

# TOP NEWS OF J&K



ENTERTAINMENT | 6

**Ssudeep Sahir is driven by passion for acting**



NATIONAL | 7

**Odisha produced several makers of modern India: President Murmu**

Daily Evening Newspaper

INTERNATIONAL | 8

**China calls on US to stop creating global missile defense system – Wang Yi**



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## BRIEFLY

### 10 teachers found absent during inspection in Baramulla schools

BARAMULLA, Apr 1 (Agencies): In a surprise inspection conducted by the Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) Singhpora Kalan on Tuesday, ten teachers from two primary schools in Baramulla were found absent, raising concerns over staff accountability in the education sector.

At Government Middle School Kanispora Payeen, eight out of twelve teachers were missing from duty, while at Government Primary School Deh Kanispora, two out of seven teachers were absent.

Taking serious note of the absenteeism, ZEO Saif Din Chechi directed the absent teachers to submit a written explanation for their unauthorized leave.

Additionally, they have been ordered to report to the Zonal Office, failing which disciplinary action will be initiated.

To enforce stricter monitoring, the ZEO has also directed all Heads of Institutions (HOIs) in the zone to immediately submit photographic evidence of teacher attendance along with written leave records to ensure transparency and accountability in schools.

### Unidentified body recovered in Parimpora

SRINAGAR, Apr 1 (Agencies): An unidentified body has been recovered from a house in Parimpora area in Srinagar.

An official told that a body, believed to be of a non-local, was found this morning.

"A police team has reached the site and taken the body into its possession," the official added.

More details awaited.

### "J&K to remain dry for next two days, light snow expected in higher reaches on April 3": MeT

SRINAGAR, Apr 1 (Agencies): The Meteorological Centre Srinagar has issued a weather forecast for Jammu and Kashmir, indicating a generally dry spell for the next few days with occasional snowfall in higher reaches.

According to the [MeT](#) [Turn to page 9](#)

## Lieutenant Governor attends Odisha Day 'Utkala Dibasa' celebration at Raj Bhawan

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 1: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha attended the Odisha Day 'Utkala Dibasa' celebration, on Tuesday.

Officials, Students, Faculty members from various educational institutions and the people of Odisha living in J&K UT were the special invitees for the commemorative event hosted by Jammu Kashmir Raj Bhawan at Jammu.



While addressing the guests, the Lieutenant Governor extended his

felicitations and best wishes on the occasion of 'Utkala Dibasa'.

"Odisha's rich cultural heritage, ancient monuments, literature, visual,

performing arts and rich tapestry of traditions are contributing to the vibrant, unique and diverse culture of our country. I pray for good health, well-being and prosperity of the people of this blessed land," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He paid tributes to the great luminaries from Odisha and spoke on the contributions of various communities of the state to the country's

[Turn to page 9](#)

## LG Sinha pays obeisance at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine



### Top News Report

KATRA, Apr 1: The Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha paid obei-

ance at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi ji Shrine on Tuesday and prayed for peace and prosperity of J&K UT and well-being of all.

## No-confidence motion against DDC chairperson Budgam: Authorities convene meeting of Council on April 7

BUDGAM, Apr 1 (Agencies): The district development council (DDC) chairperson Budgam will face a no-confidence motion on April 7, the first such test for head of a third-tier Panchayati Raj system in Jammu & Kashmir.

The deputy commis-

sioner Budgam has convened a meeting of the council on April 7 for consideration of no-confidence motion against DDC chairperson Budgam Nazir Ahmad Khan.

The notice states that a meeting of the council has been scheduled at 11:30 am

at its office on April 7.

The move comes after High Court directed authorities to address the no-confidence motion against DDC chairperson.

In the 2024 Assembly elections, several DDC members including Khan plunged into fray, but most of them

proved unsuccessful and even a few of them, including DDC chairperson Baramulla, forfeited deposit.

However, three DDC members- Irfan Hafiz Lone, Mehraj Malik and Waheedur-Rehman Parameer emerged victorious in the polls.

## NHAI Hikes Toll Charges By 4-5% Across Country

NEW DELHI, Apr 1 (Agencies): Commuters on national highways and expressways will need to pay more for their road journeys, as the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has increased toll charges by an average of 4 to 5 per cent on highway sections across the country.

[Turn to page 9](#)

## GOC Rising Star Corps calls on LG, discusses security scenario



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 1: Lieutenant General Rajan Sharawat, General Officer Commanding (GOC), Rising Star Corps called on Lieutenant Governor

Manoj Sinha, on Tuesday and discussed various important aspects pertaining to prevailing security scenario.

He was accompanied by Maj Gen Mukesh Bhanwala, GOC Tiger Division.

## Omar Abdullah flags off free transport service for women in JK



SRINAGAR, Apr 1 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir's Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, inaugurated a free bus service exclusively for women today at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) in Srinagar.

Omar Abdullah, Jammu Kashmir Chief Minister presenting the budget in assembly on

March 7, 2025. DIPR Image

The initiative aims to provide safe and accessible transportation for women across the region, benefiting working professionals, students, and other female commuters by easing their travel burdens.

The free bus service aligns with the National Conference (NC) government's broad-

er efforts to promote women's welfare and improve public transport access for women in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Prior to assuming office, the NC government had pledged to implement such initiatives to support women's mobility and safety. This was also announced in recent budget and parliament sessions," CM Omar said while speaking to reporters.

Women can access free travel on government buses by showing their Aadhaar cards.

The administration has instructed all relevant departments, including the Transport Department, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, and local law enforcement agencies, to ensure smooth coordination for

[Turn to page 9](#)

## Search Operations underway in five areas of Poonch

MENDHAR/JAMMU, Apr 1 (Agencies): Security forces on Tuesday launched search operations in five areas of Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said. Jammu tourism

The operations are part of enhanced secu-

urity measures aimed at maintaining high vigilance in the border district, they said.

The search operations were conducted by joint teams of the Special Operations Group (SoG) of the police and units of the Central Reserve

Police Force (CRPF).

The areas where these operations were conducted include hinterland and border areas such as Behramgalla-Chatran Sailan, Kala Jhoola, and Nakka Nar forest in Gursai Mastandara Jabri and Chajala-Seagi areas of Mankote.

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**10TH DAY KRIYA AND KREM**  
With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt Lalita Devi** W/o Late Shree Janki Nath Koul who left for her heavenly abode on Sunday, 23rd March 2025.  
**10TH DAY KRIYA** will take place on 1st April 2025 from 11.00 AM onwards.  
**KREM** on 2nd April 2025 from 10.00 AM onwards at home near old Talab matador Stand Muthi, Jammu  
**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Santosh & Sushma, Vijay & Madhu, Kaka & Poli and Asha & Archana (Son & Daughter in Law)  
**Mobile No: 9158113399, 9149731808**




**SMT LALITA DEVI**

**KRIYA/UTHALA**  
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise on 22nd March of our beloved **Smt. Padma Khajuria** W/O Late Sh. Srinivas Khajuria (DFO retired) R/O House No. 94, sector -1, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.  
**KRIYA** will be performed at our residence on 1st April (Tuesday) at 12 noon.  
**UTHALA** will be performed at Shiv Mandir, Sector No. 3, Trikuta Nagar on 2nd April (Wednesday) at 5 pm.  
**IN GRIEF:**  
Udey Khajuria & Sunita Khajuria (Son & Daughter in law)  
Ajay Khajuria & Anjali Khajuria (Son and daughter in law)  
Meenakshi Sharma and Baldev Sharma (Daughter and Son in law)  
Dwaker Sharma and Raima Sharma (Brother and Bhabhi)  
Sudhakar Sharma and Asha Sharma (Brother and Bhabhi)  
Hari Krishan Sharma and Shashi Sharma (Brother and Bhabhi)  
Kamla Sharma and Late Hans Raj Sharma (Sister and Brother-in-law)  
**Grandchildren:** Pavel, Aar, Avisha, Aditi, Avina, Awi, Anvi  
**Great grandchild:** Sia  
**MOBILE NUMBER: 9419196773, 967520109, 9149494609, 7889390743**




**SMT. PADMA KHAJURIA**

**UTHALA**  
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform you of the sad demise of **Mr. Bharat Bhushan Arora** (Arora Traders) who left for their heavenly abode on 22 March 2025 in their loving memory, a Uthala has been arranged as per the following details:  
**Date:** 02/April/25 (Wednesday)  
**Time:** 4 pm to 5 pm  
**Venue:** Kalidhar Gurudwara Rohani Chungi Jammu  
**IN GRIEF:**  
Smt Rita Arora (Wife)  
Sh. Kubhushan & Yashita Arora (Brother & Sister-in-law)  
Smt Harani Lata (Mother in -law)  
Kushagar Arora (Son)  
Ayushi Arora (Daughter)  
Raj kiran & Pooja Arora (Son & Daughter in law)  
Nipun & Mimsara Arora (Nephew and Niece)  
Anayash & Aashvi Arora (Grand children)  
MS Arora Traders  
Mob :- 7095734487, 9419189382, 9419222011  
MS Shriya Enterprises  
Mob :- 9086098382



**Sh. Bharat Bhushan Arora**

**10TH DAY KRIYA**  
**IN LOVING MEMORY OF**  
**SMT. RUPA RANI BHAT (LIDHOO)**  
With deep sorrow, we inform the passing of our beloved **Smt. Rupa Rani Bhat**, wife of Late Shri Makhan Lal Bhat, originally from Mohalla Khankah, Sopore, Kashmir, who left for her heavenly abode on 26th March 2025.  
The **10TH DAY KRIYA** as per Kashmiri rituals will be performed on:  
**Venue:** Chota Haridwar, Upper Ganga Canal Road, Muradnagar, Yusufpur Manota, Uttar Pradesh  
**Date:** 4th April 2025  
**Time:** 8:30 AM onwards  
We request family, friends, and well-wishers to join us in paying homage and offering prayers for the eternal peace of the departed soul.  
**GRIEVING FAMILY: BHATS / LIDHOOS**  
**RSVP: 9810621211 / 9810333259**



**SMT. RUPA RANI BHAT**

**OBITUARY/ TENTH DAY KRIYA**  
With profound grief and heartfelt sorrow that we inform the sad demise of **Smt. Shakti Dhar**, lovingly referred to as Pyari Bhabhi, wife of the late Sh. Shanker Nath Dhar, formerly a resident of Sekidafar, Safakadal, Srinagar, Kashmir, she attained moksha on 24th March 2025 at her residence, "Plot No. 675, Flat No. G-2, Shalimar Garden Extension 1, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, (opposite Shalimar Garden Police Station).  
The **TENTH DAY KRIYA** will take place on 2nd April 2025 at Muradnagar Ghat, followed by an assembly at 9.30 AM at the Shalimar Garden residence.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN FAMILY**  
Smt. Arjali Dhar (Daughter-in-law)  
Sh. Vinod Dhar & Smt. Neelam Dhar (Son & Daughter-in-law)  
Sh. Sanjeev Dhar & Smt. Anuradha Dhar (Son & Daughter-in-law)  
Sh. Vishal Dhar & Smt. Manju Dhar (Son & Daughter-in-law)  
Smt. Poonam & Sh. Ashok Ji Sadhu (Daughter & Son-in-law)  
Smt. Versha & Sh. Puran Ji Raina (Daughter & Son-in-law)  
**Beloved Grandsons and Granddaughters**  
Entire Dhar and Bhan Families  
Cherished Friends and Relatives  
For further information, please contact: 7780916092 9810236341, 9811356701  
**May her soul find eternal peace, and may her legacy forever illuminate the hearts of those who knew her.**




**SMT. SHAKTI DHAR**

**Kriya / Rasam Pagri**  
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Raj Sharma** W/o Late Shri I.D. Sharma (IAS) R/O 13 B/D Gandhi Nagar, Green Belt Park, Jammu.  
**Kriya** will be performed at our residence on **12 pm, Tuesday, 1 April 2025.**  
**Uthala, Rasam Pagri & Amrit Vani Paath** 4 - 5 pm, Wednesday, 2 April 2025 Panch Mandir, Green Belt Park, Gandhi Nagar Jammu  
**In Grief:**  
Brothers-in-law & Sisters-in-law  
Smt. Santosh Sharma W/o Late Sh. Baldev Sharma  
Sh. Surinder Sharma & Smt. Veena Sharma  
Brothers & Sisters-in-law  
Smt. Kanchnan Trehan W/o Late Sh. Subhash Trehan  
Sh. Satish Trehan & Varsha Trehan  
Smt. Veena Sehgal & W/o Late Sh. R.K. Sehgal  
**Sons & Daughters-in-law**  
Mrs. Arachana Sharma W/o Late Sanjeev Sharma  
Tony & Shalini Sharma  
Munish & Swati Sharma  
**Grand Children**  
Siddhant and Ashima,  
Tara, Nikita, Kabir, Anahita  
**Mob.: 9797458800**




**Smt Raj Sharma**

**UTHALA**  
With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **ER. Janak Raj Sharma** (XEN ECS Div. Jammu), S/o Late Sh. Rattan Chand Sharma R/o Sainik Colony, Jammu who left for his heavenly abode on Saturday, 29th March, 2025.  
We pray for his eternal peace and cherish his memories.  
**UTHALA** will be performed on Wednesday, 2nd April 2025 at Panj Mandir, Channi Himmat, Jammu (J&K) at 6:00 PM.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Smt. Anju Dubey (Wife)  
Dr. Eva Sharma (Daughter)  
Aryan Sharma (Son)  
(Sisters and Brothers-in-law)  
Smt. Darshana Devi W/o Sh. Subhash Chander  
Late Vimla Devi W/o Sh. Sham Lal  
(Brothers-in-law and Sisters-in-law)  
Late Sh. Rajesh Sharma and Smt. Ritu Sharma  
Sh. Dinesh Sharma and Smt. Reela Sharma  
Sh. Rakesh Sharma and Smt. Sonia Sharma  
**MOB: 9419157998, 9797635756**




**ER. JANAK RAJ SHARMA**  
XEN (PD)

**OBITUARY**  
WITH PROFOUND GRIEF & SORROW, WE REGRET THE SAD DEMISE OF **SH. RAJNATH BHAT** S/O LATE GOPI NATH BHAT R/O ICHEKOOT BUDGAM PRESENTLY AT JAGTI TOWNSHIP FLAT 86/10. WHOSE RITUALS ARE BEING PERFORMED AT COMMUNITY HALL LANE -4 BACK SIDE.  
**TENTH DAY KRIYA** WILL BE PERFORMED AT AKHNOOR GHAT. CONDOLENCE ASSEMBLY WILL BE HELD AT MUTHI GHAT ON THURSDAY 3-4-2025 AT 11:00 AM SHARP.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
**SMT. REETA BHAT (WIFE)**  
**SH. P. L. BHAT (BROTHER)**  
**SAMAST BHAT PARIVAR**  
**9876095519, 9419615929, 7006874549, 8082863994**



**SH. RAJNATH BHAT**

**TENTH DAY**  
With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Sh Vinay Tickoo** S/o Sh Bindraban Tickoo R/O Martand Mattan Kashmir A/P Ward No. 2, Lucky Vihar near Fatima Convent School Bishnah Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 27-3-2025.  
**Tenth Day** will be performed on 5 April 2025 (Saturday) at Akhnoor Ghat and **Assembly** will be held at our residence at 12.00 Noon.  
**Grief Stricken**  
Mrs. Sunaina Tickoo -Wife  
Smt Shakti & Sh Bindraban Tickoo -Mother & Father  
Mrs Sheetal Tickoo & Mr Rohit Tickoo -Bhabhi & Brother  
**Contact No.: 7889356618, 8825080448**



**Sh Vinay Tickoo**

**10TH DAY KRIYA**  
With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Smt. Kamta Koul** W/o Shri Brij Lal Koul on 30-03-2025 originally resident of Goja Mohalla Anantnag currently residing at H.No. 60, Manorama Vihar, Main Lane, Bohri.  
The **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on 08-04-2025 (Tuesday) at Akhnoor Ghat and **Assembly** will be held at Muthi Ghat at 11.00 am.  
**Grief Stricken**  
Sh. Brij Lal Koul- Husband (7051034248)  
Sh. H.K. Koul & Chandan Koul (9419155802)  
Sh. A.K. Koul & Veena Koul - (9419173531)  
Sh. Vinod Koul & Poonam Koul (6005030317)  
**Sons & Daughter-in-Laws**  
Sh. Deepak Koul & Urmilla Koul (9858124266)  
Sh. Dheeraj Koul & Nisha Koul (9312782588)  
**Sister-in-Law & Brother-in-Law**  
Sh. Behari Lal Koul & Kiran Koul (8275858917)  
**Daughter & Son-in-Law**  
Smt. Deepali Jad W/o Late Sh. Sanjay Jad (09336054966)




