

## Omar Govt Accelerating Development in Chenab despite statehood delay: Javed Rana

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, APR 25

Senior National Conference leader and Hon'ble Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, and Tribal Affairs, Javed Rana, stated that despite delays in the restoration of statehood, the Omar-led government is making significant development strides in the Chenab region, particularly Bhadarwah.

He made these remarks while addressing a massive workers' meeting in Bhadarwah on the third leg of his Chenab visit. The meeting was chaired by Sheikh Mehboob Iqbal. Also present were Provincial President Jammu Rattan Lal Gupta, OBC Cell Chairman Abdul Gani Teli, Abdul Qayoom Bhagwan District President Doda Rural (Bhadarwah), JKNCU President Harshvardhan Singh, and youth leader Arun Pal Singh.

Rana said that despite numerous challenges, the Omar-led elected government is working to bring Bhadarwah back on the path of development. "The government does not lack intent. We are fully aware of how our people in Bhadarwah have suffered for over a decade due to shortages of water, electricity, roads, essential medicines, and teachers in schools.

Now, the elected government is addressing past neglect by restarting all



stalled schemes and projects. Many infrastructure projects have already been completed, while several others are set to be inaugurated in the coming weeks and months.

Our government's sole focus is to provide long-overdue administrative relief to our people. In the Chenab region, my ministry is working on multiple levels to safeguard local ecology and forests, ensure clean potable water, and support tribal communities in leading dignified lives."

Rattan Lal Gupta, while advocating for the restoration of J&K's special status, said, "From being a state

founded by the Dogras to a Union Territory, the situation under BJP rule tells a grim tale of losses.

Our territory was divided, special land and job rights were stripped away, and our dignity was undermined. What was once one of India's most empowered states has been reduced to a shadow of its former self. Despite active participation in elections at all levels from DDCs to Parliament and the legislature the Government of India has not honored its commitments regarding statehood restoration, which could provide relief to our people and allow the elected gov-

ernment to serve them effectively."

He further urged to the party functionaries to gear up their cadre for the upcoming Panchayat and Local Bodies elections.

Sheikh Mehboob Iqbal highlighted various issues faced by the people, to which Minister Rana assured prompt redressal.

Among others who were present included: Ghulam Ali Shakhaz, Abdul Afiz Butt District Secretary Doda Rural, Sheikh Irshad Laway, Mohd Ayub Nazar, Zulfkair Block Presidents, Block Secretaries and party functionaries were also present.

## BJP leadership visits bereaved families in Ramnagar, express deepest condolences

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Senior leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, led by Sat Sharma, President, BJP J&K and MP (Rajya Sabha), visited the homes of families affected by the tragic road accident in Kaghot village to express their heartfelt condolences and stand in solidarity with the grieving families.

Accompanied by Rashpal Verma, Vice President, BJP J&K, Sanjita Dogra, General Secretary, BJP J&K, and senior leader Gopal Mahajan, along with MLAs Balwant Singh Mankotia, Ranbir Singh Pathania, and Dr. Sunil Bhardwaj, the delegation visited Birnu Panchayat in Tehsil Ramnagar. The leaders met the families of Kartar Chand, Prem Nath, Anita Devi, Archana Thakur, and Surjit Singh, offering their prayers and support during this difficult time.

Sharma, along with senior leaders also visited the



homes of Sanjay Kumar of Village Kirmu, Geeta Devi of Kirmu A, Vishali Sharma of Kirmu (Nimbla), and Tillo Ram of Ward No. 8, Ramnagar, to meet with the bereaved families and express his deepest condolences.

Senior party functionaries including District Prabhari Pramod Kapahi, Seh-Prabhari Narayan Dutt Tripathi, District President (Udhampur) Arun Gupta, and District President (Jammu North) Nand Kishore were also present on the occasion.

