

Cont. From Page 1

When people stand united,
history bows, says LG Sinha

movement builds a complete chain of care, ie from identification and counseling to treatment, recovery, and rehabilitation," he added.

Sinha said this grave crisis of drugs was systematically fueled by the neighboring country to finance terrorism and create social breakdown. The narco-terrorists exploited our weaknesses and targeted our youth, he added.

"Now is the time to confront this challenge with full strength, applying the harshest law against those who conspire against society. For the next 85 days, we must sustain its energy, reach every home across Union Territory and warn against the dangers of drugs. Participation, momentum, and energy are vital, because drug addiction is not an individual's problem, it is a social crisis," the LG said.

He also said that the ongoing historic people's movement was not a government order but a public resolve and now parents and elders were also stepping out to spread awareness, teachers were guiding students and survivors were sharing their stories openly to prevent others from falling into darkness.

"J&K is now illuminated with a new resolve against drugs. It is a flame of hope that will end the darkness, erase fear, and light the future. In the past 15 days, the transformation I have witnessed among people is nothing short of a miracle," the LG said.

On the occasion, he also flagged off a bike rally and launched the Samba Cricket Premier League under Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyaan.

MEA Secy holds talks with UNGA Prez
on fight against terrorism

parting a greater voice to the Global South, which the spokesperson said, 'India has consistently championed through initiatives including the India-UN Development Partnership Fund.

Earlier on April 20, India pushed for long-pending reforms of the United Nations Security Council during the Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) meeting at the UN.

The UNGA President is scheduled to visit India on April 28 at the invitation of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.

During the visit, Baerbock and Jaishankar were expected to hold discussions on key multilateral issues of mutual interest, reflecting India's continued engagement with the United Nations on global governance challenges.

As part of her itinerary, Baerbock will pay homage to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat, a customary stop for visiting dignitaries.

She is also scheduled to participate in an interactive session with representatives from the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), where discussions will focus on the governance and regulation of artificial intelligence—an area gaining prominence in global multilateral discourse.

The visit comes at a time when India is actively shaping conversations on emerging technologies and reform of multilateral institutions, positioning itself as a key voice of the Global South.

IMD issues advisories as
temperatures soar

ods. The IMD advised special care for vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly, and individuals with pre-existing health conditions. "The department emphasised that early awareness and preventive action are critical in reducing heat-related illnesses such as heat exhaustion and heat stroke," an official said.

In its latest assessment, the IMD said that maximum temperatures in many parts of northwest, central, and peninsular India currently range between 40 degrees Celsius and 44 degrees Celsius, with the highest temperature of 44.5 degrees Celsius recorded at Sri Ganganagar in Rajasthan.

In several regions, temperatures have been markedly above normal by five degrees Celsius or more, indicating a developing heat stress scenario across parts of the country.

"The IMD indicated that heatwave conditions are very likely to develop in isolated pockets of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and central India over the coming days," the official said.

Hot and humid conditions are expected over coastal and eastern regions, while warm night conditions are likely in parts of north India.

"The department further projected no significant change in maximum temperatures over northwest India till April 27, followed by a gradual fall, while central and other regions may witness a gradual rise and subsequent decline in temperatures during the forecast period," the official said.

Properties of narco-
smugglers attached

The attached property included a double-storey residential house along with one canal of land worth over Rs 2 cr belonging to Ganie, officials said.

Another double-storey residential house along with one canal of land belonging to Mir, valued at approximately Rs 1.5 cr, was also attached, the officials added.

Officials said the attached properties were identified as illegally acquired assets generated through proceeds of drug trafficking.

Digital devices recovered
from Srinagar jail

premises, search operations were conducted across multiple blocks and barracks in close coordination with

jail authorities, officials said.

The Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) sleuths seized various digital communication devices and incriminating material during the operation, the officials added.

Officials said the recovered devices would be sent for forensic examination to trace possible links.

"Police are probing the apparent security breach that enabled the entry of such devices into the high-security prison. The role of facilitators and collaborators involved in this act will be investigated and appropriate action will be taken, the officials added.

Govt reconstitutes
Niti Aayog

"The Government has reconstituted the NITI Aayog. My best wishes to Ashok Kumar Lahiri on becoming the Vice Chairman. My best wishes also to Rajiv Gauba, Prof K V Raju, Prof Gobardhan Das, Prof Abhay Karandikar and Dr M Srinivas on becoming full time members of NITI Aayog," Modi said in a post on X.

"Wishing all of them a productive and impactful tenure ahead," he added.

The prime minister said that the NITI Aayog had emerged as a vital pillar in India's policy-making architecture, fostering cooperative federalism, furthering reforms and boosting 'Ease of Living'.

"It serves as a dynamic platform for innovation and long-term strategic thinking across sectors," he said.

