

Jugal, Arvind inaugurate Bank of Maharashtra's new business unit at Akhnoor Road

New branch to serve urban-rural banking needs, says Arvind

Jammu, Apr. 15 : In a significant step towards expanding banking services in the region, Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member of Parliament, along with Arvind Gupta, MLA Jammu West, today inaugurated the new business unit of Bank of Maharashtra at Akhnoor Road, Jammu.

The inauguration ceremony witnessed the presence of S.K. Trivedi, Zonal Manager of the Bank's Ludhiana Zone, Romit Sharma, Branch Manager, and several prominent citizens and local residents who hailed the bank's decision to enhance its footprint in the area.

Speaking on the occasion, Jugal Kishore Sharma said the opening of the new business unit will not only boost local economic activity but also provide easy and efficient banking services to residents, traders, and small business owners in the area. He emphasized that financial inclusion is a



key focus of the Modi Government, and the expansion of public sector banking is aligned with that mission.

banking needs of the people in and around Akhnoor Road. He lauded the efforts of Bank of Maharashtra in bringing its services closer

banking solutions, and highlighted the bank's various schemes for individuals, entrepreneurs, and farmers.

to the grassroots. Zonal Manager S.K. Trivedi assured the public that the bank is committed to providing customer-centric and technology-enabled

The event concluded with a vote of thanks from the branch management, followed by interaction with customers and a guided tour of the new facility.

Dr Tahir Choudhary urges Hon'ble PM Modi, MEA to intervene after sharp cut in India's private Hajj quota

Jammu, Apr. 15 : Expressing deep concern over the sudden 80% reduction in India's private Hajj quota by Saudi Arabia, senior BJP leader and party spokesperson Dr. Tahir Choudhary has appealed to the Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to take urgent diplomatic steps to safeguard the interests of thousands of affected pilgrims, particularly those from Jammu & Kashmir.

said the abrupt cut—impacting over 52,000 Indian pilgrims—has left many Hajj hopefuls in a state of shock and uncertainty, especially those who had already made arrangements and payments through private Hajj Group Organizers (HGOs). "Hundreds of applicants from Jammu & Kashmir, including women and elderly people, are now caught in limbo. The dreams of performing this sacred pilgrimage are slipping away for many due to circumstances beyond their control," Dr.

Choudhary said. He called the situation "deeply distressing," especially in the context of pilgrims who had been selected and were preparing spiritually, emotionally, and financially for the once-in-a-lifetime journey. "I earnestly request Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji and Hon'ble External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar to personally look into the matter and engage with the Saudi authorities to ensure that India's rightful quota is reinstated or revised favor-

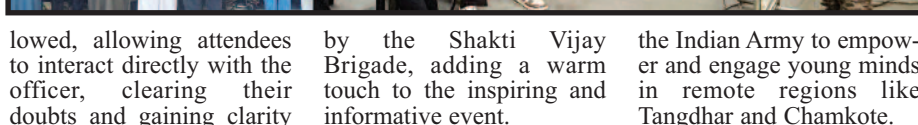
ably," Dr. Choudhary urged. The senior BJP leader further added that the Hajj pilgrimage is not only a religious obligation for many, but also an emotional aspiration for elderly citizens who have waited years for their turn. He emphasized that while the Saudi government's decision may be part of broader crowd-control measures, such abrupt changes require transparent communication and proper coordination to minimize the impact on pilgrims.

Col Anshul Sharma addresses students on Agniveer Recruitment at GDC Tangdhar & Chamkote

Kupwara, Jammu, Apr. 15 : In an effort to spread awareness and encourage youth participation in nation-building, Col Anshul Sharma, Director Recruiting, BRO, Srinagar, conducted an informative session on the Agniveer Recruitment Process under the Agnipath Scheme at Government Degree College (GDC) Tangdhar and Chamkote. The lecture emphasized the transformational role of the Agnipath scheme in modernizing and strengthening the Indian Armed Forces. Col Sharma elaborated on the selection process, eligibility criteria, training, and career opportunities under the Agniveer initiative, aiming to dispel myths and inspire young aspirants from border areas to serve the nation.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from a large number of students. A lively cross-question and answer session followed, allowing attendees to interact directly with the officer, clearing their doubts and gaining clarity about the recruitment process and life in the armed forces. The session concluded with refreshments arranged by the Shakti Vijay Brigade, adding a warm touch to the inspiring and informative event.