**Smt. Kamta Koul**

**10TH DAY KRIYA**  
With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved and respected mother **Smt Santosh Bhat** W/o Lt Sh. Pran Nath Bhat originally resident of Nagam Chadoora Budgam. Alp 316 A, Shantidoot Apartment Vasundhara Endave New Delhi. Left for heavenly abode on 29-03-2025. (March 29th 2025).  
**10TH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on 7th April 2025 (Monday) at Murad Nagar Ghaziabad at 6.00 AM.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Mr Ravinder Bhat & Dolly Bhat -Son & Daughter in law  
**Daughter in Law**  
Mrs Renu Bhat  
Mrs Ritu Bhat  
**Daughters & Son in Law**  
Mrs Jyoti Peer & Mr Ravinder Peer  
Mrs Anjali Kaul -Daughter  
**Grand Children:** Ankush, Eshaan, Anant, Shuhul  
**Samat Bhat Parivar**  
**Contact Details: 9971711926, 8800459514, 9419211052, 9818673789.**




**SMT SANTOSH BHAT**

**10TH DAY KRIYA**  
With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Smt. Veena Babu** W/o Sh. Rohan Kumar Babu, originally resident of Karafali Mohalla, Habba Kadal, Srinagar, presently at 62-Aman Vihar, Gohad Nagar, Camp Road, Talab Tillo, Jammu on 24.03.2025 at Hyderabad.  
**Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed at Akhnoor Ghat on 02.04.2025 and **Assembly** will be held at Muthi Ghat at 11:30 am.  
**Grief Stricken:**  
Sh. Rohan Kumar Babu- Husband (9419136957)  
**Son & Daughter-in-law**  
Mr. Shrivast & Mrs. Akriti Babu  
Mr. Sahil Babu- Son  
Sh. Shaban Kishan & Smt. Kaki Babu  
Smt. Veena Bhan & Lt. Sh. Yogendra Bhan  
Sh. Baboo and Smt. Basanti Babu  
Mr. Arun Bakshi and Mrs. Sheveta Babu  
Mr. Abi and Mrs. Sweety Zutshi  
Mr. Akshay and Mrs. Archoo Sharma  
Mr. Anghat Babu  
Mr. Ashwini Babu  
Smatst Babu, Raina, Kher & Bakshi Parivar



**Smt. Veena Babu**

**TENTH DAY & KRIYA KARM**  
ॐ याति  
"A gentle soul who lived a life of simplicity, grace, and values-forever in our hearts."  
With profound grief and heavy hearts, we regret to inform that our beloved **Shri Balak Ram Sharma** S/o Late Sh. Shanker Dass Sharma, departed for his heavenly abode on 24th March 2025, leaving behind a heartfelt silence that remains untouched by words.  
To perform the sacred rituals and offer prayers for the peace of his departed soul, the **DASWI SANSKAR (TENTH DAY RITUAL)** will be held on 2nd April 2025 at 10.30 A.M.  
**KRIYA KARM** will be held on 5th April 2025 at 12.30 P.M. at our residence: Torore, Bari Brahmana, Samba - J&K  
**GRIEF-STRICKEN AND FOREVER REMEMBERED BY:**  
Smt. Kusham Lata - Wife  
CA Rohani Parbat Sharma & Mrs. Renu Khajuria - Son & Daughter-in-law  
Saanvi Sharma & Shreya Sharma - Granddaughters  
**CONTACT: 9858199514, 7006464430**  
(The sanskars he imparted, the blessings he bestowed, and the love he gave shall remain an eternal part of our lives.)



**Shri Balak Ram Sharma**

**10TH DAY / KRIYA/ UTHALA**  
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Sh Lokesh Sharma** S/o Late Sh Narinder Nath Sharma R/o H No. 10, Ward No. 9 Samba.  
**TENTH DAY** will be performed on 29 Mar (Saturday) at 10 am at our residence Ward No. 9 Samba.  
**KRIYA** will be performed on 01 Apr (Tuesday) at our residence  
**UTHALA** will be performed on 04 Apr (Friday) at 3 to 4 PM at Geeta Bhavan Mandir, Ward No. 9 Samba.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Smt Ratna Devi (Mother)  
Smt Art Sharma (Wife)  
Sh Sabhya Sharma (Son)  
Smt Anita & Sh Vijay Sharma (Chachi & Chacha Ji)  
Smt Suvichha & Dr Patanjali Sharma (Bhabhi & Brother)  
(Sisters & Brothers in law)  
Smt Madhvi & Adv. Bharat Bhushan Sharma  
Smt Anuradha & Sh Sanjeev Vaid  
N.N Trading House, National Highway Samba




**Sh Lokesh Sharma**

**BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS**  
With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **S.Joginder Singh (Batote Wale)** S/O Lt. S.Gohar Singh R/o- Chatha Mill Near Sita Grand Palace Jammu on 25/03/2025.  
**Arambh Shri Akhand Path Sahib** on 31/03/2025 at 09:00 am at our residence.  
**Bhog Shri Akhand Path Sahib** on 02/04/2025 at 09:30 am to 10:30 am at our residence.  
**ANTIM ARDAS** will be performed at Gurudwara Shri Guru Singh Sabha Chatha Mill Jammu on 02/04/2025 from 04:00 pm to 05:30 pm.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN:**  
Srn.Jasbir Kaur (Wife)  
S.Jaswant Singh Advocate (Brother)  
S.Ravinder Pal Singh (Nippy) (Son)  
S.Swarjit Singh (Sippy) (Son)  
S.Amarpal Singh (Pupai) (Son-in-law)  
S.Hameed Singh (Son-in-law)  
S.Manjeet Singh- (Brother-in-law) (Raid D/O New India Assurance)  
S.Hameed Singh (Chotu) Nephew  
**Mob-9419166181, 9419310001**




**S.Joginder Singh**  
(Batote Wale)

**10th DAY KRIYA**  
With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of **Sh. Jawahar Lal Koul**, S/o Late Sh. Sham Lal Koul (Mandlo), original resident of Raghunath Mandir, Habba Kadal, Srinagar, Kashmir and present resident of Faridabad, Haryana, who passed away on Wednesday, 26th March 2025.  
**10th Day Kriya** will be performed on 4th April 2025 at Garhmukteshwar, Hapur, Shanti Path will be held at 1600 hrs. at our residence **Sh. Jawahar Lal Koul** Gayatri Society, Sector 45, Faridabad.  
**Grief Stricken**  
Smt. Shama Koul (Wife)  
**(Sons and Daughters-in-law)**  
Sh. Satya Inder & Smt. Sunita  
Sh. Ajay Kumar & Smt. Anita  
**Deeply Remembered By:**  
Shirin, Taran, Nelish, Kashika  
**Mobile No 9810588113, 9797410033**



**10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA**  
With profound reverence, we inform the passing of our beloved **Sh Mahatma Singh Jamwal**, son of Late Thakur Jarnaj Singh R/O 119, Gali Agnihotri. A/P 22, Shiva Enclave behind Heritage School Sainik Colony extension Jammu.  
**10th Day** will be performed on 31/03/2025 at our residence from 10 am to 11 am (Monday).  
**Kriya** will be performed at our residence at 12 pm on 03/04/2025 (Thursday).  
**Prayer/Uthala** will be performed on 4th of April 2025 (Friday) at our residence from 1:30-2:30 pm.  
**GRIEF STRICKEN:**  
Smt Rani Devi (Wife)  
**Daughter-in-law and Son**  
Sweety and Rameek Singh Jamwal  
**Daughter and Son-in-law**  
Sivans and Vijay Sathia  
**Grand Children :**  
Rishita, Raghavendra, Tamanna, Kritarth  
**SAMAST JAMWAL PARIVAR**  
**Mob No. 9419188459**



**Sh Mahatma Singh Jamwal**

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# J&K 1947 PoJK Sharnarhi Intellectual Forum elects new leadership



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 1: The All J&K 1947 PoJK Sharnarhi Intellectual Forum convened a General Body Meeting under the leadership of its outgoing President, Advocate Amrik Singh, to elect a new executive body. The meeting was

attended by distinguished members, intellectuals, and community representatives committed to the cause of PoJK Sharnarhis. The house unanimously appointed Prof K.D. Singh as the Returning Officer. Following the dissolution of the previous executive body, Prof

Singh initiated the election process. Senior Forum member Naseeb Singh proposed Advocate Amrik Singh's name for the President's post, seconded by Surjeet Singh. The house unanimously re-elected Advocate Amrik Singh as president, authorizing him to constitute the

new executive team.

President Amrik Singh expressed gratitude for the trust placed in him and reaffirmed his commitment to advancing the Forum's objectives. He emphasized unity and strategic action to secure justice, rehabilitation, and development opportunities for the PoJK Sharnarhi community.

The Forum remains dedicated to addressing socio-political and economic challenges faced by displaced families. The newly elected leadership includes Advocate Amrik Singh as President, Paramjeet Singh (Ex-Corporator) as Senior Vice President, Naseeb Singh as Vice President, Kuldeep Singh as General Secre-

tary, Dr. Surjeet Singh as Joint Secretary, Er. T.K. Sharma as Chief Advisor, Charanjeet Singh as Chief Spokesperson, Paramjeet Singh Shargari as Chief Cashier, Kuldeep Singh (Kukku) as Cashier, Prof. K.D. Singh as In-Charge Core Committee, Surjeet Singh as Media In-Charge, Jagdish Chander Sharma as Press In-Charge, J.P. Singh as Youth Wing President, Gurdeep Singh as General Secretary (Youth Wing), Sukhpreet Singh as Secretary (Youth Wing), Ranjit Singh as Protocol In-Charge, and Ramesh Gandhi as Spokesperson. Additionally, 32 core committee members were elected to strengthen the Forum's operations.

# Teerathraj Nagbal Sidhlakshmi Peeth Lok Bhawan Trust delegation calls on LG



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 1: A del-

egation of Teerathraj Nagbal Sidhlakshmi Peeth Lok Bhawan

Trust called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha, today.

# Adventure Course coming up at Annizone Homestay & Farms to boost rural tourism

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 1: In a major step towards promoting adventure sports and rural tourism, Annizone Homestay & Farms, located near Jakh, Thandi Khui, is developing an exciting adventure course.

This initiative aims to empower rural youth by fostering team spirit, courage, leadership, and strong willpower through adventure activities.

The adventure course, set amidst the natural beauty of Annizone Homestay & Farms, will feature thrilling activities such as the Burma Bridge, Tunnel, Tarzan Swing, Commando Net, Tyre Obstacle, Zigzag Path, and Pull-up Beam.

These adventure challenges are expected to attract adventure enthusiasts, school children on picnics, families on daily outings, and visitors seeking an adrenaline-filled weekend getaway.

Annizone management has ensured that the adventure activities will be accessible at nominal charges, with light refreshments and snacks provided for visitors. This initiative aligns with the broader goal of promoting rural tourism in Jammu, which, while primarily a government responsibility, can also be significantly driven by private ventures and local entrepreneurs.



The project is expected to generate employment opportunities for local youth, with a call for government support in formulating policies and providing incentives to encourage such ventures.

By fostering adventure tourism in rural and border areas, initiatives like this not only enhance the region's tourism potential but also contribute to economic growth and skill development.

With the adventure course nearing completion, Annizone Homestay & Farms is set to become a hub for adventure seekers and a shining example of community-driven tourism development in Jammu.

# DFSS demands closure of meat shops during Navratri, stages protest



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 1: Workers of Dogra Front & Shiv Sena (DFSS), under the leadership of President Ashok Gupta, staged a massive protest in Jammu city demanding the closure of meat shops for the nine days of Chaitra Navratri. The protesters called for immediate action against illegal meat shops, arguing that their open sale of meat hurts the religious sentiments of devotees who observe fasting during this sacred period.

Gupta emphasized that lakhs of devotees visit Mata Vaishno Devi Temple and Bawe Wali Mata Temple during Navratri, and the presence of meat shops, especially those operating illegally or near religious sites, is deeply offensive to worshippers. "These shops openly display meat carcasses, which agitates devotees and those observing fasts," he stated.

The protesters highlighted that several mutton shops are located near religious places and educational institutions, violating Section 313 under Article 2000, which restricts such establishments in these areas. They demanded the strict enforcement of

this rule and the complete closure of meat shops for the nine days of Navratri.

"This is not just about religion, but about respecting the faith and traditions of the Sanatan Hindu community. It is only fair that meat shops remain closed during these sacred days," Gupta asserted.

Ashok Gupta also spoke about the spiritual significance of Chaitra Navratri and the Hindu New Year, which began on March 30, 2025. He reminded everyone that April 6 marks Ram Navami, the birth anniversary of Lord Ram, which is revered across the Sanatan community. He urged authorities to recognize the importance of this time and take steps to honor the religious sentiments of Hindus. Gupta announced that starting tomorrow, he would personally visit areas with meat shops to ensure their closure during Navratri. He reiterated that religious beliefs must be respected and that his party would continue to advocate for this cause. The protest witnessed the participation of several party members and supporters, including Abhishek, Suresh, Prem, Devinder, Naresh, Raju, Kalu, Ganesh, and many others.

# MLA Ch. Vikram Randhawa Inaugurates Rs 38.93 Lakh Lane and Drain Work at Pacca Talab, Ward No. 47, Bahu Fort

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 1: In a major step towards improving local infrastructure, MLA Bahu Ch. Vikram Randhawa inaugurated the much-awaited lane and drain construction work at Pacca Talab, Ward No. 47, Bahu Fort. The project, sanctioned at a cost of ₹38.93 lakh, aims to enhance road connectivity and drainage facilities, addressing long-standing civic concerns in the area.

The inauguration ceremony witnessed the presence of key officials and community representatives, including AEE Rajan Mengi, JE Pranav Shivgotra, former Councillor Sharda Devi, Rajeev Charak, Parshotam Lal, Vivek Patyal, Ankush Khajuria, Ajay Kumar, Hardeep Khokher, and other dignitaries.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Ch. Vikram Randhawa reiterated his commitment to strengthening civic infrastructure and ensuring holistic development in Bahu.

"This project is a reflection of our dedication to improving basic amenities for the people. Well-maintained lanes and proper drainage systems are essential for a



clean and healthy environment. We will continue to work towards the development of every ward under our jurisdiction," he said.

## Listening to Public Grievances

During his visit, MLA Ch. Vikram Randhawa also interacted with the residents and listened to their grievances. Locals raised concerns regarding electricity supply and water shortages, highlighting the difficulties they have been facing.

Assuring the public of swift action, the MLA directed the concerned departments to address these issues on prior-

ity. He emphasized that his office is committed to resolving public grievances and improving essential services for the welfare of the people.

Residents of the area welcomed the initiative and expressed their gratitude for the much-needed improvements. The MLA assured that more developmental projects are in the pipeline to further uplift the region.

Authorities have urged residents to cooperate during the construction phase to ensure timely completion of the project.

# ABVP Jammu Kashmir slams Govt's 7% fare hike, demands concessions for students

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 1: Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad Jammu Kashmir has expressed concern over the Jammu and Kashmir government's recent decisions, which have raised questions about governance and equality.

While the government's announcement of free travel for women in electric buses is a

welcome move towards promoting gender equality, the 7% fare hike may disproportionately affect students and the common people.

"We appreciate the government's efforts to empower women, but we cannot ignore the inconsistencies in their decisions," said Sanak Shrivats, State Secretary of ABVP Jammu Kashmir.

# POJK Displaced Persons stage protest demanding ST status



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 1: In a determined push for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status, displaced persons from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (POJK) staged a protest on Tuesday at RS Pura, Jammu. The demonstration, spearheaded by prominent social activist Parateek Raina, saw enthusiastic participation from Sarpanches, Panches, and religious leaders, amplifying the demand for justice and long-overdue recognition.

The protestors submitted a formal memorandum to the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) of RS Pura, urging the government to grant them ST status under the Pahari ethnic group.

They emphasized that their community has faced decades of neglect, with continued exclusion from key benefits provided to other marginalized groups.

This protest follows a massive demonstration held at Chatta Farm, Ward No. 1, Jammu, on March 28, 2025, where POJK displaced persons voiced their discontent against the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Jammu and the Lieutenant Governor's administration for failing to address their demands.

Protestors accused the administration of discrimination and neglect, arguing that despite repeated pleas, their rightful recognition remains denied.

Speaking at the pro-

test, Parateek Raina reaffirmed the community's commitment to continuing their struggle until the government grants them their due rights. He warned that if their demands remain unaddressed, larger demonstrations will be organized across Jammu and Kashmir in the coming weeks.

The movement for ST status among POJK displaced persons has gained momentum, with increasing public support and political attention.

The protesters called on the central and state governments to take immediate action, recognizing their historical struggles and granting them the rightful status they have long been fighting for.

# Libraries serve as source of knowledge: Balbir



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 1: Jammu and Kashmir BJP Spokesperson and former Vice Chairperson, Balbir Ram Rattan, said that libraries have long been regarded as the source of knowledge, culture, and inspiration.

He stated this while discussing the importance and need of a well-maintained library with a group of party leaders at Nanaji Deshmukh Library.

Balbir Ram said that an institution that houses an extensive collection of resources, including books, manuscripts, digital materials, provide an invaluable platform for individuals of all ages to read, learn, and grow. They serve as dynamic mines of knowledge, offering opportunities to explore, discover, and create.