The prime minister is the chairman of the Niti Aayog. Lahiri called on Prime Minister Modi on Saturday following his appointment.

A BJP MLA in West Bengal, he is a former chief economic advisor to the Government of India and a member of the 15th Finance Commission. He is not contesting the ongoing assembly election in the state.

Rising Star Corps GOC reviews
operational preparedness

gion. "The GOC Rising Star Corps reviewed the operational preparedness of troops in Jammu and Samba districts," the Rising Star Corps said in a post on X.

Both the districts are notably situated close to the International Border.

The GOC lauded their high state of operational readiness, professionalism, and resolute dedication.

Will fence borders, implement CAA
if BJP forms govt in WB: Rajnath

party would win 110 seats of the 152 seats that had gone to the polls on April 23.

Suvendu Adhikari, one of the BJP's main contenders in the state, has estimated that the party would win as many as 125 seats out of 152. He has contested from not only his stronghold of Nandigram, but also CM Banerjee's bastion, Bhabanipur.

The defence minister has also promised swift implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), particularly for the Matua community, which he alleged was being denied citizenship by CM Banerjee, as a result of which he claimed they were living in fear.

"You form the government of the lotus, and after May 5, the BJP government will ensure that every brother and sister of the Matua community receives citizenship," he said about the politically influential refugee community with roots in Bangladesh.

He also attacked Mamata Banerjee over the failure of the TMC government to prevent crimes against women, citing the RG Kar case, among others, assuring that women would be able to roam freely, even at night, under the BJP rule.

Jammu sizzles at
39.5 Deg C

the holy cave shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi shrine atop Trikuta hills, also witnessed a sharp rise in temperature, recording a maximum of 36 degrees Celsius, 6.2 degrees above normal, while the minimum temperature settled at 23.0 degrees Celsius, 5.4 degrees above normal.

The persistent rise in both day and night temperatures has led to uncomfortable conditions, particularly during afternoon hours.

The Meteorological Department predicted that hot and dry weather with isolated heatwave conditions was likely to continue over the plains of Jammu division for the next four days.

Residents have been advised to take precautions, avoid prolonged sun exposure, and stay hydrated amid the prevailing sweltering conditions.

Becoming global sporting powerhouse must not
remain on paper: Mandaviya

tended the event and applauded the vision of making India a powerhouse of sports.

The union minister called upon states to move from policy adoption to active implementation, stressing that real progress would be measured by outcomes visible across districts, training systems, and grassroots sporting ecosystems.

"Khelo Bharat Mission is not just a statistic, it is a reflection of the energy of our youth and the commitment of the nation," he said.

He called for bridging the long-standing disconnect between state governments and sports federations, urging closer alignment to build a strong and unified talent pipeline.

Underscoring the importance of convergence, he highlighted that coordination with the education system was essential for early talent identification and that physical education teachers form the backbone of the grassroots sports ecosystem.

"If even one talented child is left behind due to lack of opportunity, it is not just a personal loss, it is a loss for the

entire nation," he added.

He noted that sports serve as a transformative tool, particularly in regions such as Jammu & Kashmir and other challenging areas, contributing to social harmony and national integration.

Addressing systemic gaps, the minister called for regular certification and upgradation of coaches, scientific training of athletes, and capacity building in sports administration.

Emphasising the importance of a seamless ecosystem, Dr. Mandaviya stated, "When infrastructure, talent identification, and trained manpower come together as one unbroken chain, Olympic podiums will follow," highlighting the need to connect grassroots participation with elite performance through a structured pathway.

Mandaviya also launched the YES-PE (Young Engagement in Sports & Physical Education) programme by Lakshmbai National Institute of Physical Education, Gwalior, for students between 9-12 standard for promoting sports participation, sportsmanship and leadership.

Secretary (sports) Hari Ranjan Rao welcomed participants and highlighted the significance of the shivir as a platform for collective reflection and action.

"This gathering is not merely a conference, it is a collective moment of reflection, resolve, and renewed commitment," he said.

The shivir saw thematic sessions focusing on medal strategy, policy coordination, clean and safe sport, and talent identification and development.

Over 15 State Sports Ministers, along with eminent sports personalities including Adille Sumariwalla, Abhinav Bindra, Pullela Gopichand and Gagan Narang, attended the Chintan Shivir and shared their ideas with the stakeholders, reflecting a collective commitment towards strengthening India's sports ecosystem and advancing collaborative policy dialogue.

Sports Ministers from various states appreciated the initiative to build a consensus around an athlete- and player-centric approach. They emphasized that this model can be replicated across different regions of the country to strengthen and develop a robust sporting ecosystem in India.

The deliberations emphasised strengthening infrastructure, enhancing coaching systems, improving Centre-State convergence, ensuring ethical and safe sporting environments, and building a scientific, technology-driven talent pipeline integrated across schools, academies, and elite training centres.

