data shows no separate Tatkaal category processing times for Jammu in these years.

Srinagar, as per KNO, witnessed a similar trend. The Regional Passport Office there processed normal



passport applications in an average of 3 days in

2020. This changed dramatically in 2021 when the average time rose to 89 days, the highest among all RPOs in the country that year.

The timeline was reduced to 9 days in both 2022 and 2023, and stood at 10 days in 2024. Like Jammu, no separate Tatkaal timelines were recorded for Srinagar.

A senior government official said, "If police verification and other procedures go smoothly, applicants can expect to receive their passports within ten days." These figures are based on the average processing time by

>>>SEE ON P-7

In 11 days, J&K records over 94 forest fire incidents

Mubashir Alam Wani

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir recorded over 94 forest fire incidents during the past 11 days, reveals the data.

It states that over 94 forest fire cases were reported between March 24 and April 3, 2025.

The fires have affected at least 15 districts across both Kashmir and Jammu divisions, sparking concern.

The highest single-day spike occurred on April 2, when 35 fire incidents were reported in forest areas, followed by 18 fires on April 3, according to consolidated reports.

Anantnag has been the worst-hit district, recording fires on almost every reported day. Pulwama, Budgam, Ganderbal, and Bandipora have also seen frequent incidents. In Jammu division, Rajouri, Ramban,

>>>SEE ON P-7



CS launches IEC campaign to combat drug abuse in J&K



KC News Network

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today formally launched a massive five-month long Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign under the Nasha Mukht Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan.

He reaffirmed the UT government's resolve to combat the drug menace through sustained awareness, rehabilitation and coordination at all administrative levels.

The Chief Secretary stated, "Nasha Mukht Jammu Kashmir is not just a campaign, it is a mission to protect the youth and secure our future. We must address the roots of drug abuse while ensuring that affected individuals receive timely counselling, support and rehabilitation."

As part of the formal launch, the Chief Secretary unveiled several key initiatives including the official web portal of the campaign www.nashamukhtjk.org, providing a centralised interface for awareness activities and real-time updates.

The Chief Secret also inaugurated the INSPIRE Podcast Series of the Department of Information and Public Relations, which will feature weekly discussions with experts, field officers and individuals sharing real-life experiences. The initiative will engage the youth in conversations on drug de-addiction. Additionally, a dedicated web banner and an official campaign logo was also launched on the occasion.

>>>SEE ON P-7

Sub-committee will submit report within six months: Minister Sakeena Itoo

Jahangeer Ganaie

ANANTNAG: Minister for Social Welfare, Sakina Itoo said on Saturday that reservation is a sensitive issue and the government is taking it very seriously. She said the cabinet- sub-committee tasked with it will submit its report within the six-month timeline.

Addressing a press conference, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Itoo said, "if Omar Abdullah government had not been serious about this issue, they would not have formed a subcommittee or set a timeframe for submitting a report."

She said the sub-committee is sharing details of its work regularly with the CM.

The minister added that the committee



would examine all representations submitted to it to ensure that its recommendations are implemented effectively.

>>>SEE ON P-7

Sajad Lone slams Govt stand

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Peoples Conference president Sajad Gani Lone on Saturday slammed the government's stand on reservation policy in High Court.

In a post on X, Lone, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that the Government has sought outright dismissal of petition challenging reservation policy.

>>>SEE ON P-7

J&K Govt seeks dismissal of petition challenging reservation framework

Sajid Raina

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir

Government has prayed for an outright dismissal of a petition challenging the existing reservation framework, stating that it is mischievous, frivolous in nature and has been filed with an intent to abuse judicial process.

In an affidavit filed by Jammu & Kashmir's Social Welfare department in the High Court, the government has submitted

that the writ petition deserves dismissal at the outset.

"That this petition is an abuse of judicial process having been filed without any cause of action. The petitioners have filed the present petition on completely false grounds in an attempt to deceive the Hon'ble Court,"

>>>SEE ON P-7

Maintain status quo

SC on demolition of ‘unauthorised’ constructions in Gurugram’s DLF phases

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has asked Gurugram authorities to maintain status quo on a demolition drive in DLF phases 1 to 5 against unauthorised constructions, including residential properties that have been converted into commercial complexes.

A bench of Justices J K Maheshwari and Aravind Kumar was hearing on Friday a plea by DLF Qutub Enclave RWA, which challenged the Haryana government’s Town and Country Planning Department’s power to raze the properties.

The bench issued notice to the Haryana government authorities and said, “In the meantime, until the next date of listing, status quo, as it exists today, shall be maintained by the parties.”

The top court sought the response of the authorities within four weeks.

Senior advocate Indira Jaising and other lawyers, appearing for the Residents Welfare Association (RWA) contended that the DLF residential phases were under the jurisdiction of the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) since 2008 and only the civic body had the power to initiate any action, including demolition of properties. “In view of the order of status quo



passed today, we make it clear that the petitioners shall also not raze any construction,” the bench said.

The RWA has challenged a February 13 order of the Punjab and Haryana High Court which directed the authorities to take “prompt action” against unauthorised constructions, alterations and commercialisation in residential zones of DLF areas and sought an action-taken report by April 19.

The high court said in its order, “It is amply clear that a powerful lobby of certain groups/land mafia are ruining

the very basic character of the developed colony in active connivance with the local administration/official respondents that too only because the authorities have turned a blind eye and are permitting such illegal and unauthorised constructions/illegal developments, which are coming up at an alarming rate right under their nose.”

The petitioners before the high court had sought action in furtherance of a 2018 Action Taken Report (on complaints against the said constructions) as well as a memo issued by the District Town Planner (Enforcement) recommending

that occupation certificates of owners who razed unauthorised constructions be cancelled and their electricity, water and sewerage connections be disconnected.

The Town and Country Planning Department subsequently issued over 4,000 show-cause notices and ordered restoration of premises of more than 2,000 house owners in the five DLF phases.

Aggrieved by the high court’s order, the RWA moved the apex court and contended that the HC issued contradictory orders.

The association submitted that in 2012, the HC clarified that the Town and Country Planning Department had no jurisdiction in matters related to DLF areas.

In February, the court said the same department would have to initiate action against those involved in unauthorised construction, the RWA said.

The RWA submitted that adverse orders were passed against it by the HC without giving it an opportunity to be heard, thus defeating the principle of natural justice.

The Town and Country Planning Department authorities reached the demolition site with enforcement squads on Friday but were restrained by the top court from taking any further action.

Stock market slide

Akhilesh Yadav says common people losing money, blames Centre

LUCKNOW: Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Saturday said it is very important to pay attention to the slump of India’s markets as common people are losing their money and this could cause the economy to sink.

In a post on X in Hindi, the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister held the central government responsible for this “double vicious circle” of the economy.

Indian markets plunged on Friday after US President Donald Trump announced sweeping reciprocal tariffs, including 27 per cent on India, to reduce the trade deficit and boost domestic manufacturing.

“It is very important to pay attention to the loss of millions of crores in the country’s stock market because the savings and capital of the common people, who have some extra money to invest and with which they buy goods or services and vehicles and land, is being lost.

“These are the things that keep the wheel of buying and selling moving in the market and also the economy. If the money of the common people is lost in the stock market, then both the market and the economy sink,” Yadav said in his post.

पूँचि नविकर्को

देश के शेयर बाजार में लाखों करोड़ों की गतिवृद्धि की ओर ध्यान देना बेहद जरूरी है क्योंकि इससे उन आम लोगों की बचत और पूँजी बढ़ रही है जिनके पास कुछ अतिरिक्त धन निवेश करने के लिए उपलब्ध है, जिससे वो लोग सामान खरीदते हैं या सेवाएं और वाहन-भू-सुविधाएँ जैसे ही बाजार... pic.twitter.com/zfLnJUHENU — Akhilesh Yadav (@yadavakhilesh) April 5, 2025

Investors’ wealth dropped by Rs 10 lakh crore on Friday as the BSE Sensex slumped over 900 points to crash below the 76,000 level due to an across-the-board sell-off, tracking weak global markets amid growing global trade war fears. The 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 930.67

points or 1.22 per cent to settle at 75,364.69.

Tracking the weak trend in equities, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms eroded by Rs 9,98,379.46 crore to Rs 4,03,34,886.46 crore (USD 4.73 trillion).

Today, when the youth are investing their savings in the stock market, they are also becoming victims of this uncertainty of the market. This is a very dangerous situation for the future of the



country’s capital market, the SP chief said.

“When the youth will suffer losses, they will also shy away from shares and other investments, which will not be a positive signal for the future of the stock market,” he said.

On the other hand, Yadav said, there are people who neither have money nor jobs since demonetisation and “recession”.

“Such unemployed and helpless people, facing hunger and unemployment, earn their living only with the help of

market activities and dynamism. This is why the fall of the stock market has a very bad long-term effect on their livelihood,” he said.

Sitharaman Refutes False Claims That ‘One Nation One Election’ Will Be Implemented In Next Polls

CHENNAI: Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday dismissed the false propaganda surrounding the ‘One Nation, One Election’ concept, clarifying that it will not be implemented in the upcoming elections.

Speaking at an event near here, she noted that around Rs 1 lakh crore was spent during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, and such a massive expenditure could be saved through simultaneous elections.

“If simultaneous elections are held for electing the members of Parliament and Assembly, about 1.5 per cent growth will be added to the country’s GDP. In value terms, Rs 4.50 lakh crore will get added to the economy. This is a



black and white example of One Nation One Election’ concept”, she said.

Sitharaman accused certain parties of “spreading a false campaign” on the ‘One Nation One Election’ initiative, blindly opposing it.

She clarified that

simultaneous polls are planned to take place only after 2034 and the groundwork is being laid now for the then President to give his assent.

“This concept was widely discussed during several occasions. It was not something introduced by the Prime Minister

Narendra Modi. This One Nation One Election’ was in existence till 1960s. Instead of blindly opposing it, if it has been supported considering its benefit, the One Nation One Election’ concept will make the country move forward,” the union minister remarked.