Sat Sharma, while expressing profound grief,

said that this tragic accident has caused irreparable loss to several families, and the pain being endured by them is beyond words. The entire BJP family stands shoulder to shoulder with the bereaved families in this hour of grief. He prayed for the eternal peace to the departed souls and strength to the families to bear this immense loss. Sharma further assured that every possible assistance would be extended to the affected families and emphasized the need for increased road safety measures to prevent such unfortunate incidents in the future.

Rashpal Verma conveyed his condolences, stating that the tragedy has deeply shaken the entire region. He said that the party leadership is committed to supporting the families in every possible manner during this time of distress.

Sanjita Dogra expressed solidarity with the grieving families and said that such incidents highlight the urgent need for improved infrastructure and safety protocols in hilly and accident-prone areas.

Gopal Mahajan prayed for peace to the departed souls and reiterated their commitment to stand firmly with the affected families in their time of need.

MLAs Balwant Singh Mankotia, Ranbir Singh Pathania, and Dr. Sunil Bhardwaj also expressed their sympathies and assured the families of their continued support. They emphasized that the administration must take concrete steps to ensure road safety and prevent recurrence of such tragedies.

## LG Ladakh removes restriction on maximum educational qualification



**LEH, APRIL 25:** In a landmark decision that will go a long way in securing the future of youth in Ladakh, Lieutenant Governor, Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena, has ordered the removal of a strict bar on government employees holding graduation and above degrees but appointed on lower-qualification posts (10th or 12th), from appearing for graduate-level posts in future. The Lieutenant Governor has ordered the removal of this restriction with immediate effect.

Earlier, qualified graduate candidates who had secured lower-qualification government jobs were bound to submit an undertaking/affidavit, declaring that he/she did not possess

a higher qualification and were only 10th or 12th pass. Consequently, the candidates, on the basis of such affidavits, were deemed ineligible for future recruitment to many graduate-level posts.

Termining this embargo as "unjustified" and "restrictive", Shri Saxena said imposing restrictions on maximum qualifications that effectively barred candidates from future employment was "contrary to the fundamental right to seek appropriate employment".

This decision will benefit thousands of Ladakhi youth, who are already working on lower-qualification posts such as Orderly/Multi-tasking staff (MTS), but are prohibited from appearing for graduate-level posts. This restrictive provision also discouraged several youth from appearing for such lower-qualification posts, fearing no career progression in future. Also, representations

were received from several affected candidates, who, on the basis of such affidavits, were deemed ineligible for appearing for graduate-level posts. Having examined the matter at length, the LG noted that such discrimination would severely affect the career progression of candidates, particularly in the challenging territory of Ladakh, where job opportunities are limited, and a majority of youth aspire for government jobs.

"Accordingly, the provision contained in Para 3 of OM dated 25.03.2026, is hereby set aside on the grounds of being unjustified and restrictive. It is ordered that all candidates already in Government service, including those appointed based on such declarations/undertakings, shall be allowed to appear in future graduate-level examinations and apply for higher posts, subject to fulfilment of other prescribed eligibility conditions.... This relaxation shall apply uniformly to all existing employees seeking to apply for future graduate-level government posts and shall not be denied based on earlier affidavits regarding non-possession of higher qualifications. This order shall come into effect immediately," Lieutenant Governor Shri Saxena ordered.

The Lieutenant Governor said this decision will have wider ramifications and would go a long way in protecting the interests of the youth in Ladakh.

"It is the responsibility of the Administration to ensure equal opportunities for all sections of society, irrespective of their educational qualifications. UT Administration is committed to responsive and inclusive governance, and proactive steps will be taken to address genuine public concerns and ensure that no eligible candidate suffers because of such unjustified and restrictive regulations," Shri Saxena said.

## RHS organises Capacity Building Programme on Student Wellness



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Rich Harvest School (RHS) successfully organized a Capacity Building Programme on "Promoting Mental Health and Wellness among Students", reaffirming its commitment to nurturing not just academic excellence but also the emotional and psychological well-being of its learners.