"A library is more than just a building filled with

books. It is a repository of history, culture, and wisdom accumulated over centuries. Libraries offer access to knowledge that spans diverse fields such as literature, science, technology, history, and art," he said.

Balbir further said that the significance of libraries even extends beyond the accumulation of knowledge. They play a critical role in preserving cultural heritage and promoting literacy. Through curated collections, libraries present the rich and varied experiences of humanity, offering insights into the lives and contributions of great leaders, thinkers, and innovators from different eras and regions. The stories of great leaders, their struggles, successes, and philosophies are preserved within library walls, offering invaluable lessons and inspiration to generations.

Prof. Kulbhusan

Mohtra, Incharge, Nanaji Deshmukh Library, shared that the Nanaji Deshmukh Library has books on all subjects and lives of prominent Indian figures of different fields. He said that many scholars and researchers visit Nanaji Deshmukh Library to read books of subjects of their choice and research field.

Prof. Kulbhusan Mohtra said that libraries empower individuals by providing access to information regardless of socio-economic status.

They offer a welcoming environment where people can engage in lifelong learning, conduct research, and develop new skills. With the advent of digital technology, libraries have also evolved to offer online resources, e-books, and virtual learning opportunities, thereby expanding their reach and relevance.

## EDITORIAL

## A WELCOME STEP

The introduction of a free bus service is undeniably a welcome and transformative step toward improving urban mobility, enhancing social equity, and fostering environmental sustainability. In an era when traffic congestion, pollution, and socioeconomic disparities weigh heavily on our cities, a free bus service is a beacon of hope, promising not only practicality but also a profound social impact. By eliminating fare costs, it addresses several critical concerns, from financial accessibility to reducing our carbon footprint.

One of the most immediate and evident benefits of a free bus service is the promotion of social equality. Public transportation has long been a means of connecting people, yet it often remains inaccessible to certain demographics due to financial constraints. For low-income individuals, students, the elderly, and those with disabilities, the cost of commuting can represent a significant portion of their income. In many cities, daily fare expenses limit opportunities for work, education, and leisure activities, perpetuating cycles of poverty and social exclusion. By providing a free bus service, the government or city planners can remove this barrier, offering equal access to essential services, workplaces, and educational institutions.

In a world where disparities in wealth and opportunities are stark, removing the financial burden of commuting levels the playing field. It allows individuals from all walks of life to participate more fully in the community, boosting their quality of life and encouraging active participation in economic and social spheres. Whether it's a student attending a local university or an elderly person visiting a healthcare facility, the absence of transport costs means greater autonomy and better life choices.

The environmental impact of free bus services cannot be overstated. With urban areas constantly expanding, traffic congestion and air pollution have become significant challenges. The excessive reliance on private vehicles not only contributes to harmful emissions but also exacerbates traffic congestion, leading to longer commutes and further environmental degradation. Free bus services offer an alternative by encouraging people to leave their cars at home, reducing the number of vehicles on the road.

This shift toward mass transit is a critical step in combating climate change. Public buses, especially those that run on cleaner fuels or electricity, have a far lower carbon footprint compared to private cars. When more people choose buses over private vehicles, cities can reduce emissions, improve air quality, and work toward sustainable urban living. Free public transport also reduces the need for extensive parking spaces, which often leads to deforestation and the urban heat island effect, where cities become significantly hotter due to the concentration of concrete and asphalt. The reduction in car usage contributes to a decrease in the heat trapped in urban areas, offering a cooler and more pleasant environment for everyone.

Another key benefit of free bus services is the potential for reducing traffic congestion. In many cities, the daily commute is plagued by hours of gridlock, which not only frustrates commuters but also results in economic losses due to lost productivity. When a significant portion of the population opts for public transport, the demand for private cars decreases, which in turn alleviates congestion. Free bus services incentivize people to embrace public transport, thereby making traffic flow smoother and improving the overall efficiency of the urban transport network.

Moreover, free bus services can lead to more effective use of urban infrastructure. Roads and public spaces can be repurposed for more pedestrian-friendly initiatives, parks, and bike lanes. Cities that prioritize public transport can design more livable spaces, reducing reliance on cars and shifting towards a more pedestrian-centric environment, which benefits health, community cohesion, and the local economy.

While one might initially question the financial feasibility of a free bus service, the long-term economic benefits are substantial. The reduced costs of road maintenance, healthcare (due to improved air quality), and traffic accidents can offset the initial investment in the service. Furthermore, providing free public transportation creates a direct economic stimulus. By reducing the cost of commuting, individuals have more disposable income, which can boost spending in local businesses and services. This, in turn, stimulates local economies and creates jobs, particularly in sectors such as retail, hospitality, and tourism.

Free bus services also have a positive impact on public health. By offering an affordable and accessible mode of transport, it encourages more people to use public transport, which often includes walking to and from bus stops. This promotes physical activity and contributes to better health outcomes, as walking is a proven way to improve cardiovascular health, reduce stress, and manage weight. Furthermore, reduced vehicle emissions directly contribute to fewer respiratory issues and other health problems associated with poor air quality.

## Ghibli's world vs. reality: A struggle between art, employment, and originality

By: Priyanka Saurabh

Employment is essential for our needs, but art and entertainment can be a source of mental peace and inspiration. Ghibli-style imagery and AI tools are trending on social media, raising questions about originality. Where earlier artists had to work hard for months, now AI creates similar art in a few seconds, challenging real artists.

If we look at the real world, employment is necessary. Without a job or business, one cannot fill their stomach just by getting lost in the beautiful world of Ghibli. But art is also necessary for mental peace and inspiration. This is why Ghibli-style images and videos have become a trend on social media. People are passing time by watching it on Pinterest, Instagram, and TikTok; some are trying it themselves and are creating Ghibli-style images with the help of AI tools.

Ghibli-style images and videos have become very popular on social media these days. With the help of AI tools, anyone can now create Ghibli-like images without art skills. People are sharing aesthetic GIFs and wallpapers made of Ghibli movie scenes on Pinterest and Instagram. TikTok and Reels are creating fun content by adding relatable

audio or quotes to Ghibli scenes. Some AI tools can now even convert your real photos into Ghibli style, giving people a fairytale look to their photos. This trend is not just limited to entertainment, but it is giving rise to a big debate—can AI-generated art replace real art?

AI-generated Ghibli-style imagery has raised questions about originality. Artists used to have to spend months of effort to create Ghibli-like paintings, but now AI can create something similar in seconds. People are relying on ready-made art instead of thinking for themselves. Real artists are now forced to compete with AI-generated content. The idea of doing something “different” is slowly dying out due to AI and templates. If art is reduced to just a trend, originality will slowly fade away. The solution is for people to take inspiration from the Ghibli style and create their own unique stories and art, rather than just copying what is available on the internet. The soul of Ghibli is not just in its beautiful visuals but in its deep stories and emotional connection.

If someone loves the Ghibli world enough to want to add to it, it can also become a source of employment. For example, digital artists can make money by creating Ghibli-style art. Merchandise businesses (post-

ers, stickers, clothing) can generate income. Creating Ghibli-style content on YouTube and social media can be a career option. In the animation industry, original short films and series inspired by Ghibli can be created. Game design and VFX studios can also build careers by adopting a Ghibli-like visual style. However, being immersed solely in the Ghibli world can be detrimental. Real-life tasks get put off, and people can lose productivity. If someone is caught up in just watching animation and not focusing on their career, this can become a problem.

The world of Ghibli is idealistic—where everything is beautiful, peaceful, and magical. But the real world is full of struggle, stress, and hardship. If someone is always looking for a life like Ghibli, the real world can seem dull and difficult. Waste of time: People spend hours watching Ghibli movies, Pinterest art, AI-generated images, and Instagram reels. One does not even realize when this “time pass” turns into “time waste.” If someone is just caught up in watching animation but should be focusing on their career, it can be detrimental.

If someone is always looking for a Ghibli life, the real world can seem dull and difficult. Some people may even lose motivation and ambition because of this.

The Ghibli style has become so popular that many artists are simply copying Ghibli-style art instead of developing their own style. Enjoy the Ghibli style, but don't get lost in it. If you like art, turn it into a skill that can earn you money. Don't ignore your career and life goals—work is important; art is just for relaxation. Maintain originality—be inspired by Ghibli, but develop your own unique style. Manage time—enjoy art and entertainment, but don't ignore work and responsibilities.

The magic of Ghibli is beautiful, but if it starts to affect our real lives, it can be harmful. It's important to find a balance between art and career and fantasy and reality! Ghibli-inspired art can be turned into a career—it can be used in digital art, merchandise, YouTube content, and the animation industry. But getting lost in the world of Ghibli alone can be harmful—it can lead to a waste of time, an impact on careers, a disconnect from the real world, and a lack of originality.

The solution is to create something new and original with the inspiration of Ghibli and not just copy it. It is important to maintain a balance between art and employment so that we can take full advantage of both aspects of life.

## How to raise children to be gender sensitive

By: Vijay Garg

To make our young learners healthy, informed and empowered, the curriculum must talk about comprehensive sexuality education

Adolescence is marked by emotional and mental challenges.

Need for comprehensive educational framework for adolescent health.

Comprehensive sexuality education helps in critical thinking and gender issues.

Adolescence comes with its own challenges. This transitional phase of growth and development, between childhood and adulthood, represents an inner emotional upheaval. It can be a time of turmoil and turbulence, of stress and storm, often marked by anxiety, depression, peer pressure, relationships, body image issues and confusion over career choices.

It's because of such triggers that the need for a comprehensive educational framework becomes all the more necessary for these young individuals. Often a neglected area, globally and in India, awareness about adolescent health, which means physical, mental, emotional and sexual wellbeing, seems to be the need of the hour.

“Society is changing so fast and the young have so much access to information, a lot of it being misinformation, that they can't discern and end up getting confused.”

Given the overload of information and awareness about their physicality and hormonal changes, adolescents need to be provided with a comprehensive sexuality education. “When we use the word sexuality education, we are investing in a young person's body, mind and emotion so that they grow up to be rounded human beings and develop critical think-

ing. It's also about gender issues where boys and girls are traditionally seen as different.”

“With comprehensive sexuality education, young people have greater control over risky behaviour, whether it's alcohol, drugs or addictions, and they know how to protect themselves. There are myths and misconceptions even around sexuality and sexual issues, and good education can help them.”

The problem of sexual abuse and exploitation on the internet needs to part of comprehensive sex education. It's often found that better education for young people leads to greater knowledge and clarity about how to conduct one's life.

“Comprehensive sexuality education must be culturally sensitive, else it will create more confusion in the minds of adolescents. Because of exposure, the aspirations

and lifestyles of the young have changed. Through comprehensive education, which is not only academic, we can help them reach their goals.”

Schools and educators can particularly play a critical role. So, teachers need to be made more sensitive to gender issues as they need to understand and be convinced about the need for sexuality education. “We need to protect our children in terms of their mental health, which means that our curriculum has to be more sensitive.” Redesigning our curriculum to make it gender sensitive, equal and having good role models is the way forward.

**(Vijay Garg Retired  
Principal Educational  
columnist  
street kour Chand  
MHR Malout  
Punjab)**

## 7-day NSS Camp held at Guru Gobind Singh College of Management and Technology



### Top News Report

GIDDARBAHA, Apr 1: The seven-day NSS Special Camp at Guru Gobind Singh College of Management and Technology concluded on a grand note with an inspiring closing ceremony.

The camp, which commenced on March 25, 2025, was inaugurated by Principal Dr. R.K. Uppal alongside distinguished guests from AIIMS Bathinda.

Over the course of a week, volunteers actively participated in a series of enlightening sessions and impactful social service activities.

The camp commenced with insightful awareness sessions on HIV/AIDS, zoonotic diseases, and tuberculosis (TB), followed by a solemn candlelight vigil in memory of HIV/AIDS patients. Shri Sanam Batra from Muktsar NGO led an engaging discussion on climate change, motivating volunteers to take responsibility for environmental conservation. Volunteers also designed creative posters and props for an awareness rally against drug abuse and illegal weaponry.

Further enriching the camp experience, Canam Consultancy conducted a personality development workshop, offering valuable career guidance. A special beauty and well-

ness session for female volunteers was led by Manprit Kaur.

Additionally, experts from AIIMS Bathinda provided hands-on CPR training, equipping participants with essential life-saving techniques. Komalpreet Kaur delivered an insightful lecture on psychological stress management, enhancing the volunteers' understanding of mental well-being.

Marking Environmental Service Day, volunteers planted saplings and participated in Shramdaan (voluntary labor) to enhance the beauty of the college campus.

They also extended their service to Gurudwara Sahib in Gaon Daula, where they engaged in cleaning religious sites and organizing a Langar (community meal). The volunteers' dedication was widely appreciated by the village panchayat, particularly for their impactful awareness rally against drug abuse and illegal weapons.

The closing ceremony was a spectacular affair, attended by Chief Guest Dr. Tajinder Kaur, Guest of Honour Dr. Arun Kalra, and Dr. Shashi Kalra. Also present were Campus Director Colonel Sudhanshu Arya (Retd.) and Principal Dr. R.K. Uppal, along with Program Officers Ms. Amanjot Kaur and Sardar Amarjeet Singh.

The ceremony showcased the immense enthusiasm of NSS volunteers through an array of cultural performances, including an NSS anthem, vibrant dance sequences, poetry recitations, and a thought-provoking skit on social media awareness. The energy and dedication of the participants captivated the audience and added a special charm to the event.

The highlight of the ceremony was the felicitation of outstanding volunteers for their exemplary contributions. Certificates were awarded to Best Volunteer (Female)- Simranjeet Kaur (BA CS, 2nd Year); Best Volunteer (Male)-Pardeep Singh (B.Com, 2nd Year); Overall Best Volunteer-Khushdeep Kaur (B.Com, 2nd Year).

As the camp concluded, esteemed guests lauded the volunteers for their unwavering commitment, enthusiasm, and spirit of service.

The seven-day NSS Special Camp left an indelible mark, fostering a culture of social responsibility and community engagement among students.

The event not only created cherished memories but also inspired participants to continue their journey of selfless service and leadership.

## IIT Jammu students engage in Basic Golf Training at Sidhra Golf Course

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 1: In a significant step toward promoting sports beyond conventional domains, IIT Jammu students have embarked on a Basic Golf Training Course at Sidhra Golf Course. This initiative aims to introduce students to the sport of golf, fostering precision, discipline, and strategic thinking. This program has been spearheaded by Manav Gupta, Secretary, Sidhra Golf Course, who invited IIT Jammu students for golf orientation sessions as a regular feature. His vision to make golf more accessible to young minds has led to this structured

training program, offering students hands-on experience in the sport.

The initiative is being coordinated by Dr. Quleen Kaur Bijral, Faculty, Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Jammu, with strong institutional backing from Prof. Sartaj, Dean of Student Welfare and Dr. Arvind, Associate Dean. Additional support is being provided by staff from the Student Welfare Office Vishal.

A heartfelt gratitude was extended to Deepak Handa, Senior Vice President, JKPSA, for his instrumental role in fostering a meaningful association between IIT Jammu and Sidhra Golf Course.



His efforts in bridging this collaboration have opened new avenues for students to explore the sport of golf, enriching their extracurricular experience and overall development.

Under the professional guidance of Rohit, the golf coach, students

Vishal, Chirag, Rohan, Aditya Kumar, Aditya Bakshi and Amrit are being trained in the fundamentals of the game.

This collaboration between IIT Jammu and Sidhra Golf Course marks a unique opportunity for students to explore golf as both a

recreational and competitive sport.

It reflects IIT Jammu's commitment to fostering a well-rounded educational experience, integrating academics with sports and extracurricular activities for the holistic development of its students.

## Dimple extends support to vocational trainers' protest



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 1: Sunil Dimple, president of Mission Statehood Jammu & Kashmir, extended support to a protest of vocational trainers (VTs) at Hari Singh Park.

He demanded justice for thousands of highly qualified male and female vocational trainers across Jammu & Kashmir. Simultaneous protests erupted in all district headquarters of the Union Territory.

Addressing the demonstrators, Dimple strongly condemned the detention of these highly qualified youth by police on Eid, from 9 AM to 10 PM, and the reported

lathicharge against protestors in Kashmir, including children.

Dimple urged Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to engage with vocational trainers, formulate a comprehensive job policy, and blacklist private middleman companies hired by SAMGRA for allegedly exploiting trainers.

He accused these private firms of drawing crores from the government while paying meager salaries to highly qualified educators, including PhD, NET, SET, and MPhil holders.

He revealed that he had taken up the

matter with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Education Minister Sakina Itoo. A high-level meeting between the Chief Minister and vocational trainers has been scheduled for Thursday, March 3.

Dimple demanded the immediate regularization of vocational trainers, a salary hike, and direct government payments to them.

He also called on Union Home Minister Amit Shah to announce an employment package for J&K's unemployed youth and restore Jammu & Kashmir's statehood.