Sitharaman claimed that the late DMK Patriarch M Karunanidhi had supported the One Nation One Election’ concept, but his son and the current Chief Minister (M K Stalin) is not following in his father’s footsteps and instead opposing it.

Sitharaman reiterated that the ‘One Nation One Election’ concept was not someone’s “pet” project, but has been planned considering the welfare of the country.

AAP alleges ‘education mafia’ back in Delhi, slams BJP over fee hike in private schools

NEW DELHI: The Aam Aadmi Party on Saturday launched a sharp attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Delhi Government, accusing it of allowing private schools to arbitrarily hike fees.

Addressing a press conference, senior AAP leader and former Education Minister Manish Sisodia alleged that the BJP Government had handed over Delhi’s education system to the “education mafia”.

“Ever since the BJP Government came to power in Delhi, people have been suffering. Medicines are not available in hospitals, there are long power cuts, and now private schools are looting parents by increasing fees,” Sisodia said.

Claiming that several private schools have hiked fees by 20 to 82 per cent, he accused the



Government of inaction.

“Parents are worried. Children are being denied classes if their parents can’t pay the increased fees, and the school administration isn’t listening. The BJP Government is a silent spectator,” he said.

In a post on microblogging site

X, AAP minister Atishi reiterated the allegations and demanded a Central Bureau of Investigation inquiry.

“Watch through this press conference how Arvind Kejriwal’s Government, after coming to power in 2015, stopped private schools from increasing fees

arbitrarily. But as soon as the BJP Government came, these schools again got a free hand to loot,” she said.

She questioned how private schools that had not raised fees in a decade were now doing so within a month of BJP’s takeover. “Is the BJP Government complicit in this?” she asked.

Earlier on Friday, AAP national convener and former chief minister Arvind Kejriwal also took to X to share a news clipping about fee hike at a private school in Dwarka.

“In 10 years, we didn’t allow private schools in Delhi to hike their fees arbitrarily. We ended the education mafia.

Within just a month of their (BJP) Government taking over, the education mafia has returned,” he said.

UP to emerge as prosperous state in next 3 years with eradication of poverty: Yogi



MAHARAJGANJ (UP): Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday said Uttar Pradesh will emerge as a prosperous state in the next three years by eradicating poverty and his government

will make the state’s economy number one in the country.

Addressing an event here, the chief minister also attacked previous governments, saying they encouraged “one district,

one mafia” while the BJP government has replaced it with “one district, one medical college”.

Adityanath is in Maharajganj for the inauguration of the Rohin Barrage. He will also lay the foundation stones of and inaugurate 629 developmental projects

worth Rs 654, according to the state government.

“In the next three years, Uttar Pradesh will be established as a prosperous state by eradicating poverty.

Govt must keep national interests foremost while formulating strategy on US tariffs: Cong

New Delhi, Apr 5: Senior Congress leader Anand Sharma on Saturday termed the imposition of tariffs by the US “unfortunate” and “unilateral” and asked the government to take various political parties and stakeholders into confidence saying national interests should be kept foremost while formulating its strategy. Addressing a press conference here, the former Union minister urged the government to hold consultations with all stakeholders while protecting their interests and also constitute a task force of experts to evolve steps to deal with the issue and monitor the trade.

“What Donald Trump has done is unfortunate and is a big blow to world trade,” he noted.

“It is a matter of grave concern. The unilateral imposition of high tariffs by US President Trump has created massive disruption. This is unprecedented. It threatens



to create a major upheaval in all economics, big or small, whether rich and developed countries or the developing and poor countries,” Sharma said.

He said Trump’s decision has also “turned on its head” the multilateral trade system and delivered a grave blow to the world economy, trade and the WTO, the only organisation

which has responsibility to conduct a rule-based global trade.

Noting that there cannot be trade without a rule based system, he alleged what Trump has done is a violation of all international agreements, rules and principles.

“The government should ensure that national interests are kept foremost while taking any decision in reaction to the tariff imposition and it should be taken while protecting the interests of farmers and stakeholders,” Sharma noted.

Sharma said the government should take the country into confidence and there should be consensus and no such decision be taken in haste so that the country should not suffer the consequences of it. Noting that the government should have discussed the issue in Parliament when it was in session, he said it should now speak to all political parties and take them in confidence.

BJP leaders kept trying for Shiv Sena (UBT)’s support on Waqf bill till last minute, claims Raut

MUMBAI: Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Saturday claimed that top Central and Maharashtra BJP leaders were in touch with the Uddhav Thackeray-led party seeking its support for the passage of the Waqf Amendment Bill.

Raut alleged the legislation was brought by the government to bring corruption into the legal framework and grab Rs 2 lakh crore of land for “dear industrialists of the BJP”.

He claimed that the BJP pressured the Naveen Patnaik-led Biju Janta Dal till the last minute to support the bill in Lok Sabha. Though the BJD opposed the bill, it didn’t issue any whip to its members and asked them to vote according to their conscience.

“They did the same with us but we didn’t agree. Till the last minute, senior BJP leaders from Maharashtra and Delhi were in touch with Shiv Sena (UBT),” the Rajya Sabha member told reporters.

Chardham Yatra Route Split Into Zones For Better Management; Over 6,000 Personnel To Be Deployed

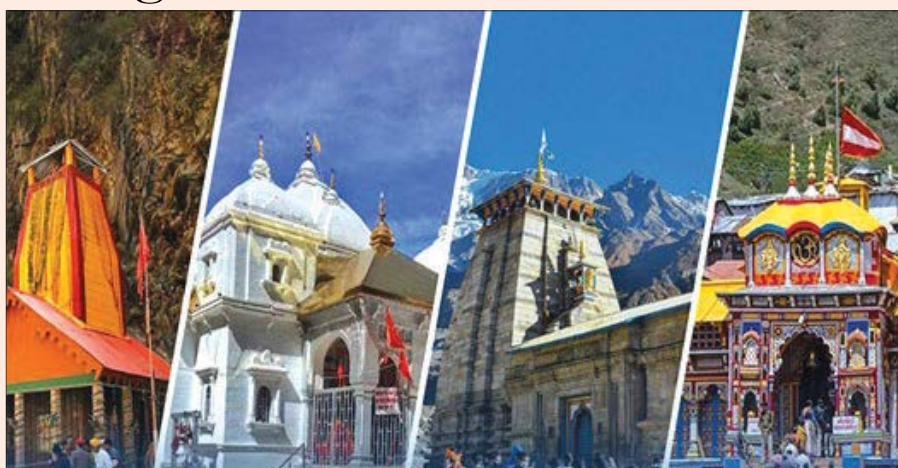
DEHRADUN: The Chardham yatra route has been classified into 15 super zones, 41 zones and 137 sectors for better management of the annual pilgrimage to the four famed Himalayan temples of Uttarakhand, a senior police official said on Saturday.

Inspector General (IG) Garhwal Swaroop on Saturday said more than 6,000 personnel will be deployed along the route to monitor security and transportation arrangements.

Every sector will be spread over a 10-kilometre area, where security personnel will conduct patrolling and perform other duties round the clock, said IG Swaroop, who has been appointed nodal officer for the yatra.

A control room, headed by Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Lokjeet Singh, is being set up at the range office, the IG said, adding that he will personally monitor the security arrangements, traffic, crowd and disaster management preparations.

The Chardham yatra is scheduled to begin on



April 30, with the opening of the Gangotri and Yamunotri temples. Kerdarnath will open on May 2 and Badrinath on May 4.

The IG said yatra control room at the range office will become operational in next five days. A Deputy Superintendent of Police, two inspectors, four sub-

inspectors, one head constable and a constable, besides an in-charge officer, will be deployed in the control room, which will work 24×7.

A special desk will also be set up at the control room to coordinate with other departments, he said.

Apart from this, a separate Chardham cell will be formed at the police headquarters under the leadership of Deputy Inspector General of Police (Law and Order) Dharendra Gunjyal. This cell will collect information related to the entire yatra.

Officers of Additional Superintendent of Police rank will be appointed as route in-charges. Nine officers will look after the yatra arrangements in their respective jurisdictions.

One Deputy Superintendent of Police rank officer has been made dham in-charge at each of the four temples. These officers will monitor facilities and arrangements for devotees at the temples.

Direct monitoring will also be done from the range and police headquarters levels.

The area under CCTV surveillance has also been increased this year, IG Swaroop said.

The total security deployment will include 24 DSPs, 66 inspectors, 366 sub-inspectors, 615 head constables, 1,222 constables, 208 women constables, 926 home guard jawans, 1,049 PRD jawans, nine companies of the Provincial Armed Constabulary and 26 teams of the State Disaster Relief Force.

The IG said traffic director has already started field inspection with his team.

A blue print for the traffic system along the route has been prepared, he said.

On the lines of Rishikesh transit camp, arrangements for the stay of pilgrims to Yamunotri-Gangotri Dhams will be made at Vikasnagar area, under the supervision of the SP there.

A welfare officer will be appointed at the Chardham control room to take care of the food, accommodation and other facilities of the police officers and other support teams, he added.

