

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 02, 2025

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Two killed in Nowyug Tunnel accident on JK highway

JAMMU, Apr 2 (Agencies): Two people injured in a road accident near the Nowyug Tunnel on the Jammu-Srinagar highway last evening succumbed to their injuries, an officials said here on Wednesday.

Around 8:40 pm Tuesday, a Hector vehicle traveling from Jammu to Srinagar lost control near the Nowyug Tunnel due to overspeeding and collided with a divider and a police barrier, they said. The crash left five people including a Special Police Officer (SPO) injured.

All Injured were shifted to Emergency Hospital Qazigund for treatment, where from they were shifted to Government Medical College Anantnag for further treatment.

"One injured person Zubair Ahmad Wani of Heerpora Shopian was declared dead on his arrival. A second person identified as Mushtaq Ahmad Dalal, a resident of Shopian succumbed to his injuries during the night," officials said.

Police registered a case under section 281,125(a), 324(4) BNS in Police Station Qazigund Kulgam and took up the investigation.

Six days ago, an accident took place inside the Navyug Tunnel in which 17 people, including the driver, were injured after an SRTC bus overturned.

Property of drug peddler attached in Rajouri

JAMMU, Apr 2 (Agencies): Authorities on Wednesday attached immovable and movable properties of an alleged drug peddler in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, officials said.

The residential and commercial buildings and a car owned by Haroon Rashid of Rajouri tehsil have been frozen under sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS), 1985, officials said.

The action was taken as part of ongoing efforts to curb the narcotics menace in the region.

Rashid is allegedly involved in several cases of drug peddling.

J&K Govt issues guidelines for reimbursement of trap money

JAMMU, Apr 2 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Government has issued fresh guidelines for the reimbursement of trap money

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Pakistan Army violates ceasefire after mine blast along loc in Poonch

JAMMU, Apr 2 (Agencies): Pakistani troops violated the ceasefire by resorting to unprovoked firing after a mine exploded along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, a defence spokesman said on Wednesday.

He said the Indian army responded "effectively" to the ceasefire violation and continues to dominate the LoC where the situation is under control.

Official sources said the violation took place at 1.10 pm on Tuesday.

While the Indian Army made no mention of any casualty on the Pakistan side, the sources said five enemy soldiers were



injured in the explosion and the subsequent firing between the two sides.

"On 01 Apr 2025, a mine blast occurred in Krishna Ghati Sector while the Pakistan Army was patrolling along the LoC. This was followed by unprovoked firing and ceasefire violation by Pakistan Army," Jammu-

based defence PRO Lt Col Suneel Bartwal said in a revised statement.

"Own troops responded effectively. The Indian Army continues to dominate the LoC. The situation is under control," he said.

The earlier statement had mentioned that "a mine blast occurred in Krishna Ghati Sector

due to Pakistan Army intrusion across LoC".

On February 21, India and Pakistan military held a flag meeting along the LoC in Poonch district in an effort to de-escalate tension after several incidents of cross-border firing and an IED attack.

The brigade-commander level flag meeting, lasting 75 minutes, had taken place in the Chakkan-Da-Bagh crossing point area with both sides highlighting the need to maintain peace along the borders.

The ceasefire violations along the borders of Jammu and Kashmir have been rare since the

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NC to Oppose Waqf Amendment Bill, Confident of Support from JD(U) & TDP: Larmi

SRINAGAR, Apr 2 (Agencies): National Conference (NC) MLA Abdul Majeed Larmi on Tuesday said that NC MPs will oppose the Waqf Amendment Bill during voting in Parlia-

ment, following directions from party president Omar Abdullah.

Larmi expressed confidence that other parties, including those led by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, will also oppose the bill.

"CM Omar Abdullah has already directed NC MPs to participate in the voting and oppose the

Waqf Amendment Bill. I am sure that JD(U) and TDP will also stand against it," Larmi said.

The bill has sparked debate across political circles, with several opposition parties

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Waqf bill designed to disempower Muslims: Mehbooba Mufti



SRINAGAR, Apr 2 (Agencies): Former Chief Minister and People's Democratic Party (PDP), Mehbooba Mufti, today said that the Waqf Amendment Bill, 2024, which was designed to disempower Muslims.

"I don't have any hope with BJP but have

high hopes with secular Hindus, they must come forward as this country has to run as per the constitution," she said, in her reaction over the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which was tabled by the Bharatiya Janata Party-led government in Lok Sabha

today.

The former chief minister said that the Muslims in India have faced persecution, targeted lynching incidents, and encroachments on graveyards and urged the Hindus to rise against such injustices.