Additionally, Dimple sought an inquiry into the police's decision to detain and lathi-charge peaceful protestors. He called for increased salaries, permanent appointments, and job

security for multiple groups, including Vocational Trainers (VTs), Cluster Resource Coordinators, Kisan Khidmat Ghar (KKG) workers, Special Police Officers (SPOs), Rehbar-e-Khel and physical education teachers, Rehbar-e-Taleem educators, National Youth Corps members, Seasonal teachers, SRO-43 beneficiaries, Anganwadi workers, Ayushman Bharat Mitras and striking daily wagers and paramedics.

Dimple alleged that the Ladakh Union Territory has raised the salaries of daily wagers from Rs 29,000 to Rs 45,000 per month, while Jammu & Kashmir's youth continue to face economic neglect. He questioned Home Minister Amit Shah, the LG, and Chief Minister

Omar Abdullah on why J&K's youth were being treated unfairly.

He also urged the Chief Minister to hold an assembly debate on the rising unemployment rate, which has soared to 42% since the abrogation of Article 370. Dimple demanded the immediate advertisement and recruitment for all vacant posts in various government departments through JKSSB.

Warning of continued protests, Dimple emphasized that the fight against rising unemployment in Jammu & Kashmir will persist until meaningful reforms are implemented.

He was joined by leaders Kimti Lal, Vishu Kumar, Yasir, Zahoor, Asif, Basharat, Arunesh Kumar, and Akhter in the protest.

## Hawan ceremony held at MHAC School Nagbani as new session begins

### Sham Lal advocates value education, importance of languages in lives



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 1: The new session-commenced at Maharaja Harisingh Agricultural Collegiate (MHAC) School Nagbani, Jammu with the auspicious Hawan Ceremony.

The Chief Guest of the day was Sham Lal Sharma, MLA Jammu, North. The Guest of Honour was the Manager, MHAC School Nagbani T.K Ganjoo, who was accompanied by his wife.

Among the other dignitaries was the member of Local Managing Committee Prof Narayan Dutt. The parent representative for the event was Parveen.

A ceremonial Hawan was performed in the Yagyashala where newly admitted students along with their parents participated. The aura of the Hawan purified the ambience. Melodious Bhajans were sung by the music department to elevate the spiritual awakening amongst the audience.

The Principal MHAC School Nagbani, Brij Mohan Babbar in his address to the august gathering laid stress upon value based education and highlighted the achievements of the school in various fields.

The Chief Guest, Sham Lal Sharma in his address advocated value education and the importance of languages in our lives. He highlighted the legacy of Maharaja Harisingh and his contribution towards education especially, the under privileged. He praised the contribution of MHAC School Nagbani towards education spreading across five decades.

He also spoke about women empowerment and the role of women in education. He lauded the Principal's efforts in imparting quality education to the students of the region.

An award of honour, a memento and a shawl were presented to the Chief Guest on the occasion. Prasad was distributed to all present at the event.

## Enemies of peace shall not be spared: MLA Pathania



### Top News Report

MAJALTA, Apr 1: Addressing a well-attended Janta Darbar at Khoon, MLA Udhampur East, Ranbir Singh Pathania, reiterated a firm, resolute stance against terrorism, drug trafficking, and other anti-national activities. He emphasized that those perpetrating crimes and spreading terror on Indian soil, particularly in Jammu & Kashmir, will be brought to justice. He lauded the Government of India's zero-tolerance policy towards terrorism and the proactive approach of the Union Home Minister, ensuring that disruptors of public peace are dealt with firmly.

Pathania stressed that terrorism, drug abuse, and unlawful activities

not only disturb the peace but also hinder developmental progress. He called upon law enforcement agencies to intensify their efforts in curbing these menaces and ensuring security in the region.

During the interaction, the public raised multiple grievances, particularly concerning the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Pathania directed the concerned officials to expedite pending JJM projects and address bottlenecks such as inadequate pipe sizes, issues with High-Density Polyethylene (HDP) pipes, and the availability of sustainable water sources. He emphasized that the dream of Har Ghar Jal must be realized at the grassroots level in Udhampur East.

He further took cognizance of the issue of exorbitant electricity bills and assured the public that corrective measures had been taken. He directed authorities, particularly Tehsildar Majalta, to ensure strict implementation of the Public Services Guarantee Act for providing hassle-free and transparent services to the people.

Responding to grievances related to the education sector, Pathania urged the Education Department to ensure a rationalization of staff in schools, addressing teacher shortages and grievances efficiently.

He also emphasized the urgent need for infrastructural improvements in sports facilities, advocating for the development of new sports complexes and renovation of existing playgrounds to encourage youth participation in sports and fitness activities.

The MLA was widely appreciated for his role in addressing long-standing power supply

issues in the region. A significant milestone was achieved with the upgradation and operationalization of the 33/11 kV Receiving Station at Dehma, doubling its capacity from 3.3 MV to 6 MV. This enhancement ensures a stable electricity supply, particularly critical for the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) machinery, as well as the increased usage of electrical appliances, motors, and irrigation systems by local agriculturists, horticulturists, and floriculturists.

He underscored the need for futuristic planning in power distribution to accommodate rising demand and ensure uninterrupted power supply to the region.

Among those present were prominent local leaders including Mohan Lal Sharma (Mandal Pradhan), Mohinder Sharma (Mandal Pradhan), Gopal Singh, Anil Sharma, Gurdev Singh, Kuldeep Singh, Romesh Gupta, Manoj Verma, Raman Kha-

jurja, Suram Chand, Subash Chander, Ved Sharma, Nimarta Bali, Pritam Basotra, Meena Rani, Nisha Devi, Shiv Ram, Surinder Singh, and Pawan Kumar.

The event also witnessed the participation of senior officials from various departments, including Tehsildar Majalta, Executive Engineer, Assistant Executive Engineers (AEEs), and officers from other line departments. A large number of locals attended the event, actively voicing their concerns and appreciating the initiatives undertaken.

Prominent attendees also included Romesh Chander Gupta, Surinder Singh, Manoj Verma, Nimarta Bali, Shiv Ram, Subhash Chander, Surinder Mankotia, and Ved Pal, among others.

Pathania assured the people that their concerns would be addressed in a time-bound manner and reaffirmed his commitment to the holistic development of Udhampur East.

## Two minutes of scenes removed from 'L2: Empuraan'; a joint decision, not out of fear: Perumbavoor

*Denies pressure from political organisation*

Two days after Malayalam superstar Mohanlal assured that controversial portions from his recently-released film 'L2: Empuraan' would be removed, producer Antony Perumbavoor on Tuesday said that a little over two minutes of scenes have been deleted.

Speaking to reporters here, Perumbavoor said that the decision was a joint one of all the producers and actors, including Mohanlal and Prithviraj Sukumaran, and was not made out of fear of anyone.

"There is no question of being afraid. We live in a society and never intended to hurt the sentiments of anyone. If someone is unhappy with the film, then as producers, directors, and actors, we have a responsibility to address those grievances.

"So, we all jointly decided to carry out the edits. Around two minutes and some seconds of scenes have been removed," he said.

In response to reporters' queries about whether the decision was taken on someone's direction or due to pressure from some political organisa-



tion, Perumbavoor denied the same and clarified that even in the future, if someone was aggrieved by a film they had made, steps would be taken to address it.

"Not just for any party, but even if people are affected, we will take the same steps," he said.

"It is not because of any threats or pressure by anyone," he added.

He also said that there was no need to attack Prithviraj over it. Perumbavoor also said that

there will be a third sequel to the 'Lucifer' film.

Director Major Ravi had recently claimed that Mohanlal had not seen the film prior to its release.

The actor has not reacted to his claim by Ravi.

The decision to carry out the edits was taken despite overwhelming support for the film, its producers and the actors from all quarters, including the Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Leader of the Opposition

in the state assembly V D Satheesan.

However, BJP state president Rajeev Chandrasekhar had said he won't watch 'Empuraan', adding that he was disappointed by this sort of movie-making.

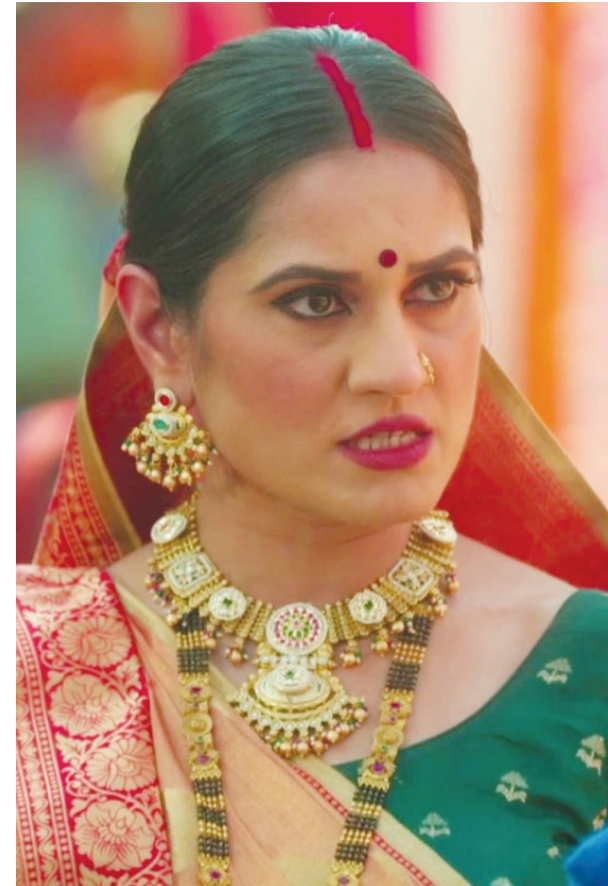
Mohanlal on Sunday had expressed regret over the raging row surrounding the movie and assured that the controversial portions would be removed from the movie.

The movie has faced intense criticism from the Sangh Parivar with regard to some portions of the film.

'L2: Empuraan', the second part of the 'Lucifer' movie, a trilogy planned by the Prithviraj-Mohanlal team, has become a topic of hot debate over its critique of right-wing politics and the covert mention of the Gujarat riots.

On March 27, the day of the movie's release, the Sangh Parivar vehemently criticised the film on social media, while the Congress and Left platforms celebrated the film for portraying the right-wing politics as 'villainous'.

## It's a fight for rights in the show Rishto Se Bandhi Gauri



Every home has its silent battles and Usha Bundela's journey in Rishto Se Bandhi Gauri is one of strength, sacrifice and the fight for respect. Melanie Naza-

reth sheds light on her character's emotional depth and struggles.

About her role, Melanie says, "I am playing the character of Usha Bundela, the eldest

daughter-in-law of the Bundela family. She is a devoted wife and loves her two children more than anything. For her, it's a fight for her rights. When she got married and came into this house, she thought she would get the bunch of keys (a symbol of authority and respect). But that never happened. Instead, she was treated unfairly, especially by Jagdamba Devi."

The Rishto Se Bandhi Gauri actress further added, "As the eldest daughter-in-law, she always deserved respect and honour, but she never got it. Now, she just wants that respect from her children. She wants them to listen to her, value her words, and do things the way she wants. Going forward, my character will go through a lot of changes. She has different shades, and there will be many twists in her journey. Viewers will get to see all of it unfold gradually."

## The royal Marwari look of Rohit, Samridhii

Fans of Rajan Shahi's Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai are in for a delightful treat as Abhimaan, the beloved duo of Armaan and Abhira, bring a Rajasthani twist to the show. Actors Rohit Purohit and Samridhii Shukla recently donned vibrant Marwari attire for a special sequence, and their look has taken the internet by storm.

Dressed in traditional Rajasthani outfits, Rohit looks dapper as Armaan, wearing a white kurta, a colourful turban, and holding a dhol, exuding the charm of Rajasthani folk culture. Samridhii as Abhira looked stunning in a multicoloured ghagra-choli, accessorised with oxidised jewelry and a matching dupatta, perfectly embodying the essence of Marwari tradition.

Their pictures have been circulating online,



and fans can't stop gushing over their royal look. What makes this sequence even more special is Rohit's personal connection to Rajasthan.

The actor, who plays Armaan, hails from Raj-

asthan, and this look resonates deeply with his roots. His enthusiasm for this cultural representation adds an authentic touch to the portrayal, making it even more special for the audience.

## Malaika Arora is the judge on Hip Hop India season 2

She has been one of India's most popular and iconic dancers for nearly three decades now, but with Hip Hop India 2, Malaika Arora is exploring a new genre. As the judge on the Amazon MX Player show, Malaika is introducing herself to the world of hip-hop. In conversation with agency, the actor speaks about this new world, her learnings, and how she keeps it real in the world of reality TV.

Malaika Arora says she is learning new dance forms

Malaika admits that she has learned a lot while doing the show. "Over the course of the show, I am going to learn and take up a lot of dance forms that I have not really been part of my repertoire, but I want to pursue. That makes me very happy. He (Remo) is not just men-



toring them but also me as I navigate through the show," she says.

Known for her Bollywood dance moves, Malaika says she wants to add swag to her style, which already has grace and panache. "If you are attuned with a certain style, it becomes a part of your personality. I want to change that and do a 360-degree over there. I want that kind of swag to come into my dance," says Malaika.

Are reality shows scripted? Malaika responds

The actor has been a judge or mentor on several reality shows over the years and has heard several times the jibes that all reality shows are scripted. She says, "To a layperson, it would seem scripted. Sometimes, it seems like that. We get irritated if things are dramatic. We want

things to be organic. With Hip Hop 2, there is no rona-dhona (crying), so here, we have kept the drama at bay."

But Malaika admits that sometimes even the contestants try to bring that drama as they feel it would work better in reality TV. "Yes, you can see that. Dikhta hai ki thoda zyada kar raha hai because they have watched a lot of reality to know this is going a certain way, but we call them out. Band karo isse, yeh drama mat karo. Ye banaawat nahin hoga yahan par (Stop this, don't do this drama. This pretense won't work here). Let's keep the focus on dance and not on drama. Let the dance speak for itself," she says.

Hip Hop India season 2 is currently streaming on Amazon MX Player.

## Ssudeep Sahir is driven by passion for acting

Ssudeep Sahir, who is currently captivating audiences with his performance in Parineeti on Colors TV, opens up about his journey, career choices, and the realities of being an actor in a highly competitive industry.

Reflecting on the decisions actors make when selecting roles, Ssudeep states, "At the end of the day, what you're asking is about actors taking on roles purely for financial reasons. See, everybody has their own financial circumstances and responsibilities—paying bills, running a household, and ensuring stability. It's tough, but, eventually, you have to keep going until you find something you truly love."

However, he also emphasises the importance of financial planning and having a secondary source of income. "That's why I always say having a parallel career or smart

investments is crucial. It gives you the liberty to pick roles that excite you rather than taking up work just to survive." He believes that this kind of security allows actors to pursue roles they are truly passionate about.

Talking about what keeps him motivated, Ssudeep shares, "After a certain point, money takes a back seat. What truly becomes rewarding is doing what you love. I consider myself extremely blessed to be able to act, take on different roles, and challenge myself. When you love what you do, it never feels like work." The appreciation from his audience, he says, is one of the biggest rewards. "The love and support of viewers is so beautiful. It pushes me to keep giving my best."

For Ssudeep, his family remains his biggest source of strength. "A solid home, and unconditional love from my wife and son help



me stay grounded. Their support makes

every challenge easier to face."

## 'Beatles' on big screen: Filmmaker Sam Mendes reveals star cast of 4 biopics on iconic music band

Filmmaker Sam Mendes is bringing the life story of the Beatles members — Paul McCartney, George Harrison, Ringo Starr and John Lennon — in four individual movies, all set to be released in theatres in April 2028.

The director, known for "American Beauty", "Revolutionary Road", James Bond films "Skyfall" and "Spectre", and "1917", made the announcement at CinemaCon, also confirming the much-speculated casting.

According to Variety, 'The Fab Four' are: "Gladiator II" co-stars Paul Mescal and Joseph Quinn as Paul McCartney and George Harrison, respectively, "The Banshees of Inisherin" star Barry Keoghan as Ringo Starr and "Babygirl" breakout Harris Dickinson as John Lennon.

The Beatles, popular



for songs such as "Hey Jude", "Here Comes The Sun", "Abbey Road" and "Let It Be", are widely regarded as the most influential band in Western popular music. The fanaticism for the rock band, which was active between 1960 and 1970, was such that the phenomenon came to be known as 'Beatlemania'.

At ComicCon, Mendes said the multi-part biopic, officially titled "The Beatles – A Four-

Film Cinematic Event", will be the "first bingeable theatrical experience". It's uncertain whether the movies will be released all at once or one per week.

The director said he had long dreamed of bringing the story of the Beatles to screens, but he didn't want to make a mini-series.

"The story was too huge to fit into a single movie," he said, adding that's why he came up with a plan to tell the

story of "the greatest band in history" from the perspective of each of its members.

"It's a chance to understand them more deeply," he added.