Editorial

Advancing Consumer Rights

Consumer protection is essential in India's complex marketplace, ensuring fair treatment and safeguarding rights. Recognizing the evolving challenges, the Indian government has implemented robust laws, innovative technologies, and public awareness campaigns to empower consumers and promote a fair trading environment. The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 replaced the 1986 Act to address challenges like e-commerce and online transactions. It broadened the definition of "consumer," included provisions for online purchases, and established the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) to combat unfair trade practices, misleading advertisements, and deceptive digital tactics. The Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016, ensures product safety and quality while promoting initiatives like Swachh Bharat and Digital India. The Legal Metrology Act, 2009, governs accurate weights and measures, vital for commercial fairness. The National Consumer Helpline (NCH) has become a cornerstone of grievance redressal. Available in 17 languages, it offers consumers multiple platforms for filing complaints, such as a toll-free number, SMS, WhatsApp, and apps. The NCH saw a dramatic rise in calls, from 14,795 in 2015 to over 1.4 lakh in January 2024, reflecting increased trust in the system. Through its Convergence Programme, the NCH partners with over 1,000 companies across sectors like e-commerce and banking to ensure quick complaint resolutions. The NCH 2.0 initiative introduces AI-powered speech recognition, multilingual chatbots, and voice-enabled regional language support, making grievance handling more inclusive and efficient. Public initiatives like "Jago Grahak Jago" raise awareness about consumer rights and protection mechanisms, reaching diverse communities. The introduction of "Jagriti," a mascot symbolizing consumer rights, reinforces the message. The CCPA also regulates deceptive practices like "dark patterns," safeguarding consumers from hidden costs and false urgency online. India's three-tier consumer dispute resolution system—District Forums, State Commissions, and the National Commission—complements civil courts to ensure swift and accessible grievance redressal. These mechanisms, paired with proactive legislation, form the backbone of consumer protection. India's evolving consumer protection framework highlights the government's commitment to creating a fair and transparent marketplace. By combining robust legislation, digital innovations, and widespread awareness campaigns, the country empowers consumers and promotes accountability among businesses. This comprehensive approach ensures not just safer transactions but also a rights-conscious, equitable economic landscape.



Dr. Reyaz Ahmad

The law of cause and effect is an undeniable universal principle that governs everything, from scientific progress to historical events, human behavior, and environmental shifts. However, this law does not end with a single reaction—it extends indefinitely, shaping future outcomes in ways that may not be immediately visible.

This article will explore how the continuation of cause and effect influences different domains with real-world case studies from India and the global stage. These cases will demonstrate that actions taken in the past continue to shape the present, and today's decisions will define the future.

1. Scientific and Technological Progress: The Chain of Discovery

Every technological advancement is a result of previous innovations and, in turn, sets the stage for future discoveries.

Case Study: India – ISRO's Space Missions

In 1969, India established the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) with the aim of self-reliance in space technology.

This led to Aryabhata (1975), India's first satellite, marking a milestone in space exploration.

Decades later, this continuous progress resulted in Chandrayaan-3 (2023) successfully landing near the Moon's south pole, making India the first country to achieve this feat.

The continued effects of these missions will drive future Mars and Venus explorations, advancements in satellite communications, and global scientific collaborations.

Case Study: Global – The Development of Artificial Intelligence

The foundation of AI was laid in the 1950s with Alan Turing's work on computational intelligence.

This led to machine learning and neural networks in the 1990s, which paved the way for modern AI applications like ChatGPT, self-driving cars, and medical AI diagnostics.

AI is now reshaping industries, and its long-term effects will influence employment, ethics, warfare, and decision-making processes in future generations.

Conclusion: Scientific advancements never occur in isolation—every breakthrough is both an effect of the past and a cause for the future.

Are We Shaping the Future—or Just Letting It Happen?

2. Historical and Societal Transformations: The Ripple Effect

History is a continuous chain of causes and effects, where past decisions and events shape societies for centuries.

Case Study: India – The Green Revolution and Its Long-Term Impact



In the 1960s, India faced severe food shortages, leading to widespread hunger and dependence on food imports.

The government, under Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, initiated the Green Revolution, introducing high-yield crops, irrigation techniques, and modern farming practices.

This caused a sharp rise in food production, making India self-sufficient in grains.

However, the unintended long-term effects included:

Soil degradation due to excessive chemical fertilizers.

Water scarcity from intensive irrigation.

Farmer debt crises due to the high costs of modern farming.

Case Study: Global – The Fall of the Berlin Wall and Its Aftermath

The Berlin Wall fell in 1989, signaling the collapse of communist regimes in Eastern Europe.

This led to the unification of Germany and economic growth in former Soviet-controlled nations. However, the continued effect of this shift is seen today in geopolitical tensions, the expansion of NATO, and Russia's ongoing conflicts with the West.

Conclusion: Political and economic decisions create long-lasting ripple effects, influencing future generations in unforeseen ways.

3. Individual Choices and Their Lifelong Impact

Small decisions in life often trigger a sequence of consequences, shaping an individual's future and even affecting society.

Case Study: India – Dhirubhai Ambani's Visionary Decision

In the 1950s, Dhirubhai Ambani, a small trader, took a bold decision to enter the textiles and petro-

chemical industries.

This move led to the creation of Reliance Industries, which later expanded into telecom, energy, and digital technology.

Today, Reliance drives India's economy, creating millions of jobs and influencing national policy in multiple sectors.

Case Study: Global – Malala Yousafzai's Stand for Education

In 2012, Malala Yousafzai, a Pakistani girl, was shot by the Taliban for advocating girls' education. Surviving the attack, she became a global symbol for education rights.

Her actions have since inspired policy changes, increased global funding for girls' education, and awareness campaigns on gender equality.

Conclusion: Individual decisions, whether in business, activism, or leadership, often influence millions of lives in the long run.

4. Environmental Impact: The Long-Term Consequences of Human Actions

The environment reacts to human actions, and the effects of industrialization and resource exploitation continue to unfold over centuries.

Case Study: India – The Ganga River Pollution Crisis

Over the years, industrial waste, religious offerings, and untreated sewage have caused extreme pollution in the Ganges River, affecting over 400 million people.

This has led to:

Rising health issues (waterborne diseases).

Declining aquatic life due to toxic pollutants.

Massive cleanup costs for the government.

The government's Namami Gange Project aims to reverse the damage, but its long-term success depends on sustained efforts over decades.

Case Study: Global – The Effects of Climate Change

The Industrial Revolution (1760-1840) marked the beginning of mass coal and fossil fuel usage.

Today, the effect of centuries of carbon emissions is evident in:

Rising global temperatures.

Melting ice caps and rising sea levels.

Increased natural disasters like hurricanes, floods, and wildfires.

The actions taken today—such as switching to renewable energy and reducing carbon footprints—will determine whether future generations face a livable or hostile planet.

Conclusion: The environment does not respond instantly, but every action taken today will determine the state of the planet for centuries to come.

Breaking Negative Cycles: A Call to Action

The continuation of cause and effect is not just

an observation—it is a responsibility. By recognizing how past actions shape the present, we can take conscious steps to break negative cycles and create positive ones:

Actions for a Better Future:

· Sustainable Development: India's focus on solar energy today will reduce dependency on fossil fuels in the future.

Educational Reforms: Investing in education

“

AI is now reshaping industries, and its long-term effects will influence employment, ethics, warfare, and decision-making processes in future generations.

”

today will reduce poverty and unemployment for future generations.

Mental and Physical Well-being: Developing healthy habits today ensures a longer, more fulfilling life.

The power to shape the future rests in our present choices.

Conclusion: The Future Is Not an Accident—It Is an Effect of Today's Causes

The law of cause and effect is an unstoppable force that continues beyond a single reaction, shaping the world for generations. Whether in science, history, personal life, or the environment, today's actions will determine the future.

The question is: Are we ready to take responsibility for the causes we create today, knowing their effects will shape tomorrow?

The answer is in our hands.

Author is Faculty of Mathematics, Department of General Education SUC, Sharjah, UAE. He can be mailed at reyaz56@gmail.com



Yamin Munshi

Benito Mussolini's rise to power in Italy can be attributed to the actions of his paramilitary group



known as the Blackshirts, or "Mussolini's thugs." These violent and aggressive individuals played a crucial role in paving the way for Mussolini's fascist regime. By using intimidation, coercion, and brute force, they helped enforce Mussolini's fascist ideology and suppress political opposition. Their actions ultimately led to Italy's road to fascism. The Blackshirts were originally formed as the Fasci Italiani di Combattimento in 1919, but they officially became the paramilitary wing of Mussolini's National Fascist Party in 1923.

silence dissent within Italian society.

One of the most infamous acts committed by Mussolini's thugs was the March on Rome in 1922. Thousands of Blackshirts descended on the capital to demand that King Victor Emmanuel III appoint Mussolini as Prime Minister. Fearing a civil war, the king complied, and Mussolini was able to seize power without the need for a full-scale revolution. This event marked the beginning of Mussolini's fascist dictatorship in Italy. Once in power, Mussolini utilized the Blackshirts as his

of a militarized, authoritarian state that glorified violence and nationalism. Their actions helped shape Italian society into a fascist dictatorship that valued obedience and conformity above all else.

Despite their brutal methods, the Blackshirts were celebrated by many Italians who saw them as defenders of the nation and champions of Italian nationalism. This widespread support for Mussolini's thugs allowed them to operate with impunity, further solidifying Mussolini's grip on power. Their willingness to use violence and

by using fear, violence, and coercion to enforce Mussolini's dictatorial regime. Their brutal tactics paved the way for the establishment of a totalitarian state that subjugated the Italian people and quashed dissent. The Blackshirts' actions serve as a stark reminder of the dangers of extremism and the importance of upholding democracy and human rights in the face of authoritarianism.

Author is Student of History. He can be reached at munshiyamin5@gmail.com

“

Despite their brutal methods, the Blackshirts were celebrated by many Italians who saw them as defenders of the nation and champions of Italian nationalism. This widespread support for Mussolini's thugs allowed them to operate with impunity, further solidifying Mussolini's grip on power. Their willingness to use violence and intimidation to achieve their goals set the stage for the emergence of a totalitarian state in Italy.

”

Javed Rana reviews I&FC measures

Emphasises efficient water management for agricultural prosperity

SRINAGAR: Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana, emphasised the critical need for timely completion of irrigation projects to ensure efficient water management and enhanced support to the agricultural activities.

He made these remarks while chairing a meeting of Irrigation and Flood Control Department in Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that an effective irrigation management is crucial for agricultural prosperity.

The Minister took stock of the progress made under various schemes, including the Flood Management & Border Areas Programme, Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP), NABARD funded projects, UT CAPEX and other key initiatives.