This initiative not only bridged the gap between military services and the local youth but also showcased the commitment of the Indian Army to empower and engage young minds in remote regions like Tangdhar and Chamkote.



Adv Purnima asks NC Govt to prioritize completion of key tourism projects in Jammu

Jammu, Apr. 15 : Adv. Purnima Sharma, BJP Spokesperson for Jammu & Kashmir and former Deputy Mayor of Jammu, on Tuesday strongly urged the administration to focus on the timely completion of ongoing tourism infrastructure projects in Jammu, stating that mere rhetoric on promoting religious tourism will not suffice unless critical projects on ground are delivered efficiently and on time. Addressing a press conference at Party Headquarters in Jammu, Adv. Purnima Sharma and Rajni Sethi, Spokesperson, J&K BJP, emphasized that while the so-called ruling government often speaks about boosting religious and heritage tourism in Jammu & Kashmir, there has been a serious lack of progress on several key projects in the Jammu region. "The government must take serious note of the delays and stagnation in major tourism-related works, especially those which are vital for the people of the Old City and the larger Jammu population," she asserted.

site reflects the glorious Dogra legacy and its restoration is not only about tourism, but also about preserving the identity of Jammu," she added. she appealed to the Government to expedite and complete the project at the earliest.

in Jammu, she noted that it has failed to attract local enthusiasm due to lack of promotion and supporting infrastructure. "There is a dire need to take additional steps to make it a successful tourist attraction," she said. Adv. Purnima asked the

Despite its spiritual and cultural significance, no government in the past took any steps to honor this holy river with an Aarti, like the Ganga Aarti. Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Modi ji, this tradition has now begun, marking a new chapter for Jammu.



the earliest." Adv. Purnima also drew attention to the River Tawi Front Development Project, where the historic Tawi Aarti has recently organized on its banks. She said, it holds immense potential to redefine Jammu's urban and tourism landscape. "The historic River Tawi is the lifeline of Jammu, and the development of the Tawi Front should be completed at the earliest," she said, while calling for urgent intervention to revive and expedite the project. While appreciating the launch of the first-ever Gandola (ropeway) project

ruling National Conference-led government to show serious commitment towards the completion of all Jammu-based tourism projects, in order to truly transform Jammu into a vibrant religious and heritage tourism hub. Rajni Sethi, in her address, said that it was a historic day on Baisakhi when the Suryaputri Tawi Aarti was performed for the first time on the sacred banks of the Tawi River, also known as Tavishi. According to ancient beliefs, Tawi was brought to Jammu by Paindnaag, the son of Vasuki Naag,

Known as the City of Temples, Jammu is finally receiving the recognition it deserves. We are grateful to PM Modi and the BJP for making Jammu a priority, added Sethi.

We also thank the Modi government for the grand gift of the Jambu Zoo, which showcases diverse wildlife. Had it been the NC government, they might have shifted it to Kashmir. Another remarkable gift is the Tirupati Balaji Temple at Sidhra Road—a powerful symbol of faith for Hindus across Jammu.

Lieutenant Governor attends 'Himachal Diwas' celebrations at Raj Bhawan

JAMMU, APRIL 15 : Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today attended the celebration of 'Himachal Diwas', hosted by Jammu Kashmir Raj Bhawan at Jammu.

Governor emphasised the need to increase the Cultural exchanges

ditions, food and art, they reduce the division and bridge the gaps.

The Lieutenant Governor paid homage to General Zorawar Singh, the



Security personnel, students and the people of Himachal Pradesh living in J&K UT were the special invitees for the evening.

The Lieutenant Governor extended his felicitations and best wishes to the people of Himachal Pradesh on the occasion. "This Devbhoomi is blessed by nature, rich spiritual and cultural heritage and vibrant traditions. It has also emerged as a major hub for hydropower, and this sector is significantly contributing to its local economy.

between the States and Union Territories. He said, the cross-cultural engagement programmes can strengthen India by fostering mutual understanding, breaking down barriers, and building social cohesion.