The session was conducted by esteemed CBSE Resource Persons, Mr. Lokesh Kumar, Vice Principal, Mount Litera Zee School, and Ms. Munmun

Kohli, who brought with them rich experience and deep insights into student mental health. The programme focused on equipping educators with practical strategies to identify, understand and address the emotional needs of students in today's dynamic and often stressful environment.

The event commenced with a warm welcome by Ms. Anita Bhatia, Head of the Institute, who emphasized the importance of creating a safe, inclusive and empathetic school environment where every child feels heard and supported.

The programme was further enriched by an inspiring address by the Managing Director, Advocate Gambhir Dev Singh Charak, who highlighted the urgent need to integrate mental health awareness into the core of educational practices. He encouraged educators to adopt a compassionate approach, ensuring that students grow into confident, resilient and emotionally balanced individuals. The sessions were interactive and engaging, covering key aspects such as stress management, emotional resilience, classroom well-being practices

and the role of teachers as first responders in supporting student mental health. The programme concluded on a thoughtful note, with participants expressing their appreciation for the valuable insights gained and their commitment to implementing these practices within their classrooms.

Advocate Gambhir Dev Singh Charak and Director Mrs Ruchi Charak continue to take proactive steps towards fostering a holistic learning environment where mental wellness is prioritized alongside academic growth.

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## Enforcement Team Udhampur imposes Rs 6.29 lakh penalty for violation of GST Norms

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Continuing its drive against tax evasion, the GST Enforcement Team, Udhampur has imposed a penalty of ₹6,29,000 on a trader for violation of GST norms.

The action was initiated after the trader was found attempting to manage the movement of goods without proper documentation, in clear contravention of GST regulations. The trader was under surveillance for approximately 12 days based on specific intelligence inputs from reliable sources. The interception was successfully carried out with the assistance of RFID tracking, enabling effective monitoring of goods movement.

The enforcement operation was conducted by a team headed by Inspector Anil Parihar, along with Sub-Inspectors Sanjay Shan, Vikas Kumar, Kanwaljeet Shan and guard Ajay Kumar. The operation was supervised by State Tax Officer Sahida Akhtar and executed under the overall guidance of Deputy Commissioner, State Taxes Enforcement, Jammu



North (HQ Udhampur), Anil Kumar Chandail.

Commissioner, State Tax Department, Jammu & Kashmir P.K. Bhat and Additional Commissioner, Jammu Namrita Dogra, appreciated the efforts of the enforcement team and emphasized the need for

continued vigilance and similar proactive interceptions in the future to ensure strict compliance with GST laws.

The department appealed to all taxpayers to ensure complete compliance with GST provisions and offered its support and

services to facilitate ease of compliance and proper adherence to regulations.

This action reflects the department's firm commitment to curbing tax evasion, safeguarding government revenue and promoting a fair and transparent taxation system.

## DLSA Reasi spreads awareness about harmful effects of Drugs

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Under the visionary leadership of Khalil Choudhary, Chairman District Legal Services Authority Reasi (Pr. District and Sessions Judge) and the guidance of Secretary Pooja Gupta, a Door-to-door awareness program on Drug abuse and Legal aid was conducted today at LAC Shajroo and various other places in Mahore.

The Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) of TLSC informed the public about the free legal aid and the other services provided under the Legal Services Authorities Act.

The PLVs also educated



the attendees about their legal rights, the role of DLSA and TLSC and the availability of free legal services including legal advice, representation and assistance in filing cases. Information regarding Lok Adalats and other dispute

resolution mechanisms was also shared with the participants.

Another awareness programme on Drug abuse was held at PLVs of TLSC Katra. The PLVs sensitized the local residents about the

harmful effects of drug abuse and the importance of leading a healthy and drug-free life. The participants were educated about legal provisions, rehabilitation measures and the role of society in combating the menace of drugs.