The Minister enquired in detail about the implementation of these schemes and directed the concerned officers to ensure that all ongoing works are completed within the stipulated timeframe.

He stressed the importance of close and continuous monitoring to avoid delays and ensure quality execution.



He further said transparency, accountability and efficiency in project execution should be the cornerstone of the department's functioning to ensure that projects achieve desired benefits.

During the meeting, he reviewed the physical and financial progress on FMBAP scheme and issued necessary instructions for its effective implementation for flood management and erosion control. He also reviewed the sector wise physical and financial status of projects under NABARD, UT CAPEX, PMDP and other schemes.

During the meeting, the Minister reviewed the measures taken by the department to deal with flood preparedness during 2025-26. He stressed on increasing the carrying capacity of the River Jhelum and Flood Spill Channel. He directed the concerned officers to take measures in advance to meet any eventuality.

During the meeting, the Minister also took stock of the measures undertaken to address the encroachments along the water bodies and irrigation canals.

He stressed the need for strict action against encroachments to safeguard water bodies and irrigation channels.

Dy CM meets Radha Soami Satsang Beas Chief in Jammu

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today met Baba Gurinder Singh Dhillon, the revered head of Radha Soami Satsang Beas (RSSB), at Thandi Khui, Vijaypur.

The Deputy Chief Minister interacted with Baba Gurinder Singh Dhillon and sought his blessings for overall peace and prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking on the significance of the meeting, Choudhary remarked, "Sants and great men have always played an incomparable role in removing the evils prevalent in society. The continuous efforts of RSSB in the service of humanity and fostering social harmony are truly amazing and inspiring."

He further expressed his hope that the blessings of such spiritual leaders would usher in happiness and prosperity for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting underscored the importance of spiritual guidance and community service in promoting peace and well-being across the region.

Ayush Shopianorganises Anti Drug Awareness camp at Chitragam

SHOPIAN: In order to aware the adolescent students about the dangers of Drug Abuse, the Department of Ayush Shopian organised an awareness camp on Drug Addiction with the theme, 'Be High on Dreams, Not on Drugs, Choose Life, Not Drugs' at Govt. High School, Chitragam.

The Camp was inaugurated by Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Zainapora, Showkat Hussain Ganie and was attended by SDM, Zainapora, Bilal Ahmad, CMO, Dr.Arshad, DIO, Showkat Ganie, BMO Zainapora and other officials of Ayush, Health and locals.

MLA Zainapora, emphasised the role of parents, terming it essential to tackle the menace along with the engagement of youth in positive and productive activities.

He sought cooperation of all to fight the war against the Drug Addiction, and appealed to teachers and parents to keep vigil on their students and wards.

On the occasion, speakers of Ayush, Health, Education and student speakers highlighted the role of stakeholders especially parents, educational institutions along with the government departments in tackling the menace of drug abuse.

District Nodal Officer Ayush, Dr. Javid vied for promoting Ayush and its health and wellness benefits through physical exercises, yogic practice and sports activities.

SDM Zainapora called for engaging youth towards career development early in their ages by inspiring and counselling them and channelising and honing their latent and vast energies for societal good.

Floriculture Deptt. Kashmir launches Capacity Building Program for Growers

SRINAGAR: In a significant initiative to empower floriculture growers and entrepreneurs, the Directorate of Floriculture, Kashmir launched a comprehensive Training, Exposure, and Interaction Program for the year 2025-26.

The program is aimed at equipping stakeholders across Kashmir with advanced skills, fostering innovation, and promoting sustainable practices in the floriculture sector.

The initiative includes a series of expert-led workshops, interactive sessions, and exposure visits.

Some of the major components include Advanced Cultivation Training, Pest and Disease Management, Water Use Efficiency, Best Cultural Practices, Market Connectivity, New Varieties Exposure and Networking Opportunities.

The initiative aims to improve livelihoods and boost floriculture as a sustainable industry, promote eco-friendly cultivation methods, enhance the competitiveness of Kashmir's floriculture sector in both domestic and international markets and encourage entrepreneurship and innovation.

The training programs and exposure visits will be held monthly at the Directorate and district levels, following a detailed calendar to be released by the Directorate. Growers and entrepreneurs are encouraged to actively participate as per the schedule.

This initiative reflects the Floriculture department's commitment to supporting the floriculture community with modern techniques, resilience-building, and market readiness.

For registration or further information, contact, the Directorate of Floriculture, Kashmir can be reached at (Email: kashflori@rediffmail.com) and (Phone: 0194-2474234 | Toll-Free: 1800-180-7201).

Meanwhile, the Directorate invites all floriculture stakeholders to take part in this opportunity and contribute to the growth of the floriculture industry in the Valley.

MoHFW, JK Health deptt hold national review meeting on Shri Amarnathji Pilgrimage

SRINAGAR: The Department of Health & Medical Education, in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), conducted the national review meeting for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)

Certificates to the pilgrims. He asked for putting in efforts to ensure that the certificates are issued only after thoroughly assessing the health status of the intending pilgrim. This measure will help in curbing the



2025. The key stakeholders, senior officials and experts attended the meeting to review the past experiences, discuss preparedness and enhance the coordination framework for medical services during the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

Secretary, Health & Medical Education (H&ME), Dr. Syed Abid Rashid Shah, who chaired the crucial meeting, highlighted the government's commitment towards ensuring a robust healthcare system for the pilgrims.

He emphasized the need for streamlining the process of issuance of Compulsory Health

morbidity and mortality rate, save numerous lives, he added.

Secretary Health also appreciated the states for deputing specialists and medical officers for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra duties over the years. He expressed hope that the states and the Government of India institutions depute the staff as per the requisitioned numbers for the forthcoming Yatra 2025. He focused on the requirement of Cardiologists, Respiratory Physicians and Anesthetists.

The meeting was followed by release of the Yatra Booklet and distribution of certificates of appreciation among the States and MoHFW. The States/MoHFW

Institutions that participated included Delhi, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Telangana, Maharashtra, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana and West Bengal.

Prominent national level institutions who participated in the meeting included AIIMS of New Delhi, Raipur, Jodhpur, Bhubaneswar Patna, Bhopal and Rishikesh, PGIMER Chandigarh, JIPMER Puducherry as well as Banaras Hindu University Medical College, RML Hospital, LHMC, Safdargung Hospitals, New Delhi and Aligarh Muslim University Medical College.

Additionally, SKIMS Medical College and Government Medical Colleges of Jammu, Srinagar, Anantnag participated in the meet. The meeting featured a comprehensive overview of Emergency Medical Response (EMR) activities presented by Dr. L Swasticharan, Additional DDG & Director EMR, MoHFW. He outlined the emergency response strategies and best practices.

Dr. Sujata Chaudhary, Additional Director General Health Services, MoHFW, further elaborated on national level coordination efforts to enhance the medical response mechanisms for SANJY.

Chief Justice inaugurates new Court Building at District Court Complex, Kathua

KATHUA: Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Tashi Rabstan, inaugurated the newly constructed Court Building at the District Court Complex, Kathua.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Judge, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Administrative Judge for District Kathua were present on the occasion.

Principal Secretary to Chief Justice, M.K. Sharma, Registrar Vigilance, Rajeev Gupta and the Judicial Officers posted at District Headquarters, Kathua, were also present on the occasion.

Justice Rajnesh Oswal also expressed satisfaction with the

advocates, a vulnerable witness room, server room, three record



The Chief Justice emphasized the importance of well equipped court infrastructure in ensuring effective judicial functioning and enhancing access to justice.

He stressed the timely completion of other ongoing infrastructure projects in Kathua, observing that these would significantly benefit all the stakeholders and facilitate smooth and speedy dispensation of justice.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar, who was also former Administrative Judge of District Kathua, reiterated that improvement of judicial infrastructure, particularly in District Kathua, has always remained a priority for him.

inauguration of the new Court Building.

He commended the tireless efforts and initiative of the Chief Justice in materialising this important project.

In his address, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Kathua, Jatinder Singh Jamwal, welcomed the Chief Justice, Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Administrative Judge and other dignitaries, including officers from the High Court Registry, Deputy Commissioner, Kathua and DIG, JKS Range.

He noted that this new court complex is a dream come true for the judicial officers, court staff and advocates, ultimately benefiting the litigant public.

The court building, equipped with modern infrastructure, comprises of six courtrooms, six judges' chambers, a bar room and a separate bar room for female

rooms, staff halls and dedicated rooms, a conference room, library, E-filing counter, E-Seva Kendra and spacious waiting areas on all three floors.

It also included staircases and ramps for universal accessibility, three toilet complexes (one on each floor) with separate provisions for males, females and differently-abled persons. Besides, the facility features three service lift points with four elevators: two for the general public, one for staff and one reserved for Judges.

CJM Kathua, Ajay Kumar, delivered the vote of thanks, expressing deep gratitude to the Chief Justice and the High Court Judges for gracing the occasion with their presence.

The proceedings were conducted by Special Mobile Magistrate, Kathua, Amandeep Kour.

SANJY 2025-26: Action Plan reviewed at Anantnag



ANANTNAG: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Anantnag, Syeed Fakhruddin Hamid, chaired a meeting to review the comprehensive action plan for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2025-26.

The meeting reviewed and refined the Capex and Revex budgets, ensuring meticulous preparations for the upcoming pilgrimage.

Critical components such as infrastructure, security, medical services, sanitation and logistics essential for the Yatra's success were discussed.

The meeting focused on aligning preparations with budgetary allocations, with detailed presentations from various departments.

Engineering departments presented plans for roads and track, shelters, and resting areas to facilitate seamless pilgrim movement.

The Medical Departments detailed medical and emergency response strategies including by AYUSH to ensure comprehensive healthcare.

Meanwhile, Rural Development and Panchayats Department and Municipal Councils presented a thorough sanitation and waste management framework to maintain cleanliness and provide adequate public amenities throughout the pilgrimage.