She said that the bill was a conspiracy to disempower Muslims, and in the last 10-11 years, Muslims are facing attacks, mosques have been demolished, and lynching incidents and encroachments on graveyards was common.

PDP President also said that the country

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Sajad Lone Slams Proposed Waqf Law Amendments, Calls It an Attack on Muslim Rights

SRINAGAR, Apr 2 (Agencies): Peoples Conference President and Handwara MLA Sajad Lone has strongly opposed the proposed amendments to Waqf laws, calling them an attack on the religious rights of Muslims.

Sajad Lone in a post on X wrote, "Waqf by definition is the custodian of properties which are collectively owned by Muslims. It is an Islamic concept."

He asserted that the



move by Parliament was a direct assault on the religious autonomy of Muslims. "The proposed amendment by Parliament is a blatant interference in our faith aimed at divesting right-

ful custodians of their authority," he said.

Lone further described the bill as "yet another right-wing trespass," alleging that such measures were being taken to undermine the religious and institutional structures of Muslims.

The proposed Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, has sparked opposition from several political parties, with concerns raised over its impact on Waqf properties and Muslim religious affairs.

Employees entitled to 42-Day special casual leave for organ donation: Centre

NEW DELHI, Apr 2 (Agencies): Central government employees are entitled to get a maximum of 42 days of special casual leave for organ donation, the Lok Sabha was informed on Wednesday.

"The government of India has provided a maximum of 42 days special casual leave to central government servants for donating their

organ(s)," Union Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh said in a written reply to a question.

Irrespective of the type of surgery for removal of a donor's organ, the duration of special casual leave will be a maximum of 42 days as per the recommendation of government registered medical practitioner/doctor, according to

an order issued by the Personnel Ministry in 2023, when the provision was announced.

Special casual leave shall normally be taken in one stretch starting from the day of admission in the hospital, it had said.

However, in case of requirement, it can be availed starting maximum one week prior to

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GoC visits Rajouri to assess prevailing security situation



Knight Corps, along with the GOC of Counter Insurgency Force (Romeo), visited headquarters to assess the prevailing security situation in the region," the White Knight Corps said on X.

The GOC also expressed appreciation for the invaluable contributions and steadfast support of veterans in the ongoing counter-terrorism operations.

Lieutenant General Mishra assumed command as the new GOC of the 16 Corps on

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JAMMU, Apr 2 (Agencies): Lieutenant General P K Mishra, General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the White Knight Corps, visited the Rajouri sector on Wednesday to assess

the security situation in the region. Jammu travel packages

He commended the troops for their professionalism in handling challenging conditions.

"The GOC of White

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TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh. Subash Chander Gupta** S/o Lt. Sh. Krishna Lal R/o H.No. 183, Preet Nagar, Jammu. **Tenth Day** will be held on 03-04-2025 at Gorkha Mandir Shivaji Chowk, Nanak Nagar, Jammu at 11 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Veena Gupta (Wife)
Sahil Gupta (Son)
Brother & Babhi
Rekha Gupta & Ashwani Gupta
Daughter & Son-in-law
Shivani Mahajan & Naveen Mahajan
Anamika Mahajan & Atul Mahajan
Bindu Gupta & Manik Sharma
Sisters & Brothers-in-law
Neelam Gupta & Vinod Gupta
Prabha Gupta & Vijay Gupta
Sudesh Gupta & Late Sh. Tarseem
Santosh Gupta & Bhushan Gupta
Ph.No: 6005266835, 7006800125, 8825049001




SH. SUBASH CHANDER GUPTA
DOD: 25-03-2025

UTHALA/17TH DAY

UTHALA will be performed on Thursday, 03/04/2025, 4-5 pm at Shiv Mandir, Gole Market, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu (Lane opposite to Church). **17TH DAY** will be performed on Thursday, 03/04/2025 at our Residence 96/9, Nanak Nagar, Jammu at 12.30 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt Sushma Sharma (Wife)
(Sons & Daughter-in-laws)
Dr Parshant Bakshi & Shweta Bakshi
Sushant & Asha, Madhu Sudan & Himani Bakshi
Smt Savitri Devi (Chachi Ji)
(Brother & Sister-in-law)
Sh Rajkumar Bakshi & Smt Rajni Bakshi
(Sister in Law & Brother-in-law)
Late Smt Pushpa Bakshi & Sh Ved Prakash Bakshi
Brother-in-laws & Sister-in-laws
Sh S C Bakshi & Late Smt Bala Bakshi
Sh Rajeshwar Bakshi & Smt Kiran Bakshi
Sh Naresh Sharma & Smt Vibha Bakshi
Late Sh Romesh Sharma & Smt Sheela Bakshi
Grand Children : Aryan, Aayan, Rayaan, Aradhiya
BAKSHI & SUDAN FAMILY, Mob : 94191-01601