These sessions also underscored the importance of structured pathways and institutional convergence to ensure continuity in athlete development, from identification to high-performance training.

Participants also highlighted the need for consistent monitoring, evaluation, and sharing of best practices across states to ensure that policy intent translates into measurable, on-ground impact.

The deliberations reaffirmed the importance of a unified and coordinated approach involving the Centre, States, and all stakeholders to build a robust, inclusive, and future-ready sporting ecosystem, aligned with India's long-term vision of emerging as a global sporting powerhouse.

As Araghchi leaves, Trump cancels US negotiators' trip to Pak

meet with Araghchi. But Iran's foreign ministry said any talks would be indirect and Pakistani officials would convey messages.

The first round of talks in Pakistan, led on the U.S. side by Vice President JD Vance, lasted over 20 hours and were face-to-face, the highest-level direct talks between the longtime adversaries since the Islamic Revolution in 1979.

Araghchi and Trump's envoys held hours of indirect talks in Geneva on February 27 but walked away without a deal. The next day, Israel and the United States started the war.

The price of Brent crude oil, the international standard, is still nearly 50% higher than when the war began because of Iran's grip on the Strait of Hormuz, a strategic waterway through which a fifth of the world's oil passes in peacetime.

Iran attacked three ships this week, while the U.S. maintains a blockade on Iranian ports. Trump has ordered the military to "shoot and kill" small boats that could be placing mines.

Germany's Defense Minister Boris Pistorius said Saturday his country is sending minesweeper ships to the Mediterranean to help remove Iranian mines from the Strait of Hormuz once hostilities end.

The squeeze on shipments through the strait has rippled through global maritime trade, including through the Panama Canal nearly halfway around the world.

Also Saturday, Iran resumed commercial flights from Tehran's international airport for the first time since the war began with U.S. and Israeli strikes two months ago. Flights were scheduled to depart for Istanbul, Oman's capital of Muscat and the Saudi city of Medina, according to Iran's state-run television. Iran partly reopened its airspace earlier this month due to the ceasefire.

Trump cancelled a planned trip to Pakistan by envoys Jared Kushner and Steve Witkoff for Iran peace talks. "They can call us anytime they want."

The White House on Friday said Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner would be going to Pakistan's capital to attempt to revive ceasefire negotiations. On Day 57 of the Iran conflict, the move underscores the uncertainty around diplomacy, as Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi left Islamabad without meeting US officials, even as Pakistan attempted to broker indirect negotiations, reports said.

Former judges reservoir
of wisdom: CJI

Association of Retired Judges (Rajasthan Chapter) here, he likened former judges to 'baoris' (stepwells), describing them as a reservoir of wisdom that can guide the system during challenging times.

"Just as stepwells store water during the rains and serve people in times of scarcity, retired judges are a valuable resource for us. In situations of difficulty - be it in Lok Adalats, arbitration or advisory roles - we look up to these experienced judges for guidance on what is right and what is not," he said.

Justice Surya Kant laid emphasis on the need for greater awareness and proactive functioning within the judiciary and related bodies, including the National Legal Services Authority and state legal services authorities.

He said that former judges can play crucial roles as mediators and arbitrators, particularly in commercial and family matters, by assuming the role of prelitigation counsellors, explaining rights in plain language to citizens, mentoring the next generation of mediators and preserving institutional memory for future judges.

Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma also addressed the programme and said that people have greater faith in the judiciary.

EC asks WB govt to suspend 5 police
personnel for 'serious misconduct'

bour Superintendent of Police Ishani Pal for "failing to ensure discipline and fairness" among subordinate officers in election-related duties.

The panel instructed the state administration to implement the directions immediately and submit a compliance report by 11 am on April 25.

BJP washing machine
back: Congress

"The BJP washing machine is back, along with the Modi washing powder," he wrote, suggesting that opposition leaders were being absorbed into the ruling party's fold and their earlier positions were being erased.

Echoing the criticism, senior Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said the BJP had perfected a "politics of hunting," alleging that opposition figures were being strategically targeted and persuaded to switch sides. He also drew parallels with political operations in West Bengal, referring to similar tactics used across party lines.

The remarks came after multiple AAP Rajya Sabha MPs, including Raghav Chadha, along with Sandeep Pathak and Ashok Mittal, reportedly broke away from the party and joined the BJP in the presence of party leaders. Additional names, including Harbhajan Singh, Rajinder Gupta, Vikramjit Singh Sahney and Swati Maliwal, were also cited as part of the group that has shifted allegiance.

6 Pak nationals get 20 yrs
prison for smuggling heroin

when a Pakistani boat "Al Hussein" was intercepted off the Jakhau coast in Kutch following specific intelligence inputs. The vessel had entered Indian waters about 35 nautical miles from the coast between December 18 and 20 for delivery of narcotics.