"Cultural exchanges between the States and UTs under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat can also spur economic benefits. The local festivals will attract tourists and cross-state collaborations will help in curating mega festivals and also boost community pride and local economies," the Lieutenant Governor said.

great warrior and military strategist. He also recalled the significant contributions of army bravehearts and prominent luminaries from Himachal Pradesh. On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor released an Activity Calendar of Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages.

I pray that the aspirations of the people of this state are fulfilled and Himachal keeps strengthening the nation's growth," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Joint enforcement drive for traffic rules, MVA conducted in Jammu South

JAMMU, APRIL 15 : In a concerted effort to curb traffic violations and promote road safety, a joint enforcement drive was carried out today across multiple locations in Jammu South, including the Sher-e-Kashmir Bridge.



The drive was conducted by the District Administration with participation of the Motor Vehicles Department (MVD), Traffic Police and local Police. The enforcement teams were led by Tehsildar South Arti Bhardwaj, ARTO Flying Squad Er. Bipen Singh Charak, Dy. SP Traffic South Faisal Rishu and

ARTO Mohd Salim. The team also included

Er. Surinder Kumar, Er. C. S. Billowria, and Er. Azad Hussain, along with DTI

Sameer Jillani, DTI Ravinder Singh, MVTA Taranjot Singh.

ZEOs to be held accountable for unauthorised absence of teachers: DC Jammu

JAMMU, APRIL 15 : Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya today chaired a meeting with Zonal Education Officers (ZEOs). The meeting was convened as a follow-up to the surprise inspection conducted at Government High School Pakhian on April 10.

to conduct routine inspection of schools in their respective jurisdictions and

not be tolerated. ZEOs will be held accountable for any lapse in monitoring," the

tions to strengthen and promote academic improvements.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned SDMs and ZEOs



ensure strict adherence to staff attendance. "Unauthorised leave will

DC asserted. The Deputy Commissioner further issued a string of instruc-

the ZEOs, Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs) participated virtually.

Sakeena Itoo reviews traffic regulations across J&K; emphasises enhanced safety of college, school going students

JAMMU, APRIL 15 : Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat to review the existing traffic regulations for enhanced safety and security of school and college going students of Jammu and Kashmir.

private buses transporting school children. She emphasized on the need for stricter enforcement of traffic laws, enhanced coordination among schools, transport and police departments for effective implementation of road safety regulations. "It is our collective responsibility to create a

joint checking squads to ascertain its on ground implementation. While reviewing other safety regulations, Sakeena Itoo emphasized on routine checking of all college and school buses in terms of fitness and other aspects to maintain safety protocols for students. The Minister also direct-

schools and colleges on Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays. The Minister directed the officers that Higher Secondary schools and High Schools within a district should seek prior permission from the concerned Chief Education Officer, who shall make a proper list as per the applications



safe and secure environment for the school and college going students", Sakeena stated. Expressing displeasure over rising road accidents, the Minister called upon transport and police departments to launch effective drives against over speeding, drunken driving as well as licence violations with special focus on college and school going students. She further asked them to keep through check on stunt biking and rash driving among youngsters and juveniles and make their parents fully responsible for such incidents.

The Minister also called upon both the departments for strict implementation of 'no helmet no fuel rule'. She asked them to constitute

ed the ACS Education to conduct an in-depth departmental enquiry regarding the recent Handwara College Bus accident. She further asked the Director Colleges to conduct fresh driving test of all college bus drivers. Sakeena Itoo further called upon all the stakeholders like health, education, transport and police departments to work in tandem and organise regular safety drills and awareness programmes regarding road safety protocols. Meanwhile, the Minister during the meeting, also assessed the SOPs and protocols for conduct of picnics by schools and colleges. She passed on strict directions to enforce complete ban on picnics by

received and grant permissions accordingly. She added that the Middle Schools and below should seek permission from respective ZEOs who shall inform the CEO so that the schools can be allowed for picnics in hassle free manner. The Minister further directed the officers that the schools who intend to go for picnics located outside their districts, need to seek prior permission from the concerned Director of School Education, who shall allow them after checking the influx of visitors at these locations. She also asked the Director colleges to establish a mechanism for granting permission to colleges regarding picnics.