Sham Lal Bakshi
1951-2025

10TH DAY/KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret the sad and untimely demise of our beloved Dr. **Sudesh Kumar Dubey** (Retd. JKAS Officer) S/o Late Sh Behari Lal Dubey R/o H.No. 7/B, East Extn. Trikuta Nagar Marble Market Jammu. **Tenth Day** will be performed at our residence on 3-04-2025 Thursday at 11 AM. **Kriya** will be performed at our residence on 4-4-2025 (Friday) at 12 Noon. **Rasam Pagri** will be performed at our residence on 4-4-2025 (Friday) at 5 PM.

Grief Stricken
Smt Brij Mohani -Wife 9086107479
Son & Daughter-in-law
Dr Lokesh Dubey & Mrs Neha Sharma - 9819781899
Daughters & Sons-in-law
Mrs Archana & Mr Anoop Sharma - 9419200191
Mrs Bhavana & Mr Sandeep Sharma - 9419154137
Mrs Rashi & Mr Kranti - 9469151942
Grand Children: Ananta & Krishv
Samast Dubey & Khajuria Parivar - 94191-36050, 9419292126



Dr. Sudesh Kumar Dubey
(Retd. JKAS Officer)

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

KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief & sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Ramesh Chander Sharma** S/o Late Sh Janki Nath Sharma of Poonch, presently residing at H No. 636, Lane No. 50, Suryavanshi Nagar, Muthi Gaon Jammu on 22-03-2025. **Uthala/ Kriya** will be performed at our residence on 03-04-2025 from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM.

IN GRIEF
Mother
Smt Sita Devi W/o Lt Sh Janki Nath Sharma
Smt Sunita Sharma- **Wife**
Smt Anju & Yashpal Sharma- **Brother & Bhabhi**
Mrs Megha & Rahul Sudan- **Son & Daughter in law**
Mrs Sonia & Sanjay Sharma- **Daughter & Son in law**
Mrs Jyoti & Naresh Sharma - **Daughter & Son in law**
Children : Shivam, Krishna, Saksham, Deepika, Aarika
All Near & Dear Ones




Sh Ramesh Chander Sharma

TENTH DAY / KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform about the sad demise of our beloved **Late Sh. Ashok Kumar Gupta** S/o Late Sh. Kishan Dutt (Master) (Chigi Chour, Ramnagar wala) R/o At Present Rathian Udhanpur who left us for heavenly abode on 25th March 2025. **Tenth Day** will be performed on 3rd April 2025 (Thursday) at 12:00 noon. **Kriya** will be performed on 6th April 2025 (Sunday) at our residence Rathian, Udhanpur at 10:00 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Gayatri Devi (Wife) -Wife
Mr. Anil Kumar Gupta - Son
Brothers & Sister-in-law
Sh. Girdhari Lal & Smt. Nirmala Devi
Late Sh. Jagdish Gupta & Smt. Charchala Devi
Sh. Bhushan Kumar & Smt. Karishma Gupta
Sh. Sanjay Gupta & Smt. Kanu Gupta
Sister & Brothers-in-law
Late Sh. Gishan Lal Gupta & Late Smt. Shakti Devi
Sh. Sudesh Gupta & Smt. Rama
Sh. Naresh Gupta & Smt. Sneha Lata
Contact Nos: 9859541287, 9667239519



LATE SH. ASHOK KUMAR GUPTA

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Amar Nath** S/o Late Sh. Shanker Dass R/o H.No 74/P4, South Extension 1-A, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. **Tenth Day/ Kriya** will be performed on 3rd April 2025 (Thursday) at Village Bhalwal.

Satsang: 12:00 to 1:00PM
GRIEF STRICKEN:
Smt. Manjeet Kaur (Wife)
Daughter-in-law and Sons
Shalu & Naveen Behnal
Pooja & Nitish Behnal
Daughter and Son-in-law
Annu & Vikas
Brothers and Sisters:
Paras Ram
Dr. P.N Dogra
M.L Behnal
Pushpa Devi
Kanta Dogra
Mobile: +917889928825, +919599947782




SH. AMAR NATH

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

TENTH DAY

In the loving memory of
Late Sh. Pritam Dass

10th Day rituals will be performed on April 3rd 2025 Thursday at 11:00 am
ADDRESS: AT OUR RESIDENCE Ward No. 8, Kabir Colony Near SBI Bank Akhnoor.