Transport Department presented a plan for transportation during the Yatra. District Information Officer presented a plan for effective communication.

The DDC underscored the necessity of interdepartmental collaboration to guarantee a seamless Yatra experience.

He called for proactive planning and swift execution of the action plans to preempt and resolve any challenges, reaffirming the administration's commitment to a successful and safe Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025-26.

Among others the meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Chief Executive Officer of the Pahalgam Development Authority, Superintending Engineers from R&B, O&M (KPDCL), and Hydraulic Circles, as well as the Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Chief Medical Officer and Chief Animal Husbandry Officer.

Meanwhile, the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra is scheduled to begin from 3rd July 2025.

Javed Rana reviews functioning of Gujjar & Bakerwal hostels in Kashmir

SRINAGAR: Minister for Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today chaired an exclusive meeting of Tribal Affairs department to review the functioning of Gujjar & Bakerwal hostels across Kashmir division.

The meeting was attended by Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Director Tribal Affairs and other officers.

The Minister had a detailed assessment of working of the hostels with emphasis on completion of infrastructural projects, facilities for students, pre and post-matric scholarship and land acquisition among other issues.

While addressing the meeting, Javed Rana instructed the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir and Deputy Commissioner Srinagar to resolve all

land acquisition issues for fast-tracking completion of infrastructure projects related to welfare of tribal students. He underscored the importance



of coordinated efforts among all stakeholders for effective implementation of government schemes, stressing that the intended benefits must reach the most marginalized sections of the tribal community. Emphasizing on the

importance of holistic development for students, the Minister directed the Director Tribal Affairs to ensure all necessary facilities are provided in hostels to foster academic and personal growth of students.

Rana took first hand appraisal about implementation of various schemes being executed for welfare of tribal students. He also reviewed the pre and post-matric scholarship for SC/ST students and said that no student should be left behind in availing the benefits of the government schemes. Javed Rana also sought details about the repair and renovation works being carried out in the hostels. He directed the concerned to closely monitor the progress of works for maintaining quality standards and completion within the set timelines.

GCOE Srinagar kick-starts Fit India Movement-2025

Director Colleges, Nodal Principal Kashmir Division Colleges flag-off the run

SRINAGAR: Government College of Education (IASE) M. A. Road, Srinagar Saturday kick-started the Fit India Movement (Men/ Women) 2025 with an inspiring event promoting physical fitness and wellness across the campus.

The run was officially flagged-off by Director Colleges Higher Education Department (HED), Prof. (Dr.) Sheikh Aijaz Bashir, along with Dr. Seema Naz, Nodal Principal Kashmir Division Colleges.

As many as 100 students of various colleges of the city participated in the event.

The run commenced from the main gate of the host college, passed through M. A. Road, Dalgate and culminated at Nehru Park Srinagar.

On the occasion, participants were encouraged to engage in physical exercises and wellness discussions to enhance their understanding of holistic health.

Students from both male and female categories participated actively in the event, reflecting the institution's commitment to promoting fitness among all sections

of the community.

This event was a great step towards fostering a culture of fitness and healthy living in academic institutions, with both Director



Colleges Higher Education and Nodal Principal Kashmir Division Colleges playing pivotal roles in driving this message forward.

On the occasion, Prof. (Dr.) Sheikh Ajaz said that the initiative is aligned with the goals of the Fit India Movement, aiming to encourage citizens, especially the younger generation, to incorporate physical activity into their daily lives.

By focusing on both male and female participants, the event emphasizes fitness as an inclusive, essential aspect of life, breaking down gender barriers in physical wellness activities.

Impact of US Reciprocal Tariffs Tit for Tariff: India's stake in the trade spat

Srinagar: Sakshi Gupta, Principal Economist, HDFC Bank in her analysis about the tariff imposed by US has said that India's economy may be headed for turbulent waters as the United States' latest wave of across-the-board reciprocal tariffs sends shockwaves across global trade, posing both threats and opportunities for New Delhi.

According to a recent research note by a leading financial institution, the severity of the new tariffs surpasses earlier projections and could drag India's GDP growth by up to 30 basis points, bringing the FY26 forecast down to 6.6%.

With the US facing a rising risk of recession—now estimated at 40%—the spillover could significantly dent Indian exports, not just in goods but also in services. For every 1% drop in global growth, India's GDP could fall by 0.3 to 0.4 percentage points, the report warned. The threat is compounded by a potential influx of cheaper Chinese goods into India, as Beijing redirects oversupply from high-tariff US

markets to others like India, putting local manufacturing at risk.

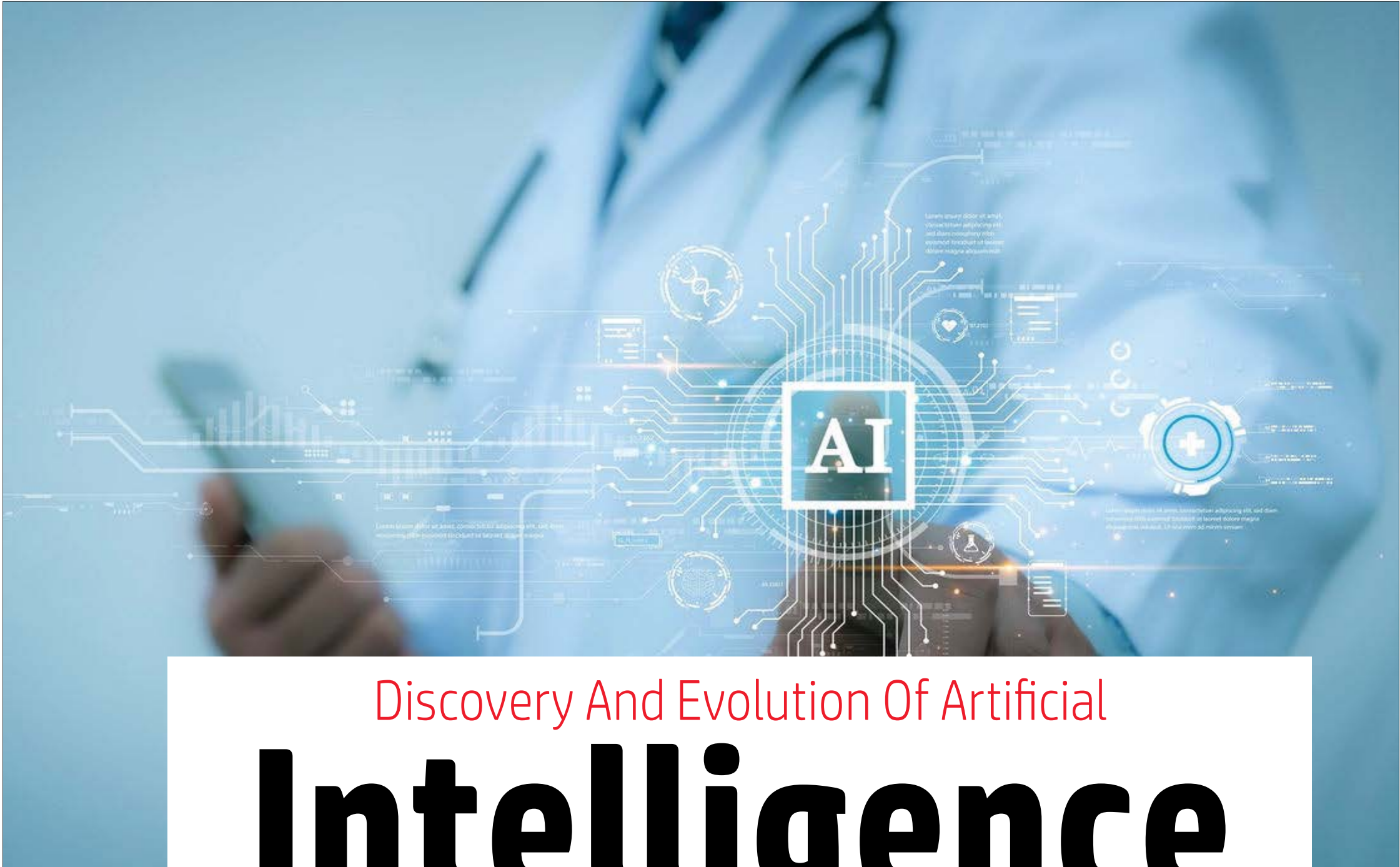
Despite the gloom, India could see limited gains in sectors such as textiles and electronics, as it faces lower tariffs than major Asian peers like China (54%), Vietnam (42%), and Thailand (37%). The report estimates a potential boost of USD 16 billion in Indian exports to the US—roughly 3.7% of total goods exports—primarily by capturing the market share lost by Chinese competitors.

such gains may be tempered. Competing nations could absorb tariff shocks through currency depreciation or price cuts, blunting India's advantage. Furthermore, India's own export gains may be diluted due to low domestic value addition, particularly in electronics where assembly rather than full manufacturing dominates.

Ongoing bilateral trade talks between India and the US could offer some relief. If a trade agreement is reached, India may be able to avoid or reduce the

impact of current tariff structures. But this may come at a cost—such as lowering its own tariffs on US goods—which could flood the domestic market and lead to higher import costs.

In response to these global headwinds, economists expect the Reserve Bank of India to cut interest rates by 25 basis points each in April and June, with further easing dependent on how global uncertainties evolve. On the currency front, the Indian rupee appreciated to 85.43 against the US dollar, buoyed by relatively lower tariffs and a weakening dollar. Analysts now expect the near-term USD/INR range to shift to 84.50–86.00, with limited depreciation pressures compared to other emerging markets. A bigger worry remains the potential fragmentation of global trade into rival blocs centered around the US and China. In such an extreme scenario, the IMF warns global GDP could fall by as much as 7% over the next five years, dealing a long-term blow to export-driven economies like India. (KNT)



Discovery And Evolution Of Artificial Intelligence



By: **Ulfat Nazir**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is one of the most transformative fields of modern science and technology. It has reshaped industries, redefined human-machine interactions, and opened new possibilities in fields ranging from healthcare to space exploration. But who first discovered AI?