A joint team of the Gujarat Anti-Terrorism Squad and the Indian Coast Guard carried out surveillance.

Around 2.30 am on December 20, a suspicious boat was detected on radar and intercepted. Six persons on board were detained.

Search of the vessel had led to seizure of five sacks containing 76.936 kg of heroin without any permit. An offence was registered under the NDPS Act and a chargesheet was filed after investigation.

Prepare action plan to implement
guidelines for ICUs: SC to states

equipment/logistics, shall be prepared," it said.

It said a methodology should also be formulated for implementation on the ground, and more importantly, a mechanism to ensure compliance and monitoring of the implementation.

"We expect the exercise to commence immediately and the first meeting to be held within one week from today. We direct that the meeting shall be attended personally by the concerned additional chief secretary/secretary ... heading the department of health and medical education in the states and the UTs," the bench said.

It said the report prepared pursuant to the deliberations should be forwarded by the respective states and UTs to the Secretary of the Department of Health, Government of India, who in turn would circulate it to all the states and UTs.

The bench said thereafter, a meeting of all concerned should be convened where a final common agreed draft shall be prepared and circulated.

"A final report/blueprint/recommendation shall be prepared, which shall be placed before this court on the next date," it said, adding that the entire exercise should be completed within three weeks.

"Let the Ministry of Health, Government of India, formally issue the guidelines placed before us today, to the states and UTs concerned by way of an advisory. A copy of it shall also be uploaded on the website of the Ministry of Health, Government of India," the bench said, while posting the matter for further hearing on May 18.

During the hearing, it was suggested that for future requirements, the nursing staff should be trained to handle such situations since they remain with the patient round the clock, unlike doctors who may visit periodically.

"We fully endorse the suggestion, which is not only pragmatic but also imperative. Accordingly, the Indian Nursing Council and the Para Medical Council of India are impleaded as party respondents," the bench said.

It said on the next date, the newly added respondents shall come up with a plan indicating how they propose to augment the courses or curriculum and training imparted by them so that persons emerging from institutions recognised by them are capable of managing and handling situations in the ICUs.

Chief Secretary reviews progress and implementation of HADP

JAMMU, APRIL 25: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chaired a review meeting to assess the progress and performance of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) in Jammu and Kashmir in the presence of senior officers of the Agriculture Production Department and other concerned stakeholders.

The meeting besides ACS, Agriculture Production Department and MD, J&K Bank was attended by the MD, HADP; HoDs of the Department along with Representatives from Agricultural Universities here.

The meeting had an in depth review of the programme covering establishment status, key performance indica-

tors, financial returns, employment generation and district-wise outcomes.

The Chief Secretary noted that the programme reflects strong financial viability, with a government subsidy of around ₹450 crore expected to be recovered within approximately 2.6 years through enhanced farm incomes. He directed the department to intensify outreach efforts and ensure greater inclusion of eligible farmers, particularly in districts with lower coverage.

The Chief Secretary laid strong emphasis on the importance of adopting a data-driven, district-specific approach to improve conversion from

approvals to unit establishment, which currently stands at around 25 percent. The Chief Secretary emphasized the need to further improve training coverage and capacity building to enhance productivity and sustainability.

He reiterated that HADP has the potential to transform the agricultural landscape of J&K by enhancing farmer incomes, generating employment and promoting sustainable agriculture here. He called for ensuring sustained momentum, effective convergence and focused interventions to maximize its impact across the length and breadth of the UT.

Moreover he issued directions for

faster conversion of approved applications into established units. He enjoined upon the concerned to lay focus on improvement in farmer registration and eKYC completion, strengthening of district-level monitoring and accountability, time-bound grievance redressal and scaling up of high-value agricultural activities to make this programme a success.

Regarding the functioning of Kisan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs), he directed for strengthening them further by improving licensing and expanding service delivery, including onboarding of banking and digital services at these centres.

On this occasion the ACS, Agriculture Production Department, Dr Ashish Chandra Verma gave the overall preview of the performance of this programme here. He apprised the meeting that HADP has so far facilitated the establishment of more than 1.11 lakh units across all 20 districts, benefiting 74,589 unique farming families.

He further observed that while the programme has achieved full geographic coverage, the overall coverage remains around 8.1 percent of the PM-Kisan beneficiary base, thereby leaving a substantial scope for the department to work for its expansion and optimal utilization to meet our

targets on time.

The Managing Director, J&K Bank, Amitava Chatterjee also presented a detailed roadmap aimed at maximizing benefits for farmers under HADP. He highlighted key suggestions pertaining to digital interventions, including integration and onboarding of various stakeholder platforms onto the HADP portal to enhance efficiency and outreach.

He further assured full support and closer institutional synergy with the Agriculture Production Department to ensure seamless implementation of the programme and achievement of its envisaged objectives across all districts of J&K.