The film is also the first narrative feature to be granted music rights to the Beatles' extensive catalog of hits such as "Strawberry Fields", "Let It Be", "I Am The Walrus", and "Yellow Submarine". Principal photography on the four films will take a year, said Mendes.

## Odisha produced several makers of modern India: President Murmu

NEW DELHI, Apr 1 (Agencies): President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday greeted people of Odisha on their statehood day, and said it is an occasion to celebrate the rich cultural heritage of the state besides remarkable contribution of its people in various fields.

"Odisha has played important role in freedom struggle and produced several makers of modern India. I pray to Mahaprabhu Jagannath for peace and prosperity of Odisha!" she said in a post on X.

Odisha Day or 'Utkala Dibasa' marks the formation of Odisha as a separate state on this day in 1936. Orissa was rechristened as Odisha in 2011.



tened as Odisha in 2011.

"Warm greetings to the people on Odisha Day! It is an occasion to celebrate the rich cultural heritage of Odisha and

remarkable contribution of its people in various fields. The warm and hospitable people of Odisha have worked hard for the progress of the state while

preserving its glorious traditions," Murmu said.

In another post, the President greeted all countrymen on the occasion of 'Sarbhu' festival, which is celebrated with special enthusiasm by the tribal community.

"On this festival, gratitude is expressed for the innumerable gifts of nature. On this festival which marks the arrival of the New Year, I wish happiness and prosperity for all. It is my good wish that all countrymen, taking lessons from the tribal communities, move ahead on the path of development while preserving the natural heritage," Murmu said in the post in Hindi.

## "Will emphasise partnership with Chile on critical minerals," says PM Modi

*The teams will also focus on critical minerals, PM Modi said.*



HISAR, Apr 1 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday jointly addressed the press with Chile President Gabriel Boric Font at the Hyderabad House, where he said that the countries are working on a mutually beneficial Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. The teams will also focus on critical minerals, PM Modi said.

"Today we have instructed our teams to begin discussions on a mutually beneficial Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. Partnership in the field of Critical Minerals will be emphasized. Work will be done to establish resilient supply and value chains," he said.

"India is ready to share its positive experience with Chile in Digital Public Infrastructure, Renewable Energy, Railways, Space and other areas," PM Modi added.

PM Modi said they also signed a letter of Intent as Chile is seen as the 'Gateway to Antarctica'. "We see Chile as the

gateway to Antarctica. We welcome the agreement reached today on the Letter of Intent between the two sides to enhance cooperation in this important area," he said.

Chile is considered a gateway to Antarctica primarily due to its geographic proximity and the presence of key cities like Punta Arenas, which serve as major departure points for expeditions and scientific research trips to the continent.

"India has been a reliable partner in ensuring the health security of Chile. We agreed to further deepen this cooperation. It is a matter of great happiness that the people of Chile have adopted yoga as a healthy lifestyle. The declaration of November 4 as National Yoga Day in Chile is an inspiration for all of us. We also discussed enhancing cooperation in Ayurveda and traditional medicine in Chile. The growing cooperation in the field of defence is a symbol of our deep mutual trust," PM Modi said.

PM Modi further congratulated Font on his first visit to India, and said that Chile was an important partner country for India.

"This is President Boric's first visit to India and his commitment to strengthen the friendship and relations with India is truly amazing. I heartily welcome him and the distinguished delegation that has come with him. Chile is an important friend and partner country for India in Latin America," he said.

PM Modi said that in the discussions, the two leaders identified untapped potential in the field of investment.

"In today's discussions, we identified several new initiatives to enhance cooperation in the coming decade. We welcome the growth in mutual trade and investment. We agree that there is also untapped potential for more cooperation in this," he said.

PM Modi said that the two countries will combine in the agricultural sector, and that India will share its experience in several other sectors.

"Cooperation will be done to ensure food security by combining each other's capabilities in the field of agriculture. India is ready to share its positive experience with Chile in digital public infrastructure, renewable energy, railways, space and other areas," he said.

## Districts infested with left wing extremism down to just 6: Amit Shah

NEW DELHI, Apr 1 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said districts infested with "left wing extremism" in the country had reduced to just six.

"Taking a giant stride towards building a Naxal-free Bharat, today our nation achieved a new milestone by significantly reducing the number of districts most affected by left-wing extremism to just 6 from 12," the Home Minister wrote on X.

He said that the Modi government was building a "Sashakt, Surakshit and Samridh Bharat" with a ruthless approach towards Naxalism and relentless efforts for all-pervasive development.

"Bharat is determined to uproot Naxalism

for good by March 31, 2026," Shah said.

The Home Minister's remarks come just a couple of days after security agencies neutralised 17 Naxalites in an operation in Sukma district in Chattisgarh.

Notably, the total number of districts affected by Naxalism in the country was 38. Among these, the number of most affected districts has reduced to 6 from 12, number of District of Concern has also come down to 6 from 9 and number of other left wing extremism-affected districts has also been reduced from 17 to 6.

Out of the total naxalism-affected districts, the number of most affected districts has been reduced from 12 to 6, which include four districts from Chhattisgarh

(Bijapur, Kanker, Narayanpur and Sukma), 1 from Jharkhand (West Singhbhum) and 1 from Maharashtra (Gadchiroli).

Similarly, out of the total 38 affected districts, the number of "Districts of Concern", where additional resources need to be intensively provided beyond the severely affected districts, has reduced from 9 to 6. These six districts are: Alluri Sitarama Raju (Andhra Pradesh), Balaghat (Madhya Pradesh), Kalahandi, Kandhamal and Malkangiri (Odisha), and Bhadradi-Kothagudem (Telangana).

According to the officials, the most affected districts and districts of concern are given financial assistance of Rs 30 crore and Rs 10 crore,



respectively, by the Centre under a special scheme, Special Central Assistance (SCA), to fill the gaps in public infrastructure.

Apart from this, special projects are also provided for these districts as per need.

"The rapid improvement in the LWE scenario in the last one

year is primarily due to the establishment of new security camps in the insurgency-affected core areas and development-oriented works such as expansion of roads, transport facilities, water, electricity and other welfare schemes of the government reaching the villagers," the official said.

## 17 killed, several feared trapped as parts of firecracker factory collapse in fire in Gujarat's Banaskantha

AHMEDABAD, Apr 1 (Agencies): 17 workers were killed after a fire broke out at a firecracker factory and warehouse on Dhuva Road in Gujarat's Deesa.

Deesa Municipal fire-fighters and 108 ambulances rushed to the scene immediately after receiving information about the incident.

According to preliminary information, it is suspected that a massive explosion occurred in the gunpowder unit of the factory, triggering the fire.

The explosion was so powerful that a nearby warehouse collapsed, and debris was scattered up to 200 meters away. The workers were manufacturing firecrackers when the explosion occurred.

The blast was so



severe that human body parts were thrown far and wide, with remains found even in adjacent fields.

There was tremendous chaos at the scene as fire department personnel struggled to control the blaze.

Due to the severity of the fire, the death toll may rise further.

No official information is yet available regarding how many workers were present and how many are safe. About seven bodies have been recovered, while

approximately five injured workers have been taken to Deesa Civil Hospital for treatment.

Banaskantha Collector Mihir Patel stated that they received news of a massive blast at a firecracker factory in Deesa's industrial area on April 1st morning.

The factory's slab collapsed due to the blast. Families of workers also reside at the factory premises. The municipal fire team has now brought the fire under control.

## Adityanath on future PM role: 'Yogi at heart, politics not my full-time job'

LUCKNOW, Apr 1 (Agencies): Politics is not a full-time job for him and he remains a Yogi at heart, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said, dismissing speculation about him becoming the prime minister in the future.

In an interview with agency, Adityanath said his primary role is serving the people of Uttar Pradesh, as entrusted by his party.

"I am the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, and the party has placed me here to serve the people of the state," he said.

When asked about the growing support for him as a potential prime minister, Adityanath said, "Politics is not a full-time job for me. Ultimately, I am a Yogi (monk) at heart."



On how long he plans to remain in politics, the chief minister said, "There will be a time frame for this as well."

Asked if his response meant that politics was not his permanent profession, Adityanath reiterated, "Yes, that is what I am saying."

Explaining his per-

spective on the intersection of religion and politics, Adityanath said, "We limit religion to a confined space and restrict politics to a handful of people, and that is where the problem arises."

"If politics is driven by self-interest, it will create problems. But if it is for

the greater good, it will provide solutions. We have to choose between being part of the problem or the solution, and I believe this is what religion also teaches us."

"When religion is pursued for self-interest, it creates new challenges. However, when one dedicates themselves to a higher purpose, it opens up new avenues for progress."

Adityanath also said that Indian tradition does not associate religion with self-interest.

"The Indian philosophical thought has never linked religion with selfish motives. Its goals have been twofold: to pave the way for progress in worldly life and to achieve spiritual liberation. Both ultimately serve the purpose

of service. Politics is merely a platform to advance this spirit of service," he said.

On whether he considers himself more of a religious figure or a political leader, Adityanath asserted, "I work as a citizen and do not consider myself special. As a citizen, my constitutional duties come first."

"For me, the nation is paramount. If the country is safe, my religion is safe. When religion is secure, the path to welfare automatically opens."

Asked if he sees himself leaving behind a legacy 100 years from now, Adityanath responded, "It is not the name but the work that should be remembered. One's identity should be through their work, not their name."

## Gas leak at illegal chemical factory in residential area kills three including owner in Rajasthan

JAIPUR, Apr 1 (Agencies): Three people died and over 50 others fell sick as toxic gas leaked from a tanker parked at a chemical factory in Beawar district of Rajasthan, an official said.

He said the factory owner and two others have died.

District collector Mahendra Khadgawat said nitric acid leak at an illegally operated factory in Badiya locality led to 53 people falling sick late on Monday night.

The situation was controlled in time, he said.

According to Superintendent of Police Shyam Singh, several people in the vicinity fell sick and were admitted to different hospitals following after inhaling the gas.

He said factory owner Sunil Singhal (47) died on Monday night, while local residents Dayaram (52) and Narendra Solanki (40) died on Tuesday.

Another official also said people in the area were admitted to a local



hospital after they complained of breathing problems, heaviness in chest and vomiting.

Two persons, who are in a critical condition, are undergoing treatment at JLN hospital in Ajmer. The official said people in the area around the

factory has been evacuated.

Collector Khadgawat has ordered formation of a committee of officials from Nagar Parishad, revenue department and police to survey factories operating without permit in the district.

## Two loco-pilots killed, four injured as goods trains operated by NTPC collide head-on in Jharkhand

RANCHI, Apr 1 (Agencies): Collision between the two goods train, operated by NTPC in Jharkhand's Sahibganj, claimed the lives of two loco-pilots, leaving at least four others critically injured.

Reportedly, a goods train was standing on the track when another goods train came on the same track, which led to a collision.

After the collision, the coal-laden goods train caught fire and several bogies were derailed. Fire tenders were roped in immediately to douse the fire. Relief and rescue work still continues.

The incident took place at around 3 am on Tuesday near Bhognadih

under Barhait police station area. The tracks where the accident took place are owned by NTPC and primarily serve to transport coal to its power plants.

According to a fire brigade personnel, there were seven people in the engine, of which two loco pilots died and four people were injured, while one worker is still stuck in the engine, efforts are being made to rescue him. The others have been taken to Barhet Sadar Hospital, where they are being treated, he said.

Those who got killed in the incident include 32-year-old Ambuj Mahato, a resident of Bokaro in

Jharkhand and Gyaneshwar Mal, from Murshidabad in West Bengal.

The injured include 32-year-old Jitendra Kumar, 45-year-old Uday Mandal, 55-year-old Ram Ghosh and 48-year-old TK Nath.

According to NTPC officials, the two loco pilots died due to collision between two goods trains. "The controller made a mistake in setting the point, due to which this accident took place," said Assistant General Manager Shantanu Das.

Investigations are underway, action will be taken against those who will found responsible for the accident, he added.

## Israel strikes building in southern Beirut, killing at least three people

**An airstrike hit unexpectedly, just days after Israel attacked Beirut on Friday, marking the first such strike since a ceasefire ended the November conflict between Israeli forces and Hezbollah.**

BEIRUT, Apr 1 (Agencies): The Israeli military struck a building in Beirut's southern suburbs early Tuesday, killing at least three people, as the military said it had targeted a member of the Hezbollah.

The airstrike came without warning days after Israel launched an attack on the Lebanese capital, Beirut, on Friday for the first time since a ceasefire ended fighting between Israeli forces and the Hezbollah militant group in November.

The Israeli military then had warned residents in the crowded suburbs before the attack after two projectiles were launched from southern Lebanon, which Hezbollah denied firing.

At least seven other people were wounded in Tuesday's airstrike, according to the Lebanese Health Ministry.

The Israeli military said in a statement the latest strike targeted a Hezbollah member who had been helping the Palestinian Hamas group in the Gaza Strip in attacks against Israel.

It said the airstrike was "under the direction of the Shin Bet," Israel's domestic intelligence agency.



Lebanese President Joseph Aoun condemned the airstrike.

"We must prevent any violation of sovereignty from abroad, or from infiltrators within who provide an additional pretext for aggression," Aoun wrote in a statement posted on X.

The former military chief vowed after his election in January that all weapons would be at the hands of the Lebanese state, indirectly referring to Hezbollah's arms.

Hezbollah did not comment on the strike. Photos and videos widely shared on local and social media showed the top three floors of an apartment building damaged following the strike.

Piles of debris on cars below the building can be seen.

Jets were heard in parts of the Lebanese capital before the strike near the Hay Madi neighborhood. During Israel's last war with Hezbollah, Israeli drones and jets regularly pounded the southern suburbs, where Hezbollah has wide influence and support. Israel sees the area as a militant stronghold and accuses the group of storing weapons there.

"We were at home. It was Eid al-Fitr," said Hussein Nour El-Din, a resident in the neighborhood, referring to the Islamic holiday that marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan. "We didn't know where it hap-

pened, but once the smoke cleared we saw it was the building facing us."

The leader of Lebanon's Hezbollah group, Sheikh Naim Kassem, warned Saturday that if Israel's attacks on Lebanon continued and if Lebanon's government does not act to stop them, the group would eventually resort to other alternatives.

Under the U.S.-brokered ceasefire that ended the 14-month Israel-Hezbollah war, Israeli forces were supposed to withdraw from all Lebanese territory by late January, while Hezbollah had to end its armed presence south of the Litani River along the border with Israel.

Israel has launched daily strikes in southern and eastern Lebanon since the U.S.-brokered ceasefire went into effect, saying it targets Hezbollah officials and infrastructure. The Lebanese military has gradually deployed in the country's southern region, and Beirut has urged the international community to pressure Israel to stop attacks and withdraw its forces still present on five hilltops in Lebanese territory.

## Gas explosion in Malaysia injures over 100, damages 49 houses



KUALA LUMPUR, Apr 1 (Agencies): A fire caused by a burst gas pipe spread to several homes and sent a fireball soaring into the sky outside Malaysia's largest city Tuesday, injuring more than 100 persons.

The towering inferno near a gas station in Putra Heights outside Kuala Lumpur was visible for kilometres (miles) and lasted for several hours. It happened during a public holiday as Muslims, who are the majority in Malaysia, celebrate the second day of Eid.

National oil company Petronas said the fire started at one of its gas pipelines at 8:10 am and the affected pipeline was later isolated. Disaster management officials said shutting

the valves would eventually snuff out the fire.

The flames, 20 stories high at one point, were small enough for firefighters to approach around 2:45 pm, the Selangor state fire department told the Star newspaper.

At least 49 houses were damaged and 112 persons were injured, with 63 sent to the hospital for burns, breathing difficulties and other injuries, Selangor Deputy Police Chief Mohamad Zaini Abu Hassan was quoted by a national news agency.

Selangor Chief Minister Amirudin Shari said the fire department evacuated nearby homes as a safety measure and the residents would be placed in mosques nearby until the situation is under

control. Pictures and videos of the fireball went viral on social media, with some residents saying they felt a strong tremor with the doors and windows of their homes shaking.

Lee Weng Ken, who suffered burns to his left leg, said he was shocked when the ceiling of his house collapsed and crushed his vehicle parked in the compound of the house. "I rushed out of my house but fell and suffered burns due to the heat from the blaze near my house," he told Bernama.

Another victim who only wanted to be known as Andy, told Bernama he ran out of his home with his children when they felt tremors and saw the raging fire about 100 metres (yards) away.

"I could only take the car out. My 18-year-old daughter injured her foot when she fell while climbing the fence due to the heat," he said.

Petronas said three gas stations were closed as a precaution, though they weren't affected, and investigations were still under way.

## "India will be dropping its tariffs very substantially," says Trump

WASHINGTON DC, Apr 1 (Agencies): US President Donald Trump on Tuesday said that he has heard that India is dropping its tariffs on American goods substantially.

"I think I heard that India just a little while ago is going to be dropping its tariffs very substantially and I said why didn't somebody do this a long time ago," he said.