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is one of the most transformative fields of modern science and technology. It has reshaped industries, redefined human-machine interactions, and opened new possibilities in fields ranging from healthcare to space exploration. But who first discovered AI?

The answer is complex, as AI is not the work of a single individual but rather the culmination of ideas, research, and technological advancements spanning centuries. This article explores the origins of AI, the key figures who contributed to its development, and how it has evolved into the powerful tool we see today.

Early Foundations of AI

The idea of intelligent machines can be traced back to ancient times. Greek mythology, for instance, spoke of automatons—mechanical beings given life by the gods. However, the scientific and mathematical foundation of AI emerged much later. Some of the early thinkers who laid the groundwork for AI include:

1.Theoretical Foundations

- Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz (17th century) – Proposed a mechanical reasoning machine based on logical calculations.
- George Boole (1854) – Developed Boolean algebra, which later became fundamental for computer logic.
- Alan Turing (1936) – Proposed the Turing Machine, a theoretical model of computation that became the foundation of modern computers.

organized by:
John McCarthy – Coined the term “Artificial Intelligence.”
Marvin Minsky – Developed early AI models and neural networks.

Nathaniel Rochester and Claude Shannon – Pioneers in computer science and machine learning.
The Dartmouth Conference established AI as an academic discipline, with the goal of building machines capable of reasoning, learning, and problem-solving like humans.

Key Developments in AI (1956-1990s)

The decades following AI’s inception saw major breakthroughs:

1.The Early Years (1950s-1960s)

The Resurgence of AI (1990s-2000s)

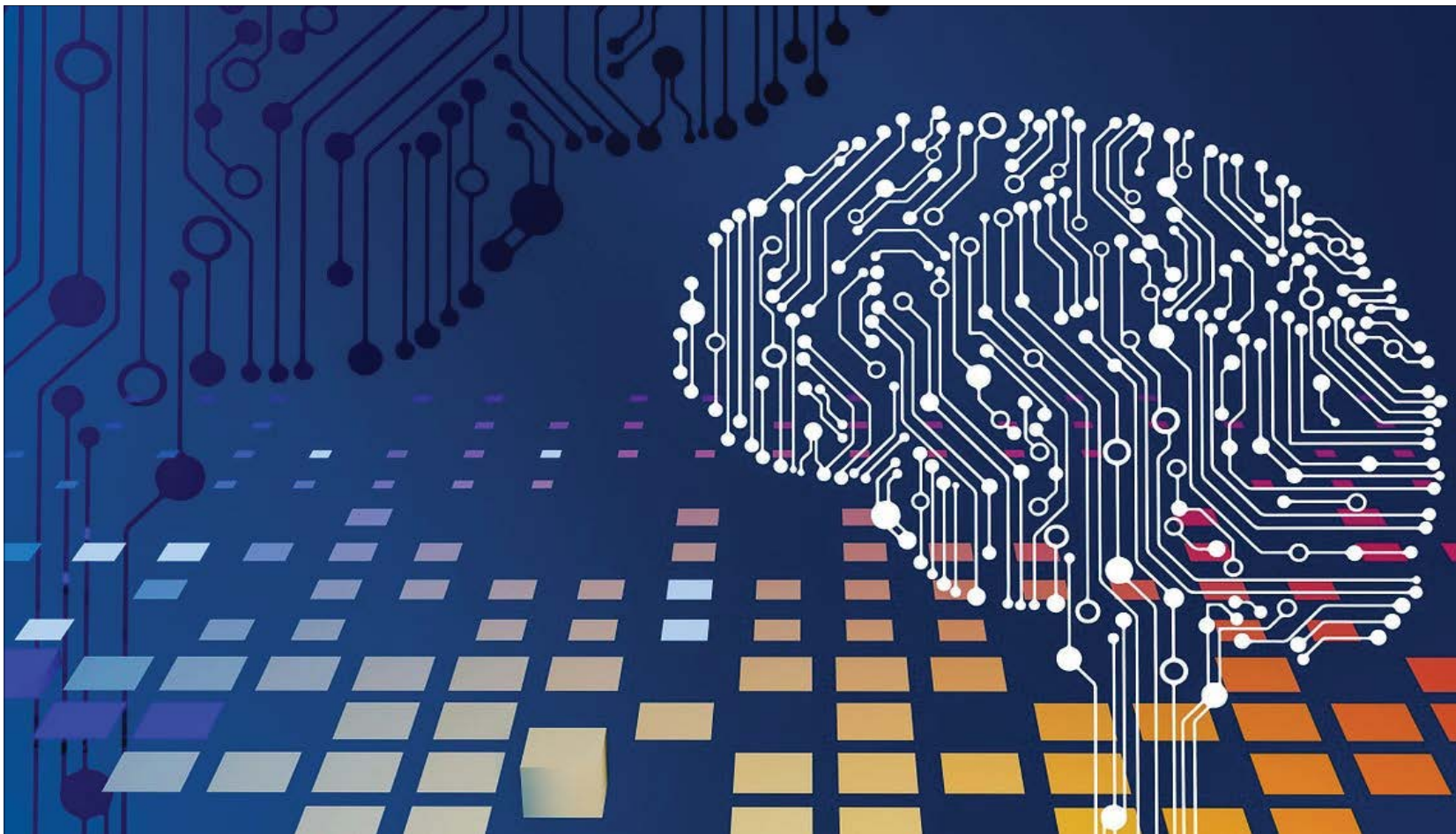
1997: IBM’s Deep Blue defeated world chess champion Garry Kasparov, proving AI could surpass human intelligence in specific tasks.

Modern AI Revolution (2010-Present)

AI saw a dramatic resurgence in the 21st century with advances in machine learning, deep learning, and big data:

1.Deep Learning and Neural Networks

2012: AlexNet revolutionized AI by using deep neural networks for image recognition.
2017: Google introduced the Transformer architecture, leading to models like GPT and BERT.



The Birth of AI Concepts

- Warren McCulloch & Walter Pitts (1943) – Developed the first mathematical model of artificial neurons, inspiring modern neural networks.
- Norbert Wiener (1948) – Introduced cybernetics, focusing on feedback loops in machines, an essential concept for AI.

The Official Birth of AI (1956)

The official birth of AI as a distinct field occurred at the Dartmouth Conference in 1956. This event was

- 1956: John McCarthy developed LISP, the first AI programming language.
- 1959: Arthur Samuel created the first self-learning program, a checkers-playing AI.
- 1966: Joseph Weizenbaum built ELIZA, one of the first chatbots.

AI Winters (1970s-1980s)

Despite early success, AI research faced setbacks due to limitations in computing power and funding shortages, leading to periods of reduced interest known as “AI winters.”

- 2020: OpenAI released GPT-3, a powerful AI for natural language processing.
- 2023-Present: AI applications continue expanding in fields like healthcare, finance, and automation.

Who is the Father of AI?

While multiple pioneers contributed to AI, two figures stand out:
Alan Turing – Theoretical father of AI due to his work on machine intelligence.
John McCarthy – Practical father of AI for formally introducing the term and establishing AI as a discipline.

Continued From P1...

Amit Shah

and senior party leaders on April 6 to discuss the ongoing Assembly Budget Session, resuming on April 7 after a 12-day break, and review the party's performance and the political situation in J&K, sources added.

Dr Jitendra Singh, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, is expected to join these discussions.

According to the sources on April 7, Shah will remain in Jammu till afternoon before proceeding to Srinagar, where he will stay overnight and chair additional meetings. He is scheduled to return to New Delhi on April 8.

The visit comes ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's anticipated trip to J&K on April 19 to flag off the first train to Kashmir from Katra, underscoring the need for heightened security measures to protect critical infrastructure.

The Ministry of Home Affairs and the Jammu and Kashmir administration have assured robust arrangements to facilitate this high-profile visit, with a multi-tier security cover in place across Jammu and Srinagar. "We are determined to root out terrorism from Jammu and Kashmir," Shah has reiterated during previous review meetings.

PM Modi to

Earlier, Union Minister Jitendra Singh confirmed that Prime Minister Modi will flag off the first Vande Bharat Express to Kashmir from Katra on April 19. "The train services for the inaugural Vande Bharat would start from Katra temporarily since the Jammu railway station remains under construction," he added.

Pertinently, in the last week of January this year Indian Railways had conducted the trial run of the first Vande Bharat train from the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra (SVDK) railway station to the Srinagar railway station.

The train to Kashmir will chug through Anji Khad Bridge, which is India's first cablestayed railway bridge and Chenab Bridge, which is the highest railway bridge in the world. This train has been designed keeping in mind the cold climate conditions of Kashmir.

The completion of the Udhampur-Srinagar Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project will significantly reduce travel time between Katra and Srinagar.

The new Vande Bharat Express will cut down the travel time from the current 6-7 hours by road to just 3 hours.

At present, train services run between Srinagar and Sangaldan in the Valley

J&K sees decline

Records Bureau (NCRB), which compiles state and Union Territory-wise information under the PCMA. Nationally, a total of 2,837 cases were registered over the same period, with Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and Assam accounting for a significant share.

Although the figures for Jammu and Kashmir may appear encouraging, officials in the Union Territory stress that low reporting does not necessarily imply the complete absence of child marriages. "We cannot afford complacency," said a senior official in the Social Welfare Department in Srinagar. "In regions where law enforcement faces multiple challenges, and where community pressure can suppress complaints, the real picture may differ."

The Government of India, in response to the growing national concern, launched the Bal Vivah Mukti Bharat campaign in November 2024 to accelerate awareness and prevention. As part of the campaign, a dedicated portal has been rolled out to facilitate reporting and enable public access to details of Child Marriage Prohibition Officers (CMPOs) across India.