Trump was asked if his tariffs- which are to be effective from Wednesday- may push countries to side with China, to which he promptly said that the tariffs would actually help the countries do better.

He did not explain how that would be.

"No, I'm not worried about it. I think they have a chance of doing better actually with the tariffs. It can actually help them in a certain way and I think a lot of them will drop their tariffs because they've been unfairly tariffing the United States for years," he said.



Trump said that the European Union had dropped its tariffs on US made cars to 2.5 per cent.

"If you look at the European Union- on cars, the European Union already dropped their tariff down to 2.5 per cent. It was announced a couple of days ago, which is a very small tariff the United States charged," he said.

Trump will unveil a new tariff plan on April 2, which he has dubbed "Liberation Day," in his first Rose Garden press conference of his second term, agency reported.

White House Press Secretary Karoline

Leavitt confirmed Monday that the full cabinet will be present for the event, but specifics of the plan remain uncertain as Trump and his administration have floated multiple, sometimes conflicting, proposals in recent weeks. "Wednesday, it will be Liberation Day in America, as President Trump has so proudly dubbed it," Leavitt said. "The President will be announcing a tariff plan that will roll back the unfair trade practices that have been ripping off our country for decades.

He's doing this in the best interest of the American worker."

## Chinese military launches large-scale drills around Taiwan as forceful containment of independence

TAIPEI, Apr 1 (Agencies): The Chinese military announced large-scale drills in the waters around Taiwan on Tuesday as it again warned the self-ruled island against seeking independence.

The joint exercises involve navy, air ground and rocket forces and are meant to be a "severe warning and forceful containment against Taiwan independence," according to Shi Yi, a spokesperson for the People's Liberation Army's Eastern Theater Command.

China considers Taiwan a part of its territory, to be brought under its control by force if necessary, while most Taiwanese favor their de facto independence and democratic status.

Taiwan's Ministry of National Defence said it had tracked 19 Chinese navy vessels in the waters surrounding the island in a 24-hour period from 6 a.m. Monday until 6 a.m. Tuesday.

It added that it had been tracking the move-



ment of the Shandong aircraft carrier since Saturday and that the carrier group had entered into Taiwan's identification zone, a self-defined area tracked by the military.

"I want to say these actions amply reflect its destruction of regional peace and stability," said Taiwan's Defense Minister Wellington Koo.

Taiwan has set up a central response group to monitor the latest exercises, Koo said.

China's Coast Guard also announced it was conducting a "law enforcement patrol" on Tuesday around Taiwan, its spokesperson Zhu

Anqin said.

The drills come just two weeks after a large-scale exercise in mid-March, when Beijing sent a large number of drones and ships toward the island. China's Taiwan Affairs Office said the exercises were directed at Lai Ching-te, Taiwan's president.

"Lai Ching-te stubbornly insists on a 'Taiwan independence' stance, brazenly labeling the mainland as a 'foreign hostile force,' and has put forward a so-called '17-point strategy... stirring up anti-China sentiments," said China's Taiwan Affairs Office in a statement on Tuesday.

"We will not tolerate or condone this in any way and must resolutely counter and severely punish these actions."

In mid-March, Taiwan's Lai put forward a 17-point strategy aimed at shoring up Taiwan's national security. The points include allowing espionage cases to be tried by military courts and making immigration rules stricter for Chinese citizens applying for permanent residency.

Beijing sends warplanes and navy vessels toward the island on a daily basis, seeking to wear down Taiwanese defenses and morale, although the vast

majority of the island's 23 million people reject its claim of sovereignty over Taiwan. In recent years, it has stepped up the scope and scale of these exercises, from sending just fighter planes to sending groups of planes, drones and ships.

"The PLA organized naval and air forces to practice subjects such as sea and land strikes, focusing on testing the troops' ability to carry out precision strikes on some key targets of the Taiwan authorities from multiple directions," said Zhang Chi, a professor at China's National Defense University in a CCTV interview.

Faced with the rising threat from China, Taiwan has ordered new missiles, aircraft and other armaments from the U.S., while revitalizing its own defense industry.

Taiwan and China split amid civil war 76 years ago, but tensions have risen in recent years as communication between the two governments has stopped.

## China calls on US to stop creating global missile defense system – Wang Yi

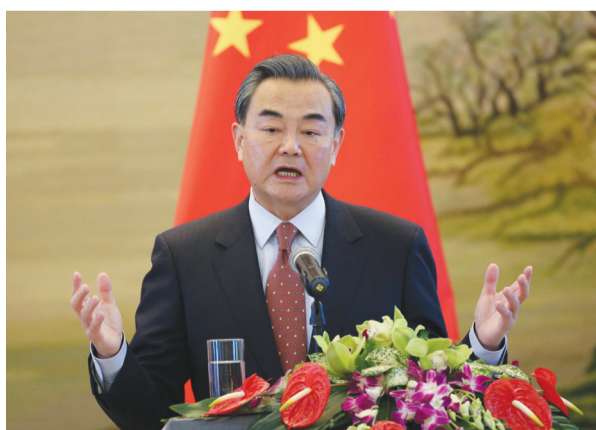
BEIJING, Apr 1 (Agencies): Beijing believes that the United States should stop taking steps that undermine strategic security, in particular, weaken the role of nuclear weapons in its own national security policy, stop creating nuclear alliances, not deploy medium-range missiles near the borders of other states and stop creating a global missile defense system, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said in an interview with Sputnik.

"The United States should effectively weaken the role of nuclear weapons in national security and stop such actions that undermine strategic security as creating a 'nuclear alliance'

through 'nuclear sharing' and 'extended nuclear deterrence,' deploying ground-based medium-range missiles and other strategic forces near the borders of other states, as well as creating a global missile defense system," Wang said in an interview with Sputnik (part of the Rossiya Segodnya media group).

"We call on Washington to make serious efforts to reduce the risks of a nuclear war and achieve the goal of denuclearization of the planet," he added.

Earlier, US President Donald Trump signed an executive order requiring Pentagon Chief Pete Hegseth to submit a detailed plan



for the creation and deployment of a new generation of US missile defense by March 28. According to the media reports, the Pentagon is already making changes to its budget plans for 2026-2030, taking into account the priorities outlined by the president.

Former senior Pen-

tagon official, retired Adm. Mark Montgomery said in an interview with agency that it was possible to create a full-fledged missile defense system of this level within 7-10 years, but even then its capabilities would be limited to protecting only key federal buildings and major cities.

## UK pledges GBP 10 million aid for Myanmar earthquake relief

LONDON, Apr 1 (Agencies): The UK Government has pledged up to GBP 10 million in humanitarian aid to support the people of Myanmar following a devastating 7.7 magnitude earthquake that struck the country's central region on March 28.

The funding will be directed toward providing emergency relief, including food, clean water, medical supplies, and temporary shelter to those affected by the disaster, a press release by the British High Commission stated.

This commitment comes as UK-funded local partners on the ground have already begun mobilising a rapid humanitarian response



in the worst-hit areas. The UK aims to ensure that aid reaches those in urgent need as quickly as possible, prioritising essential resources to help survivors cope with the aftermath of the earthquake.

Baroness Chapman, Minister of State for Development, emphasised the UK's swift response in a statement: "The UK is sending immediate and life-saving support to the people of Myanmar

following the devastating earthquake. UK-funded local partners are already mobilising a humanitarian response on the ground, and this GBP 10 million package will bolster their efforts. I offer my deepest sympathies to the people of Myanmar after this tragic event."

In addition to providing aid, the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) is assisting British nationals affected by

the disaster in Myanmar and neighbouring Thailand.

British nationals in Myanmar seeking consular support can contact the British Embassy in Yangon, while those in Thailand can reach the British Embassy in Bangkok. Individuals in the UK concerned about loved ones in either country can also reach out to the FCDO's helpline for assistance, the press release stated.

As the international community responds to the crisis, the UK's emergency relief package underscores its commitment to humanitarian assistance, supporting both immediate needs and long-term recovery efforts in Myanmar.



## SKUAST-J conducts five-day natural farming training for Krishi Sakhis in Udhampur



### Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Apr 1: A five-day training program on Natural Farming started on March 22, 2025, and is currently underway in Udhampur to equip rural women with eco-friendly and sustainable agricultural practices. The program is being organized under the dynamic leadership of Vice Chancellor Prof. B.N. Tripathi and the

guidance of Director Extension Prof. Amrith Vaid. It is a joint initiative of SKUAST-Jammu's Directorate of Extension, the Department of Agriculture, Udhampur, and the Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM). The training is being coordinated by Dr. Sanjay Koushal, Scientist, KVK, Reasi, along with Sunil Gupta, Assistant Soil Chemist,

Department of Agriculture, Udhampur, and Vikas Rajput, District Officer, JKRLM.

A total of 24 Krishi Sakhis from different clusters of Udhampur are actively participating in this training program. They are learning about soil health management, organic fertilizers, bio-inputs like Jeevamrut and Beejamrut, and chemical-free pest control methods to promote

sustainable agriculture in their respective communities.

As part of the training, practical demonstrations on natural farming techniques are being conducted, allowing participants to gain hands-on experience in preparing organic fertilizers, composting, and applying bio-solutions to enhance soil fertility and crop productivity.

Speaking during the training, Dr. Sanjay Koushal highlighted the importance of Krishi Sakhis as key influencers in rural farming communities, advocating for the adoption of cost-effective and eco-friendly agricultural techniques. Mr. Sunil Gupta shared valuable insights on soil fertility enhancement, while Mr. Vikas Rajput emphasized the role of women in driving sustainable agricultural transformations and improving rural livelihoods. This initiative aligns with the Government of India's "National Mission on Natural

Farming" (NMNF), which aims to promote chemical-free, climate-resilient farming practices across the country. The mission encourages farmers to adopt Bhartiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhati (BPKP), focusing on bio-input-based farming, soil regeneration, and sustainable agricultural growth. By training Krishi Sakhis in natural farming methods, this program contributes to the larger goal of strengthening rural economies, reducing input costs, and improving farm productivity while maintaining ecological balance.

The program has received positive feedback, with Krishi sakhis who eager to implement natural farming methods to benefit both their families and local farming communities. This initiative plays a crucial role in mainstreaming sustainable agriculture and empowering rural women to become leaders in organic farming practices.

## Sham Lal inaugurates pre-mixed laying project in Ward 62



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 1: In a significant step towards infrastructure development, Sham Lal Sharma, MLA Jammu North and former Minister, inaugurated the Pre-Mixed Laying Project on link roads in JMC Ward No. 62, Upper Roopnagar, and Laximpuram, Chinore, under the Jammu North Assembly Constituency.

The project, covering approximately 2 km of roads in each locality, has been sanctioned with a total budget of Rs 70.71 lakh.

The initiative aims to enhance road quality, improve connectivity, and provide long-term benefits to residents by ensuring smoother and more durable road surfaces.

Addressing the gathering, Sham Lal reiterated his commitment to infrastructure development, emphasizing that quality road networks play a crucial role in urban growth and ease of transportation.

He assured the public that his focus remains on strengthening civic amenities, ensuring better roads, drainage systems, and improved water supply to cater to the growing needs of the

people.

He highlighted the government's proactive approach in executing developmental works and stated that additional projects will soon be initiated across the constituency.

Sham Lal also spoke about various ongoing and upcoming development projects in the constituency. He mentioned that the next financial year will witness a significant push towards modernizing civic infrastructure, including expedited work on road repairs, strengthening of drainage networks, and improved water supply management.

He assured that necessary funds would be allocated to ensure the completion of these projects in a timely manner.

Highlighting the pending demands of residents, he acknowledged concerns regarding lanes and drains, installation of street lights, flood channeling, and consistent water supply management.

He assured that these issues have been taken up at the highest level and that the administration is committed to resolving them at the earliest.

He also urged officials to expedite the repair

and installation of street lights to enhance safety and security in residential areas.

With the upcoming summer season, Sham directed concerned departments, including PHE, JMC, and the Flood Control Department, to ensure uninterrupted water supply and proper drainage and flood water management.

He instructed officials to conduct regular inspections, address any deficiencies in water distribution, and take proactive measures to prevent water scarcity and improve flood water management.

He reaffirmed his dedication to improving the quality of life for the people of Jammu North and called for collective efforts from officials and residents to support the development agenda.

The event witnessed the presence of several dignitaries, including Pankaj Padha (Mandal Pardhan, Muthi-Paloura), Rekha Manhas (Ex-Corporator, Ward 62), Suresh Khajuria (Ex-Mandal Pardhan, Muthi-Paloura), Prabhu Singh, Ambedkar Gupta and Sectoral Officers of JMC, Jal Shakti were present.

## Zang Trai celebrated with fervour by Ramakrishna Shikha Kendra Shopian

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 1: Zang Trai celebrations were organised by the Ramakrishna Shikha Kendra, Shopian at Sanskriti Bhawan, Aap Shamboo Road, Roop Nagar, Jammu with religious fervour and gaiety.

This is a traditional festival of Kashmiri Pandits celebrated every year to signify the exalted status of the women as the incarnation of the Para Shakti who created this entire cosmos out of her free will in conjunction with the Prakash of the Para Bhairava Shiva.

On this day the married women visit her maternal home where she is welcomed and offered the gifts of salt, roti and cash as the symbol of overall boon in life.

This festival is celebrated on the Chaitra Shukla Pakash Dwitya every year from the ancient times and has roots in the Tantric parlance and is this festival is peculiar among the Kashmiri Pandits and is not celebrated in any other part of India, except Kashmir.

Ramakrishna Shikha Kendra is preserving this important tradition among the Kashmiri Pandits to uphold the civilizational continuity when the community is scattered all over India and the globe.

It gives a sense of home, place conscious-

ness and aesthetics to the married Kashmiri Pandit ladies when destabilisation and genocidal attrition has made a deep impact on the community in exile.

Zang Trai was celebrated with religious fervour and gaiety in which a large number of Kashmiri Pandit women, children and members of the community participated.

On this occasion Som Nath Pandit, a well known religious figure and saint was the chief guest.

While blessing the devotees on the occasion, he said, "It is the path of Divine Will that heals all the wounds and brings prosperity and paves the way for cosmic realisation.

One needs to introspect and keep the mind fixed on the Divinity within even amid turbulence and pain. We are all living the lives as per the Divine Will, the need is to make our family and society integral instruments for realising the Divine.

The community needs to seek refuge in the Divinity for being prosperous and blissful in exile."

Dr. Mahesh Kaul, a Trika Shaiva Tantra practitioner and scholar of Sanskrit traditions said, "Kashmiri Pandits are the exponents of the Kathak School of Krishan Yajurveda and follow the Laugak-



shi Graha Sutras that defines their place consciousness and Sanskrit aesthetics. They Sanskritised the Hiamalyas and evolved the ecosystem of Sanskrit nationhood for India in the Himalayas as per the agamic realisations and lived the lives strictly as defined in the Laugakshiq Graha Sutras over the centuries. But the enemies of this ecosystem, De-Sanskritised the Kashmir and the Himalyas andq the result was the complete genocide of the community that has threatened their existence. The need is to preserve the place consciousness of Sanskrit Kashmir till our Homeland in Kashmir is restored where we can again live our lives as per the Trika Shaiva tradition.

Women of the community have given the frontal blow to the genocidal attrition by preserving the culture and religion amid all odds."

The Zang Trai func-

tion was presided over by Piary Lal Tickoo, an eminent person from Shopian. Soulful Bhajans and Leelas were sung by Pawan and his

party.

Traditional Zang Trai gifts were distributed to the ladies on the occasion and the Prasad was also served.

## JKMEF extends welcome to new DHS Jammu Dr. Zargar

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 1: The Jammu and Kashmir Medical Employees Federation (JKMEF) extended a warm welcome to Dr. Abdul Hameed Zargar on his appointment as the new Director of Health Services Jammu.

A grand reception was hosted to honor Dr. Zargar, where a large gathering of healthcare fraternity employees came together to witness his assumption of office, following his elevation by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

The event was presided over by Sushil Sudan, Chairman of JKMEF, and Jaswinder Singh, President of the

JKMEF Jammu Division. Both leaders conveyed their heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Zargar, expressing confidence in his leadership and commitment to improving healthcare services.

During the meeting, JKMEF leaders and representatives from sister organizations engaged in discussions on key issues affecting the healthcare sector.

The dialogue focused on strengthening healthcare infrastructure and enhancing medical facilities, particularly in remote and inaccessible regions of Jammu Division.

The federation also emphasized the significance of employee welfare and improving working conditions



within the health sector.

Dr. Zargar assured the delegation of his dedication to bringing necessary improvements to the healthcare system under his leadership. He reaffirmed his commitment to enhancing service delivery and addressing challenges faced by healthcare workers.

The JKMEF leadership pledged full cooperation

with the new administration to ensure quality healthcare services for patients across the region.

The Jammu and Kashmir Medical Employees Federation continues to advocate for better working conditions and improved healthcare delivery systems, representing the voices of medical professionals throughout the region.

The meeting was attended by several notable personalities, including Bharat Bhushan Bhagat (President, JKGPA), Bahadur Singh (Working President), Parfulat Singh (Gen. Secretary), Mohd Nadeem (Gen. Secretary), R.P. Singh, Nadeem Ahmed, Surjeet Bhandari, Neeraj Malagar, Rohan Shan, Kulwant Singh, and others.

## From Page No:1

### Lieutenant Governor attends Odisha Day 'Utkala Dibasa' celebration at Raj Bhawan

folk, literature, handicrafts, customs and traditions.

"Odisha boasts rich literary tradition, incredibly diverse cuisine, architectural heritage, handloom and handicrafts, sacred festivals like Rath Yatra and it has also contributed three distinct schools of

dance to the rich culture of India. The state is writing a new saga of progress. The people are contributing enthusiastically in this development journey. I am confident that Odisha will play a leading role in the journey towards developed India," the Lieutenant Governor said.

### NHAI Hikes Toll Charges By 4-5% Across Country

The revised toll charges for motorists on national highways across the country have come into effect from Tuesday, a senior highways ministry official said.

NHAI notifies toll rate hikes for all the national highways and expressways separately.

According to him, the change in toll fee is part of an annual exercise to revise the rates that are linked to the changes in the wholesale price index-based inflation. Every year, it is implemented from April 1.

There are around 855 user fee plazas on the national highway network on which user fee is levied as per National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008. Out of these, around 675 are public-funded fee plazas and 180 are concessionaire-operated toll plazas.

The revised rates will affect the commuters of key routes across

the country, including Delhi-Meerut Expressways, Eastern Peripheral Expressway, and Delhi-Jaipur Highway, among others.

### Omar Abdullah flags off free transport service for women in JK

the successful implementation of this service.

This initiative marks a significant step toward enhancing women's safety and accessibility in public transportation within the region.

Omar further clarified that there will be no financial losses for smart

bus service providers, as the government will compensate them for zero-fare tickets.

He also said that these facilities would be extended to every district of Jammu and Kashmir.

### "J&K to remain dry for next two days, light snow expected in higher reaches on April 3": Met

forecast, the next two days (April 1-2) are expected to be dry, fol-

lowed by a generally cloudy sky with a possibility of light snow over higher reaches of North Kashmir and Sonamarg-Zojila axis on April 3.

The dry spell is expected to continue from April 4-7, with another possibility of light snow over higher reaches of North Kashmir and Sonamarg on April 8.

However, from April 9-10, the region can expect generally cloudy skies with light rain/snow at scattered places in Kashmir Division and isolated places in Jammu Division.

The Met Centre Srinagar has advised travelers, tourists, and transporters to follow admin/traffic advisories, while farmers are advised to continue their farm operations.

## Forest Deptt distributes 2 lakh saplings on Eid-ul-Fitr Community involvement crucial to protect, expand forests: Javed Rana



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 1: With an aim to increase the green cover in Jammu and Kashmir, the Forest department distributed around 2 lakh saplings of various trees, free of cost, among the public on Eid-ul-Fitr.

The saplings were distributed by the forest department near the Eid Gahs and Mosques following the Eid Namaz, ensuring maximum participation from the community.

Forest Minister, Javed Ahmed Rana, commended the efforts of

Forest Officers in distributing the saplings. He said that by encouraging plantation on this holy occasion, "we aim to raise awareness about the environmental sustainability and importance of afforestation."

The initiative aimed to inspire the people to plant trees as a part of their Eid celebrations, contributing to a greener and healthier environment. "It is a significant step towards greener Jammu and Kashmir and community involvement is crucial to protect and expand our forests," he said.

Rana said that the initiative is part of our commitment to enhancing green cover across the region.

The J&K Forest Department has urged the people to take care of the distributed saplings and actively participate in future greening projects.

The locals were sensitised about the importance of tree plantation in combating climate change and enhancing urban greenery. This initiative aligns with vision of Forest Department of promoting afforestation and ecological balance.

## BRO opens Zojila Pass in record time of 31 days

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 1: Border Road Organization (BRO) has opened Zojila Pass in record time after a mere closure for 32 days, on Tuesday with Lt Gen Raghu Srinivasan DG, BRO flagging off the first convoy towards Ladakh.

Zojila Pass is one of the most critical and challenging high-altitude passes in the world connecting Kashmir Valley to Ladakh.

This year, the pass faced an unusually short but intense closure period due to relentless snowfall caused by a Western Disturbance for 17 days, from 27 February to 16 March 2025.

The sheer volume

of accumulated snow posed a formidable challenge.

The BRO personnel, working under extreme conditions, battling sub-zero temperatures, high velocity winds, and avalanche-prone terrain, cleared the snow in a record 14 days, between 17 March and 30 March.

Every year, the formidable Pass experiences heavy snowfall, forcing its closure during the harsh winter months.

This temporary closure impacts not only the movement of troops and essential supplies but also disrupts the daily lives of local population in Ladakh, which depends on this route for trade, medical



support, and economic activities.

Due to technological advancements, improved snow-clearance techniques, and the relentless efforts of

BRO, this closure period has been drastically reduced from about six months a few decades ago to a few weeks now.

The reopening of Zojila Pass is a testa-

ment to the dedication of BRO, which has Project Beacon in Kashmir and Project Vijayak in Ladakh to ensure timely restoration of connectivity on this strategic pass.

## Restrict meat, liquor sales in J&K during Navratri, respect Hindu traditions: Pawan



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 1: Pawan Sharma, a senior leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and former state secretary of Jammu and Kashmir, has demanded a complete ban on the sale of meat and liquor during Navratri in Jammu and Kashmir.

This demand is likely aimed at promoting a more spiritual and devotional atmosphere during the festival, and showing respect for the

Hindu community's traditions, beliefs and sentiments.

Sharma stressed the significance of respecting the traditions, beliefs, and sentiments of the Hindu community, advocating for the government to consider implementing a comprehensive ban on meat and liquor in Jammu and Kashmir.

This measure would play a crucial role in upholding the values and principles of the Hindu community, who consider the consumption of meat and liquor as taboo during specific periods, notably during Navratri.

Sharma further stated that the Hindu community has long been an integral part of Jammu and Kashmir's social fabric, and their traditions and customs have played a vital role in

shaping the region's cultural identity.

By imposing a ban on meat and liquor, the government would be demonstrating its commitment to respecting and preserving the community's values and beliefs.

Furthermore, this ban would also contribute to maintaining social harmony and promoting a sense of unity among the people of Jammu

and Kashmir. It would be a gesture of goodwill towards the Hindu community, acknowledging their significant contributions to the region's cultural and social landscape.

In light of the above, Sharma appealed that the government consider the sentiments of the Hindu community and initiate a comprehensive ban on meat and liquor

in Jammu and Kashmir. Sharma's demand is in line with the BJP's stance on promoting cultural and religious heritage.

As a senior leader of the party, Sharma has been vocal about various issues affecting Jammu and Kashmir, including the regularization of daily wages and the need for concrete actions to address their problems.

## Student Association condoles demise of Adv. Adil Rangrez

### Top News Report

DODA, Apr 1: The sudden and untimely passing of Advocate Adil Rangrez due to cardiac arrest has left a deep void in the legal and academic circles.

A proud Alig and a valuable asset to the community, Adil Rangrez was known for his intellect, dedication, and contributions to society.

To honor his memory, the Chenab Valley AMU Students Association organized a condolence



meeting, where several dignitaries and well-wishers, including Nasir Suharwardi, Shahab Ul Haque Butt, Jamsheed Zargar, Ayaz Mughal,

Tanveer Wani, Farooq Khan, and others, came together to pay their respects.

The attendees remembered Adil Rangrez for his unwavering commitment to justice and education, acknowledging his immense contributions. They extended their heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and prayed for strength and patience for his loved ones in this difficult time. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

## Army celebrates Eid-Ul-Fitr at Thanamandi, Naili, Pir Topa

### Top News Report

RAJOURI, Apr 1: To maintain cordial relations with local citizens, the Indian Army conducted a celebration of Eid-Ul-Fitr and an interaction with locals at LKG, Thanamandi, Chapta, Naili, and Pir Topa villages. The event aimed to foster good relationships with religious leaders in the area and counter the terrorist ecosystem at the grassroots level.

The aim was to interact with locals and spread the message of harmony during the auspicious month of Ramadan.

Representative of the Indian Army addressed



the local people and conveyed about the significance of peace & coexistence of various communities in the society. He conveyed his good wishes to the villagers on behalf of the Indian Army and

thanked the local people for their support towards the Security Forces.

A total strength of 207 (29 locals at Thanamandi, 36 locals at Chapta, 12 locals at Naili and 65 locals at Pir Topa and 65 at LKG) attended

the event, Sweets and Chocolates were also distributed.

The event was successful in reaching out to people, to read through the populace and created multiple footprints of ethnical perception

management across all villages in a single timeframe. This gesture and effort by Indian Army was highly appreciated by Awam.

This endeavour by Indian Army to reach out to the population residing in remote areas, where civil administration has limited accessibility will go a long way in developing and strengthening trust between the Indian Army and Awam.

The event also served as a platform to strengthen the bond between The Indian Army and the people of this region. It showcased The Indian Army's commitment towards service to the nation.

## Scholarship program launched in Shimla

### Top News Report

SHIMLA, Apr 1: 'Mere Shehar Ke 100 Ratan' scholarship program was launched in Shimla district by Crack Academy in collaboration with HP government on Tuesday.

Addressing a press conference here today, Neeraj Kansal, founder & CEO of academy said that the top 100 students from each constituency will receive free coaching, while the next 200 students will be given a 75 percent concession, and the following 500 students will receive a 50 percent conces-

sion. The academy will provide handholding to these children until they achieve their goals, he informed.

The program was initially piloted in the Jawalamukhi Assembly constituency of the Kangra district, where students from 50 schools participated. Currently, 220 selected students from Jawalamukhi are receiving merit-based coaching under this scheme.

The program will benefit talented students and generate employment opportunities in the State. Crack Academy plans to establish over 90 coaching centers, directly employing

5,000 people while creating additional indirect employment."

Neeraj further said, "Education is the key to unlocking potential. Our partnership with the HP government is a defining moment for students across the state. We urge students to seize this golden opportunity and take charge of their careers."

The academy will also invest Rs 1.5 crore in renovating and maintaining the library at the Ridge. The academy will preserve the building's heritage value while equipping it with modern technology to enhance students' learning facili-



ties.

Meanwhile, in addition to the scholarship program, the academy is also extending its support to 4,500 orphaned

children under state care by providing them access to multiple courses year after year until they achieve their career goals.

## Dr. Tahir Chaudhary charges Congress for carrying agenda of anti-India forces



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 1: Referring to serious concerns about the Indian National Congress and its policies and actions suggesting its alignment with the anti-India forces, Dr. Tahir Chaudhary charged the Congress party for pursuing and carrying forward the agenda of anti-India forces.

Dr. Tahir Chaudhary, Spokesperson, J&K BJP accompanied by Rajni Sethi, Spokesperson and Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Media Incharge was addressing a press conference at BJP Headquarters, here on Tuesday. Ferociously attacking

the Congress party for continuing with the narrative setup by the anti-India forces, Dr. Tahir stated that on the one hand it keeps claiming the credit of nation's freedom struggle and on the other hand it is pursuing the agendas in the nation, which are setup by the Pakistan and even the nations like America, Germany, Italy etc.

Dr. Chaudhary lamented that while our 'Jawans' were busy fighting the terrorists, the Congress party was staging its agenda and staging the protests on other issues. Congress has moved on the ventilator and is unmoved by the issues of nation

and society. In Jammu & Kashmir, he mocked Congress for its desperation to join its name with the NC, and the utter neglect on the part of the latter.

Congress has shamelessly tried to mislead the people of Jammu & Kashmir and whole nation and also tried to defame the nation in other countries by organized propagandas and campaigns.

Congress must introspect itself, for its failures in running the national affairs, its corruption and scams, and pointed out that the maximum leaders of Congress party are facing trial for their corruption.

## Cambridge Montessori School celebrates Navratras with festivities, waiving admission fees

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 1: Cambridge Montessori School in Pouni Chak recently celebrated the auspicious occasion of Navratras with immense grandeur and enthusiasm.

The school opened its doors to the community with a special gesture—waiving all admission fees during this period to make education more accessible and welcoming to families.

The school's vibrant Navratra celebrations were a showcase of rich cultural traditions, blending spirituality, joy, and community spirit.

The entire campus was decorated with

bright colors, and a series of activities were organized to mark the festival.

Students, staff, and parents actively participated in the celebrations, adding to the festive atmosphere.

Principal Anuradha Sharma expressed her delight at the community's enthusiastic participation in the celebrations. "Navratras is a time for renewal, growth, and unity. We are thrilled to celebrate it with such enthusiasm and pride, bringing together students, parents, and faculty. Waiving admission fees during this time is our way of spreading the festive joy and ensuring that education remains accessible to all," said Principal Sharma.

## RCB eye a smart outing from bowlers against GT to maintain winning run

*Shubman Gill and B. Sai Sudharsan have already developed into good opening pair, and RCB will be eager to prevent their alliance from blossoming through Hazlewood and Bhuvneshwar*

BENGALURU, Apr 1 (Agencies): Royal Challengers Bengaluru's desire to make their home-coming a memorable occasion pivots around an experienced bowling unit maintaining its excellent form when they face Gujarat Titans in an IPL match here on Wednesday.

The bowlers played a big hand in RCB taming two traditionally tough opponents in Kolkata and Chennai but now they face a different challenge at home against the Titans.

The Chinnaswamy Stadium pitch has always had this allegiance towards batters, evidenced by the three 260-plus totals here.

The short boundaries and a quick outfield add to the misery of the bowlers, but the Royal Challengers will believe that they have two bowlers who can contain batters here — Josh Hazlewood and Bhuvneshwar Kumar.

While they have not set the stats chart ablaze, Hazlewood has conceded just 5.37 runs an over in this IPL, while Bhuvneshwar, who returned to the field for the CSK match, has an economy of 6.6.

This frugality by their new ball bowlers will be RCB's biggest asset against Gujarat's capable top-order.

Captain Shubman Gill and B. Sai Sudharsan have already developed into a good opening pair, and RCB will be eager to



prevent their alliance from blossoming through Hazlewood and Bhuvneshwar.

The Aussie can hit the hard lengths to find disconcerting bounce and Bhuvneshwar can operate in a tight line while troubling the batters with his ability to swing the new ball.

This versatility makes the RCB pace pair a massive threat in most conditions.

Yash Dayal, the left-arm pacer, too has grown into a dependable and crafty support bowler to the seniors.

However, RCB might feel a bit underwhelming in the spin department with Krunal Pandya and Suyansh Sharma manning that space, and their skills will be put to test.

On the other hand, GT have two proven campaigners in their spin attack in Rashid Khan and R Sai Kishore.

Their battle with RCB batters such as Virat Kohli, Phil Salt, skipper Rajat Patidar, a very

fine player of spin, and Devdutt Padikkal will have a huge bearing on the outcome of the match.

Their pace duo of Kagiso Rabada and Mohammed Siraj, who migrated to GT from RCB through last year's auction, will be looking to soften the Bengaluru top order with some early blows so that the spinners can do their job without much pressure.

Ace batter Kohli and Englishman Salt have already shown signs of being in perfect sync with each other while stitching together stands of 95 and 45 in the last two matches, and they could be even more dangerous at the Chinnaswamy.

Gujarat will require an early wicket or two before RCB, the current table-toppers, run away with the match, and they will expect Rabada to do the job.

Rabada has a good head-to-head match-up against Kohli in all T20s, bagging his wicket four times in 14 innings while limiting

his strike-rate to an appreciable 113.

In short, the team whose bowlers adapt better to the conditions has better chances of coming out on the right side of the result.

The RCB fanbase will hope that it will be the red and gold brigade on a day when light showers are predicted.

Teams (from): Gujarat Titans: Shubman Gill ©, Jos Buttler, B. Sai Sudharsan, Shahrukh Khan, Kagiso Rabada, Mohammed Siraj, Prasad Krishna, Rahul Tewatia, Rashid Khan, Nishant Sindhu, Mahipal Lomror, Kumar Kushagra, Anuj Rawat, Manav Suthar, Washington Sundar, Gerald Coetzee, Mohammad Arshad Khan, Gurnoor Singh Brar, Sherfane Rutherford, R. Sai Kishore, Ishant Sharma, Jayant Yadav, Glenn Phillips, Kareem Janat, Kulwant Khejroliya.

Royal Challengers Bengaluru: Rajat Patidar ©, Virat Kohli, Swastik Chikara, Devdutt Padikkal, Jitesh Sharma, Philip Salt, Manoj Bhandage, Tim David, Krunal Pandya, Liam Livingstone, Romario Shepherd, Jacob Bethell, Swapnil Singh, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Josh Hazlewood, Nuwan Thushara, Lungi Ngidi, Yash Dayal, Rasikh Dar Salam, Suyash Sharma, Mohit Rathee, Abhinandan Singh.