In Jammu and Kashmir, CMPOs have been appointed at the district level and are tasked with monitoring potential violations, counselling families, and intervening in cases reported through the Childline helpline (1098), which has now been integrated with the Emergency Response Support System (112). Additionally, the Union Territory benefits from programmes under Mission Shakti and Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, which include awareness campaigns in schools and communities.

Rajnath Singh

Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh, and other senior officials. The ongoing conference serves as a platform to discuss strategic, operational, and administrative matters to boost the Navy's combat capabilities.

Highlighting India's commitment to strengthening naval power, Singh noted that the pace of naval modernization in the last decade has been unprecedented. "The induction of new platforms and advanced equipment has not only enhanced our maritime strength but also boosted

the morale of our sailors," he said.

He called on commanders to take forward the Government's reform agenda, declaring 2025 as the 'Year of Reforms' for the Ministry of Defence. "Ground-level reforms in training, R&D, finances, and manpower must align with policy changes. Convergence of top-down and bottom-up approaches is essential to achieve desired outcomes," he added.

The conference, held biannually, plays a crucial role in reinforcing India's position as the 'Preferred Security Partner' in the Indian Ocean Region. The second phase of the event will be held in New Delhi from April 7 to 10, where the Navy will engage with the Chiefs of the Army and Air Force, along with senior diplomats like Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant.

The event also highlights the Navy's focus on modernisation, indigenisation, and self-reliance in line with the Government's vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

Surrender and

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, who pledged Rs 1 crore to any village that achieves the goal of becoming Maoist-free.

"Urge you to surrender your arms and join us in this collective journey of progress and development," he appealed.

Highlighting Prime Minister Modi and his government's commitment to uplift the marginalised, Shah cited the elevation of Odisha's impoverished tribal daughter, Droupadi Murmu, to the post of President. He expressed hope that she would attend next year's Pandum festival, a gesture that would inspire and honour the region.

Drawing a contrast between his government's efforts and the "inaction" of previous Congress administrations, Shah listed the unprecedented accomplishments under PM Modi's leadership: the construction of 4 crore houses, 12 crore toilets, the provision of tap water to 15 crore households, free rations for 80 crore people, and free medical treatment for 70 crore citizens.

"While the Congress failed to act, this government has delivered," he asserted.

Referring to recent surrenders, Shah highlighted that over 500 individuals had chosen to abandon the path of violence this year. He assured those who surrendered a place in the mainstream but warned that those persisting in Maoist activities would face resolute action from the security forces.

The Union Home Minister also reflected on the evolving and transforming landscape of Bastar, a region once synonymous with gunfire but now filled with the hum of machines manufacturing new products. Schools that were once deserted now resonate with the ringing of bells as children return to classrooms.

"To those still entangled in militancy, persuade your comrades to surrender and join the mainstream. We envision a new generation of professionals emerging from Bastar, Kanker, Sukma, and every corner of Chhattisgarh," he said.

Amit Shah reaffirmed his Bharatiya Janata Party's commitment to the safety and prosperity of villagers, and also emphasised the cultural renaissance underway in Bastar.

The Bastar Pandum festival, a celebration of tribal artistry and culture, is poised to achieve international acclaim. This year, an astounding 47,000 artistes participated in the festival, showcasing the rich traditions, dialects, cuisine, and crafts of Bastar. Amit Shah announced plans to expand the festival's scope next year to encompass twelve categories, further enriching its cultural and heritage significance. The Bastar Pandum, along with Chhattisgarh's proactive governance, stands as a testament to a region on the rise, steadily advancing towards peace and prosperity, the Union Home Minister said.

On the occasion, Amit Shah also paid tribute to iconic figures like the late Maharaja of Bastar, Pravir Chandra Bhanj Deo, and veteran politician Babu Jagjivan Ram.

Passport processing

Passport Seva Kendras and Post Office Passport Seva Kendras and do not include the duration taken for police verification, which varies by region and can add to the total time a citizen must wait for their passport.

The Ministry of External Affairs also stated that online passport application systems, including the 'mPassportSeva' app and Passport Portal, have contributed to easing the process.

A 'Post Office Passport Seva Kendra' is operational in every Lok Sabha constituency in Jammu & Kashmir, bringing services closer to applicants in remote regions

In 11 days

Reasi, Doda, and Poonch have experienced several fires, specially from April 1 onward.

As per the Jammu and Kashmir Disaster Management Authority (JKSDMA), currently there are two active forest fire alerts in J&K, with one being of extreme nature and valid till 10 April 2025.

"Extreme Forest Fire Risk is likely to occur over forest area near Purmandal and Kathua, in next 7 days. Dial 112 for emergency help," reads the alert.

Another alert, as per KNO, states, "Very High Forest Fire Risk is likely to occur over forest area near Rajwalta, Kalakote, Samba, Kathua, Lakhampur, in next 7 days. Dial 112 for emergency help."

Given the heightened fire risk, authorities have also outlined several dos and don'ts to prevent forest fires and ensure public safety.

Among the do's list, it has asked to close windows, vents, and other openings to prevent embers from entering.

"Move animals and valuable goods to safer locations. After adventure activities, ensure that no bonfire or flame is left unattended," read the guidelines.

While among the don'ts, it has asked to avoid smoking near vegetation or forested areas and not to panic in case of a sudden fire. Refrain from entering the forest during a fire incident.

With regard to prevention and preparedness measures, it has asked to keep emergency contact numbers of district fire services and forest authorities readily available.

"Immediately inform authorities in case of an unattended or uncontrolled fire. Never leave a fire unattended in the vicinity of forested areas," read the guidelines.

Highlighting the evacuation protocol in case of fire, the guidelines have asked that in case of an active forest fire, evacuate immediately if instructed by local authorities and protect yourself from flying sparks and ashes.

It has also asked to untie cattle and livestock to allow them to escape safely.

Before Leaving Your House, the guidelines have outlined how to remove combustible materials like firewood, yard waste, gas cylinders, and fuel cans from your yard.

It has also asked not to attempt to outrun the fire and seek refuge in a pond or river if available.

"If no water is nearby, lie in a depression with little vegetation and cover yourself with wet clothes, blankets, or soil. Breathe through a moist cloth to avoid smoke inhalation," read the guidelines.

CS launches

Chairing a high level review meeting following the launch, the Chief Secretary assessed preparedness of the departments for the extensive campaign to be rolled out in every panchayat, Urban Local Body (ULB), educational institutions and major public spaces across the Union Territory.

The campaign is set to include 6,776 planned events for which a pool of 5,923 trained resource persons from the Social Welfare, Health, Police, Education and JKRLM departments has been developed through 51 training sessions across the 20 districts.

The Chief Secretary directed the district administrations to ensure inclusive public participation, stressing that the quality of content and delivery must be of the highest standards. He added, "this effort requires sincerity, empathy and innovation. Districts may deploy mobile IEC vans, send personalised messages to the participants and create immersive awareness models that resonate with the local population."

He instructed the senior district functionaries including ADDCs, ADCs and others to remain actively involved in field level activities, ensuring consistent momentum throughout the five month campaign.

The Chief Secretary emphasised that awareness is only the beginning and rehabilitation and counselling must follow as essential support pillars.

In a detailed discussion with Secretary Health, Dr. Abid Rasheed Shah, the need for confidential counselling, creation of doctor pools and institutional frameworks for long-term de-addiction efforts was reiterated.

The Chief Secretary stated, "it is essential to guide the individuals not only away from drugs but towards new paths of purpose, be it through education, skill training or self-employment."

Issues regarding helpline numbers at the district level were also discussed with the Chief Secretary, underscoring the need for a multi-layered support system that ensures that no recovering individual feels isolated or neglected.

The Health Department was tasked with leading inter-sectoral coordination with the Deputy Commissioners and line departments to ensure unified implementation.

The Divisional Commissioners and DCs provided status reports on resource calendars, session planning and logistics.

The DIPR was directed to undertake an aggressive publicity strategy using print, electronic, social and outdoor media to reach the citizens of all age

groups and backgrounds.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary Education, Shantmanu; Principal Secretary Home, Chandrakar Bharti; Additional Director General of Police, Manish Sinha; Commissioner Secretary Social Welfare, Sanjeev Verma; Commissioner Secretary General Administration and Information, M. Raju and Director Information, Nitish Rajora, along with other senior officers in person and through virtual mode.

Sub-committee

Without naming Peoples Conference president Sajad Gani Lone, she said a person asked a question about reservation but remained absent when it was listed.

She accused Lone of twisting facts for political gains.

She clarified that the current affidavit does not reflect the final stance of the government and that a revised one may be submitted if necessary

Sajad Lone

"In an affidavit filed before the J & K High Court yesterday by J & K Government in the case of Zahoor Ahmed Bhat and others vs UT of J&K, pertaining to RESERVATIONS, J & K government has submitted that the petition is frivolous and and sought its outright dismissal," Lone said.

He also slammed the government for not apprising the High Court about formation of cabinet subcommittee on reservation.

"Nowhere has the government mentioned the

formation of a subcommittee on reservations. This is a legal mystery. Seems the government is not taking its own committee serious enough to merit a mention in its legal affidavit," he said

J&K Govt seeks

reads the objections filed by deputy secretary, Social Welfare Department, Mohd Imran Naik.

The petition has been filed by Zahoor Ahmad Bhat and others. In the petition, they have challenged the existing reservation framework in J&K.

The government, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), has submitted that the instant writ petition on the face of it, is an attempt to abuse judicial process motivated by ill-will, ulterior and oblique motives.

"The petition if allowed would set a wrong precedent, encouraging unscrupulous litigants, as in the instant case, dissipating the precious time and resources of the Hon'ble Court, by hoodwinking the Authority of the Court. Therefore, the writ petition deserves dismissal at the outset, on this ground without entertaining the merits of the case with imposition of heavy costs," reads the affidavit.

Citing Indira Sawhney judgment, the government submitted that 50% ceilings is not an inviolable rule and can be breached in exceptional circumstances.

The government has submitted that the Rules mandate "adequate representation" and not "proportionate representation".

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that the parantege of my Daughter has been Mistakenly Mentioned in her School Records as Mubashir Yousuf Rashe, while as her actual and correct parantege is Mubashir Yusuf. Now i want to apply for its correction in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the principal Faiz Aam Secondary school Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Mubashir Yusuf.
F/O Hurmat Mubashir.
R/O Ladhoo Pampore.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that Electricity Agreement Bearing Consumer ID No: 0216010006357, which is Registered in the name of Miss Shaheena Bano, Now i want to apply for Change this Electricity Agreement in the name of Fatima Begum, W/O Mohd Afzal Lone, in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Executive Engineer Electricity Sub Division Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Fatima Begum.
W/O Mohd Afzal Lone.
R/O Ward NO: 04, Bandipora.

Army Holds Road Safety Awareness Programme for Youth in Rajouri's Samote

RAJOURI: The Indian Army organised an awareness lecture on road safety at Samote in Rajouri district on Saturday, aiming to educate local youth about the importance of traffic rules and safe driving practices.

The event, attended by around 20 locals, was part of the Army's efforts to strengthen its connect with the Awam and promote community welfare. The session focused on the dangers of reckless driving, overloading, riding without helmets, and ignoring traffic rules—common causes of road accidents and fatalities.

Participants were sensitised about essential safety measures, including wearing helmets and seat belts, avoiding mobile phone

use while driving, and adhering to speed limits. Real-life examples and interactive discussions made the session engaging and informative.

"The initiative was well-received, with the youth actively participating and expressing interest in more such awareness programmes," said Lt Col Suneel Bartwal, who led the effort.

The programme reinforced the critical role of individual responsibility in road safety and highlighted the Army's continued commitment to the well-being of border communities.



In Loving Memory of Mohammad Yousuf Chungal

With deep sorrow and heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Mohammad Yousuf Chungal, the beloved son of the late Mohammad Ramzan Chungal, a respected trader of Sopore and the proud owner of Shafco Traders. He departed from this world on Thursday, 3rd April 2025, at 5 PM after a brief illness at GMC Baramulla.

Mohammad Yousuf Chungal was more than just a businessman; he was a beacon of honesty, kindness, and integrity in our community. His dedication, warmth, and generous spirit touched the lives of many. He will be dearly missed by his family, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing him.

May Allah (SWT) grant him Jannat-ul-Firdous and bless his family with the patience and strength to bear this irreparable loss.

"Indeed, to Allah, we belong, and to Him, we will return."

"Indeed, to Allah, we belong, and to Him, we will return."

Family members,
Friends & Relatives
Esp. Saima Bhat

”چلے گئے وہ جو دل کے قریب تھے،
یادوں میں بس گئے، بے حجاب تھے۔
خدا کرے ان کی روح کو ملے سکون،
اور ہمسب کو ملے صبر کی دوا

Polycab India Unveils Super ROI Fans

Superior Air delivery, Superior Savings

SRINAGAR : Polycab India, a leader in electrical solutions, is strengthening its presence in the fan category with the launch of its Super ROI range. Designed to set new benchmarks, this strategic initiative aims to redefine Return on Investment (ROI) for the fans category. This range promises a perfect synergy of high performance, energy efficiency and modern aesthetics. With rising energy costs and evolving consumer preferences, Polycab remains dedicated to delivering innovative solutions that ensure superior value for customers

Polycab's range of Super ROI Fans, are powered by BLDC technology. They not only help you save up to 50% energy and electricity*, but their select BLDC models also provide 25% higher air delivery. Reverse rotation help you stay comfortable in winters also. Built with a 100% copper winding motor, these fans promise durability and reliability, backed by a four-year warranty. Polycab fans are available in modern aesthetic designs, in over 30 colours to compliment your home décor. These Polycab Super ROI fans, ensure Return on Performance, Return on Technology and Return on Product, making it the right investment that pays off.

To cater to the growing demand, Polycab has made substantial investments in the fan category. The company has set up a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility with a production capacity exceeding 9 million fans. This strong manufacturing infrastructure is backed by an advanced Research and Development (R&D) centre, leveraging deep consumer insights to drive innovation and deliver exceptional products

Speaking on the launch, Mr. Ishwinder Khurana, Executive President & Chief Business Officer (B2C), Polycab India, said, "Today's consumers expect more from their home appliances. With evolving needs and rising energy costs, 61% of consumers prioritize energy efficiency, without compromising on performance or aesthetics. Recognizing this demand, fans have become a strategic growth pillar for Polycab. Following the success of our Roorkee plant, we have established a state-of-the-art facility in Halol to accelerate expansion. The Super ROI Fans are designed to exceed traditional expectations, embodying Polycab's dedication to innovation and offering solutions that genuinely 'payback' over time."

Super ROI Fans offer a smart and sustainable choice for consumers. They are now available at leading retail outlets and on e-commerce platforms like Amazon and Flipkart.

With this launch, Polycab strengthens its position as a leader in energy-efficient home solutions, delivering exceptional performance and value to households across the nation.

Control over length, use of variations makes Digvesh dangerous: Watson

LUCKNOW: Rookie leg-spinner Digvesh Rathi's ability to consistently hit an immaculate length with subtle variations, such as the off-break and carrom ball, makes him a dangerous bowler, feels former Australian white-ball great Shane Watson. The 25-year-old Delhi spinner Rathi, the break-out star of this IPL season for Lucknow Super Giants, has already taken six wickets at an economy rate of 7.62 with his skipper Rishabh Pant completing his quota in all four games.

"It seemed like he was born to perform on this IPL stage. He wasn't reserved—he was out there, beating his chest, showing confidence, and executing beautifully," Watson told on JioHotstar after LSG defeated Mumbai Indians by 12 runs with Rati getting the 'Player of The Match' award for his 1 for 21 in four overs which included eight dot balls.

In fact, Rathi brought LSG back into the game when Naman Dhir (46 off 24 balls) was looking ominous. He breached Dhir's defence with a carrom ball that turned like an off-break.

"What stands out about Digvesh is how simple he keeps his game. He runs in, uses his variations—the carrom ball and off-spinner—but his control over length is what makes him so dangerous. When a bowler gets the length right, it's tough for batters to step out or go on the back foot," Watson explained.

"To think that in a high-scoring game, where nearly 200 runs were posted, he conceded just 21 runs in his four overs—that's

something very, very special." Rathi mentioned that his passion for spin bowling grew watching Sunil Narine

their incredible skills." Watson was all praise for Shardul Thakur, whose crucial 19th over, in which

The performance would be a morale booster for Shardul, who wasn't originally picked by any franchise, said Watson.



To think that in a high-scoring game, where nearly 200 runs were posted, he conceded just 21 runs in his four overs—that's something very, very special."

bowl and Watson also found shades of Narine in the Delhi lad who sports a flowing mane.

"It's the kind of impact we usually see from Sunil Narine. That's why he was the Man of the Match—performances like this don't happen often. But that's the beauty of the IPL. Every season, new talents like Digvesh burst onto the scene and showcase

he conceded only seven runs, made it easier for Avesh Khan to defend 22 runs in the final over.

"Shardul executed brilliantly. He knew he had to commit to his yorker. Typically, bowlers rely on changes of pace early on, but that just wasn't working tonight. So, he focused on nailing his yorkers, especially against an in-form Hardik Pandya."

"Bowling a seven-run over at such a crucial stage, with Hardik at the crease, was special. That's a big confidence booster for him. Given that Shardul went unsold in the auction and then got picked up as a free agent, you can see how determined he is to prove himself. He's now delivered two strong performances, and this one played a major role in LSG getting over the line."

"Shardul executed brilliantly. He knew he had to commit to his yorker. Typically, bowlers rely on changes of pace early on, but that just wasn't working tonight. So, he focused on nailing his yorkers, especially against an in-form Hardik Pandya."

RKFC fights for I-League title against Churchill Brothers

Srinagar, April 5: Real Kashmir Football Club (RKFC) will play its most crucial match of the season against Churchill Brothers Goa on Sunday, a game that could decide the winner of the I-League 2024-2025.

The match is scheduled to begin at 4 PM, with adequate arrangements being made for the event.

Currently, four teams are in contention for the I-League title. Churchill Brothers Goa lead the table with 39 points, followed by Gokulam Kerala with 37, and Real Kashmir FC and Inter Kashi with 36 points each. All teams have played 21 matches and have just one game remaining, which will decide the champion of the season.

If Churchill Brothers win their final match, they will finish with 42 points and be crowned champions. However, if RKFC win and Gokulam Kerala lose or draw their match, the Kashmir-based team could clinch the title.

This is the first time RKFC is in contention for the I-League title. The club's owner, Arshad Shawl, has been rebuilding the team since last year. He thanked fans for coming out to watch matches in large numbers and supporting the team. Led by coach Ishfaq Ahmad, the team has been providing opportunities to local talent from the valley.

Addressing a pre-match press conference on Saturday, RKFC head coach Ishfaq Ahmad said the match against Churchill Brothers is a significant one. "We want to finish on a high note and maintain our unbeaten record at home. If we manage a win with a good margin, we could also become champions. We will give our best and try to get the result in our favor," he said.

When asked to evaluate the team's overall performance, he responded, "The performance of the entire squad has been commendable. Since last season, we have shown consistency. The inclusion of local players has also brought good results at the national level."

On whether Kashmir could host ISL matches if RKFC qualifies, he said, "We need a better ground. Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar could host ISL matches if it is properly developed."

The coach also appealed to fans to come out and support the team in this match, decisive game of the season.

RKFC player Mohammad Hammad expressed excitement about playing the last match of the season at home. "We will give our best to win. We appeal to fans to come and watch the match. Their support has played a vital role in our home victories."

Churchill Brothers Goa head coach Dimitrios Dimitriou and player Lamgoulen also addressed the press conference.



Khyber Cement Ka Zarra Zarra Dil Se Bana Hai