## IPL 2025: Lucknow Super Giants eye first home win of season against Punjab Kings

LUCKNOW, Apr 1 (Agencies): New skipper Rishabh Pant will be eager to make his mark as Lucknow Super Giants look to win their first home game of the season when they host an in-form Punjab Kings in the IPL here on Tuesday.

Pant, who became IPL's most expensive player in the auction last year, will be determined to justify his hefty Rs 27 crore price tag after low returns as a batter in the first two games.

His captaincy at LSG started with an unfortunate loss, as they fell short by just one wicket against his former team, Delhi Capitals.

However, LSG made a strong comeback with an impressive five-wicket victory over Sunrisers Hyderabad at home, thanks to some sensational hitting by Nicholas Pooran (70 off 23) and Mitchell Marsh (52 off 31) and Shardul Thakur's (4/34) twin strikes in the third over which halted the marauding SRH batting unit.

Despite the team's success, Pant suffered a second consecutive failure with the bat, managing only scores of 0 and 15 in the opening two matches.

The Indian dasher will be keen to silence his critics and let his bat do the talking.

For the first time, Pant will face his former Delhi Capitals coach Ricky Ponting, who has joined Punjab Kings this season.

It will be a clash between the most expensive and second-most expensive players in IPL history, with Shreyas Iyer leading Punjab Kings.

In contrast to Pant's struggles, Iyer, who was roped in for Rs 26.75 crore, led from the front with a match-winning 97 not out off 42 deliveries against Gujarat Titans.

The IPL-winning captain is relishing playing at number 3 and will look to continue in the same vein.

Shashank Singh started from where he had left in the previous season, smashing boundaries at will, while Priyansh Arya made an electrifying IPL debut with a 23-ball 47 at the top for Punjab.

Their batting efforts were complemented by India quick Arshdeep Singh and a disciplined bowling at the death by medium pacer Vijaykumar Vyshak, who was brought in as an impact sub.

The Ekana Stadium tends to favour bowlers, particularly spinners and slower bowlers. However, the wicket produced varied results during the IPL last season and in the four WPL played last month.

Spinners from both sides could play a crucial role in the outcome of the match.

If LSG's formidable batting line up can put the runs on the board, the onus will be on Ravi Bishnoi, who hasn't been in the best of form, to provide breakthrough with his effective leg spin. He will have fellow leg-spinner Digvesh Rathi, who made heads turn with his stellar show at the inaugural Delhi Premier League last year, for company.

The hosts also have the option to play left-arm spinner Shahbaz Ahmed, while Aiden Markram is also handy with off spin.

Seasoned Indian leg spinner Yuzvendra Chahal will be the leader of the spin attack for Punjab with Glenn Maxwell also expected to roll his arm over.

They have plenty of pace bowling options as well with Iyer using as many as seven bowlers in the match against GT.

## Ahlatwaty eyes comeback after disappointing Indian Open

GURUGRAM, Apr 1 (Agencies): Indian golfer Veer Ahlatwaty has expressed his disappointment over his performance at the Hero Indian Open, admitting that he needs to rectify his mistakes quickly to stay competitive in upcoming tournaments.

Ahlatwaty, who was one of the best-performing Indians in the tournament, ended tied-17th alongside Gaganjeet Bhullar and Om Prakash Chouhan.

"My game was pretty average, and I didn't play my best game. My ball striking was a bit off, but still, I managed to finish in the top-20, that's a good part. But I need to work on my game to be up there competing for the title," Ahlatwaty said.

"My main focus is to play my best game without thinking much about the result. I am not worried about getting a lot



of top-five finishes. I just want to showcase my best potential," he added.

Establishing a professional golf league in India has been a topic of discussion in the recent months.

Ahlatwaty believes that introducing such a format would significantly help the sport

grow in India, providing professional golfers with more opportunities and financial incentives. "I think such a league will be great for Indian golf. It will be fun, and it will be a completely different format. There will be more prize money for the pros to grab, so it will be nice," Ahlatwaty said.

## IPL 2025: Ashwani's dream debut, Rickelton's fifty fuel Mumbai Indians' 8-wicket win over KKR

MUMBAI, Apr 1 (Agencies): Ashwani Kumar's record four wicket-haul on IPL debut and Ryan Rickelton's 62 not out powered Mumbai Indians to a commanding eight-wicket win over Kolkata Knight Riders here.

The 23-year-old Ashwani from Punjab's Jhanjeri became the first Indian ever to take four wickets on IPL debut as he ended with figures of 3-0-24-4 to blow away KKR's star-studded batting lineup.

With only four senior T20 matches in his kitty apart from four List A games and two Ranji Trophy matches, Ashwani's rich returns heralded the domination shown by MI's seamers.

Deepak Chahar (2/19), Trent Boult (1/23) and Hardik Pandya (1/10) ensured a collective bowling performance as KKR crumbled for the lowest total of this season, rolling over for just 116 in 16.2 overs.

Even as Rohit Sharma (13) endured another forgettable outing, Ryan Rickelton (62 not out off 41 balls, 4x4s, 5x6s) made his first impact on the IPL stage as Mumbai Indians went over the line with 7.1 overs to



spare. Suryakumar Yadav hit a quick 9-ball 27 not out and ended the game with a six behind the wicket.

The left-handed South African Rickelton survived initial challenges from KKR pacers to fight back with a flurry of boundaries for his maiden half-century in the competition and helping his side record their first win of the season.

Left-arm seamer Ashwani accounted for Ajinkya Rahane (11), Rinku Singh (17), impact sub Manish Pandey (17) and Andre Russell (5) to break the Knight Riders' back after Chahar and Boult made early inroads in the powerplay.

KKR had a forgettable start when their openers Quinton de Kock (1) and Sunil Narine (0) fell inside the first two overs and by the end of the powerplay, the visitors had limped to 41 for four.

Boult outsmarted Narine with a fuller one which swung away to clean him up in the first over.

In the next over, Chahar had de Kock caught at mid-off with Ashwani timing his jump perfectly to complete a sharp grab.

Rahane hit a six and a four to counterattack but perished soon after for Ashwani's maiden wicket on his first ball.

The Punjab seamer lured Rahane outside the off and KKR skipper obliged, albeit hitting in

the air with the ball flying to deep backward point to Tilak Varma, who showed quick reflexes to complete the catch after the ball popped out.

Angkrish Raghuvanshi (26) looked the most promising when he began with a couple of attractive fours on both sides of the wicket and also hit Ashwani into the stands for one of the few sixes which KKR hit.

But Raghuvanshi was also guilty of throwing it away when he hit one short ball meekly off Hardik Pandya (1/10) and Naman Dhir did a fine job running from deep square leg to take the catch.

Pandey, pressed into service as an impact sub with KKR reeling at 45 for five, could not make the opportunity count and was cleaned up by Ashwani in the 11th over.

Dhir was in action again when Rinku danced down the track to smash a short ball from Ashwani two balls later but was caught at deep point and the MI fielder also took a fine diving catch in front of him at deep midwicket to dismiss Harshit Rana and help Vignesh Puthur add one wicket to his tally.

## Rohit, Virat set to be retained in A-plus category, Shreyas Iyer to return in BCCI central contract list: Sources

NEW DELHI, Apr 1 (Agencies): India stalwarts Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma are set to continue their A+ grade BCCI central contract list for 2025-26, while Shreyas Iyer is expected to return to the list after being dropped on the previous occasion due to reportedly missing domestic cricket.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is looking to retain Virat and Rohit in the A+ contract, which will see them earn Rs 7 crore despite the duo's retirement from the T20I format.

Rohit and Virat had their last dance in the format after ending India's ICC trophy drought by lifting the T20 World Cup last year in Barbados.

"Rohit and Virat will continue their A+ grade central contract (7 crore) even after retiring from T20I format. They are big players and will be accorded the respect they deserve. Shreyas Iyer is all set to be back in central contract," BCCI sources said.

Rohit, a modern-day icon in the white-ball cricket, has lost his charm and purple patch

across all formats. After bringing the curtain down on his T20I career on a memorable note, the seasoned opener's bat has resorted to silence.

During India's historic 3-0 home series whitewash against New Zealand, the fiery opener, who has lost his flamboyance, contributed just 91 runs across three Test matches, averaging 15.17.

Even before the series loss against the Kiwis, when India faced Bangladesh, the dynamic opener amassed a mere 42 runs in two Test matches while averaging just 10.50.

After a forgettable run at home, Rohit's performance sparked criticism after his sham-bolic display in Tests in Australia. In five innings during the series, Rohit had only 31 runs to show at an abysmal average of 6.20.

Meanwhile, Virat, who could just make 190 runs in 10 innings during the recently-concluded Border-Gavaskar Trophy, was among players who came under scrutiny after the 1-3 series loss to Australia.

Virat ended the last year with just 655 inter-

national runs in 23 matches and 32 innings, averaging 21.83, with a century and two fifties to his name. His best score was 100\*.

On the other hand, Shreyas, along with Ishan Kishan, were dropped from the BCCI's central contract list after reportedly missing domestic cricket despite being available. Since then, Shreyas has put in the hard yards in India's domestic circuit and exhibited a scorching form.

In his last Ranji Trophy campaign, Shreyas garnered 480 runs from five matches for Mumbai, averaging 68.57 while striking at a healthy rate of 90.22.

With 345 runs in his kitty from nine matches, Shreyas was the fourth-highest run-getter in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy. He exhibited his rich vein of form in the Vijay Hazare Trophy, boasting 325 runs in five games at a staggering average of 325.00.

He was a part of India's Champions Trophy-winning run in February and ended the tournament as the nation's leading run-scorer with 243 runs from five matches.

## Narender to lead Indian team at World Boxing Cup in Brazil



NEW DELHI, Apr 1 (Agencies): Asian Games bronze medalist Narender Berwal will headline a 10-member Indian men's boxing team that was handed a mixed draw at the inaugural World Boxing Cup in Foz do Iguacu, Brazil.

This will be the first event hosted by World Boxing since receiving provisional recognition from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in February and the inclusion of the sport in the

2028 LA Olympics.

Competitions will be held for both men and women, but India has sent only male boxers, as the women's National Championships concluded on Thursday. It will be the first time Indian boxers compete internationally in the new weight categories introduced by World Boxing.

Boxers who finished first and second in each weight category at the National Championships in January travelled to Brazil for a week long camp. The reigning national champions, barring Sumit (85kg) who is unfit, will compete in the tournament and will be hoping to bring home at least half a dozen medals. The team does not include the likes of Nishant Dev and Amit Panghal, both of whom have turned professional, or veteran boxer Shiva Thapa and 2023 World Championship bronze medalist Deepak Bhoria, who had competed in the Paris Olympic qualifiers.

# Govt implements New Criminal Laws in J&K, ensures training & digital readiness

## Top News Report

NEW DELHI, Apr 1: The Government of India has undertaken extensive measures to ensure the full implementation of the three new criminal laws in Jammu & Kashmir.

A Steering Committee under the Chief Secretary and an Empowered Committee under the Director General of Police (DGP) have been formed to oversee the transition and execution of these laws.

To ensure a seamless adaptation, translation of the new criminal laws into Urdu, Dogri, and Kashmiri has been completed. Additionally, the Jammu & Kashmir Police, along with other departments, is conducting joint awareness programs in all 282 blocks during the second and

fourth weeks of every month.

"The government is fully committed to strengthening the legal framework in Jammu & Kashmir," said Minister of State for Home Affairs, Nityanand Rai, in a written reply in the Lok Sabha.

"With the right training, digital integration, and awareness initiatives, we are ensuring that law enforcement agencies and judicial officers are well-prepared to implement the new legal provisions."

To equip officers with the necessary expertise, regular training programs are being conducted at Police Academies, Police Training Institutes, District Police Lines, and Battalion Training Centres.

So far, 975 Gazetted Officers trained, 60,890

police personnel trained under Jammu and Kashmir Police, 254 Judicial Officers trained, 191 Master Trainers developed under the Training of Trainers (ToT) program, 118 personnel trained at NFSU, Gandhi Nagar, and 50,984 police personnel onboarded on the iGoT Karmayogi platform, completing 1,21,000 courses, including 1,10,773 on new criminal laws

"A well-trained police force is the backbone of an effective justice system," remarked Nityanand Rai. "By ensuring that thousands of officers are educated on the new laws, we are making justice delivery more efficient and transparent."

To support the implementation of the new laws, various digital

reforms have been introduced. The Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS) patches have been updated, enabling e-Sakshya, an advanced audio-video recording application for Investigating Officers. Additionally, the system for sending e-summons via SMS and email has been made fully operational.

The government has also issued all necessary Rules, Notifications, and Administrative Orders to ensure clarity in legal procedures. "These measures will streamline criminal investigations and improve coordination between law enforcement agencies," Shri Rai emphasized.

To maintain accountability, fortnightly review meetings are held by the

Chief Secretary, while weekly assessments are conducted by the Principal Secretary (Home), the DGP, and senior police officials. Reports from these meetings are circulated within the Government for further review.

"The government is monitoring the progress of these reforms at the highest levels," Shri Nityanand Rai stated. "Our priority is to ensure that law enforcement officers are well-trained, technologically equipped, and fully prepared to uphold justice under the new legal framework."

With these reforms, the Government aims to build a more efficient, transparent, and accessible justice system in Jammu & Kashmir, ensuring the safety and legal empowerment of its citizens.

# Poonam Sharma takes over as 42nd National president of FLO



## Top News Report

NEW DELHI, Apr 1: Poonam Sharma took over as the 42nd National President of FLO, the business women wing of FICCI and the oldest women-led and women-centric business chamber of Southeast Asia. At the 41st Annual Session on March 31, 2025.

As the 42nd National President of FLO, Poonam Sharma with a year long tenure 2025-26 will be focussing on empowering women by facilitating an enabling environment that promotes entrepreneurship, industry participation and economic development of women.

Under her leadership, FLO will carry out many interventions towards fostering larger contributions of women in India's industrial and economic growth story.

FLO (FICCI Ladies Organisation) was established in 1983 as a division of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI). FLO serves as an all-India forum for women, with its headquarters in New Delhi and 20 chapters across India, representing over 13,000 women entrepreneurs, professionals, and corporate executives – and counting.

"FLO empowers women by fostering leadership, skills development, and creating a platform to showcase

their talents across various sectors for an inclusive economic growth trajectory. During my tenure, the FLO will carry out many interventions towards fostering larger contributions of women in India's industrial and economic growth story," said Poonam Sharma.

Sharma said her focus would be to transform the power of women's voices into forward thinking economic initiatives by changing perceptions and influencing policies.

Poonam Sharma is a dynamic entrepreneur in the health and wellness sector.

A global advocate for Ayurvedic products, she is closely associated with the Baidyanath Group, a pioneering Ayurvedic brand with a legacy spanning over a century.

Through her extensive travels, she promotes and educates people about the benefits of Ayurvedic medicines, tonics, and cosmetics. Additionally, she is the Founder and Director of Ayurvedant and Mantra Herbs.

Poonam Sharma is also responsible for the operations of the

Veerangna Foundation, which focuses on the welfare and upliftment of women in Bundelkhand, emphasizing skilling and providing medical and healthcare

services to the poor. Her dedication to philanthropy and community service is a testament to her commitment to creating a positive impact on society.

# Age relaxation should be given to enrolled children in first class: Amit Kapoor

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 1: Strongly advocating the demand for age relaxation for enrolled children in first class, President of Parents Association Jammu, Amit Kapoor, along with a large number of parents, protested vigorously outside the Press Club Jammu.

The protesters gathered outside the Press Club this morning and after that they protested vigorously under the leadership of Amit Kapoor, raising slogans in support of their demands. A large number of women and parents of children also participated in the protest.

The protesters were also demanding strict action to end the nexus of books and uniforms in private schools.

While addressing the protesters, Amit Kapoor said that under the new education policy, the government has issued an order of three years age limit for nursery children last year.

He said that the government had issued an order to give age relaxation for the first two years to the children who are enrolled, but some children are still enrolled and orders for age relaxation should be issued for them this year too so that one year is saved for the children and they can get admission in the first class. Along with this, he also attacked the government for its failure

to curb the nexus with the sellers of books and uniforms of private schools. Many schools themselves sell books and uniforms. He further said that the ADC of Jammu is doing a commendable job by raiding various dhawans and other places, but she should also take concrete steps to stop the process of looting parents by private schools in the name of books and new uniforms every year so that parents can get some relief and the looting by private schools can be curbed. He said that last year they had raided some places and tried to curb the nexus between private schools and book sellers, which was a commendable step. But after that they sat quietly while the nexus of books and uniforms continues. He said that some private schools change the uniforms every year for their vested interests, due to which parents have to face a lot of problems. He demanded from the ADC that he should take this matter seriously and take strict steps to end the nexus of books and uniforms.

At the same time, Amit Kapoor warned that if the government does not immediately issue an order for age relaxation for enrolling children in the first class, then he will intensify his movement against it and the government will be completely responsible for the situation arising out of it.

**To**  
**Rajesh Gupta (Rinku)**  
**For The Post**  
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