Grief Stricken:
Smt Sunita Kumari: **Wife**
Son & Daughter-in-law
Rajat Tadar & Neharika Mahajan
Daughter & Son-in-law
Neha & Naresh Kumar
Daughter & Son-in-law
Sakshi & Rajiv Arora
Grand Children: Ashmaayu Nirvighan, Trivek, Navvedya & Ginni
CONTACT NO. : 9596933501, 9419178352



Late Sh. Pritam Dass

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. A/p 316A, Shantidoot Apartment Vasundhara Enclave 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, Estaan, Anant, Shuhul




SMT SANTOSH BHAT

Samast Bhat Parivar
Contact Details: 9971711926, 8800459514, 9419211052, 9818673789.

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-STRIKEN 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

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, Habbu 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 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 Anila & 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

OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform that our beloved father **Sh. Maharaj Krishen Raina (Boni)**, S/o Late Sh. Triloki Nath Raina (Boni) and Late Smt. Durgawati Raina (Boni) and husband of Smt. Vijay Tiku Raina original resident of Bul Bul Lankar Alikadal Srinagar later at Sanat Nagar Srinagar, presently at S-1 390-A Sector 4 Vaishali Ghaziabad left for his heavenly abode on April 1, 2025.

Grief Stricken:
Vijay Tiku Boni (Wife)
Atul Raina & Annapurna Raina (Son & Daughter-in-law)
Shiveta Tiku & Ashwani Tiku (Daughter & Son-in-law)
Khushboo Raina, Anushka Tiku (Grand Daughters)
Samast Parivar- Boni's, Tiku's, Handoo's, Dhar's, Ticku's (Shahpuri), Vaishnavi's, Bakaya's




Sh. Maharaj Krishen Raina (Boni)
21-04-1943 to 01-04-2025

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
Shivans and Vijay Satish
Grand Children :
Rishita, Raghavendra, Tamanna, Kirtarth
SAMAST JAMWAL PARIVAR
Mob No. 9419188459



Sh Mahatma Singh Jamwal

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Stand With Humanity Foundation lauds CM Omar Abdullah's Welfare initiatives, urges restoration of J&K Statehood

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 2: The Stand With Humanity Foundation today held a press meet to extend gratitude to Hon'ble Chief Minister Jenab Omar Abdullah for his landmark decisions, including providing free travel in government buses across the state and waiving stamp duty on immovable property gifts among full-blood relatives.

Foundation Chairperson Manik Uppal took the opportunity to urge the Government of India to restore J&K's statehood, emphasizing that self-governance would enable the local administration to better address public issues



and streamline governance.

The plight of daily wagers was also highlighted, with the Foundation urging the government to address their genuine grievances, which have long been ignored by previous administrations. Prominent attendees

included Akhil Kapoor (President of the Foundation), Romesh Chander (Patron), and Angad Singh (Director).

Chairperson Manik Uppal expressed heartfelt appreciation to the media for their presence at short notice, acknowledging their crucial role in bringing attention to these pressing issues.

NABARD J&K Regional Office achieves new milestones in landscape of Agriculture and Rural Development Sector

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 2: National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Jammu and Kashmir Regional Office is rendering its services to the UT of Jammu and Kashmir and UT of Ladakh through its Regional Office situated at Jammu and Sub office at Srinagar.

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is covering all the districts of UT of Jammu and Kashmir and UT of Ladakh through 13 District Development Managers posted in various districts headquarters and through its Regional Office, Jammu and Sub office Srinagar.

Bhallaamudi Sridhar, Chief General Manager, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Jammu informed that during the financial year 2024-25, NABARD has sanctioned Rs 937.24

core for 152 projects to Govt. of J&K UT, of which 21 projects pertain to Agriculture and Farmer Welfare Department amounting to Rs 101.09 crore, 92 projects amounting to Rs 529.39 crore for Rural Road connectivity.

Under Flood Protection and Irrigation projects (Jalshakti) 12 projects amounting to Rs 160.55 crore, under Health and Medical Education one project amounting to Rs 38.24 crore and under Animal Husbandry and fisheries sector, 23 projects amounting to Rs 79.78 crore have been sanctioned under RIDF XXX tranche.

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has recorded a substantial increase in its refinance disbursements over the last three financial years, underscoring its continued commitment to strengthening the rural credit delivery system in the Union Territory. In the financial

year 2022-23, NABARD J&K RO disbursed Rs 353.94 crore under various refinance schemes.

The upward trajectory has continued in the financial year 2024-25, with release of Rs 721.18 crore reflecting a remarkable growth of over 100% within a short span of 02 years, including the release of Rs 24.00 crore under the Special Refinance Scheme for Aspirational Districts.

This marks the first time refinance has been extended under this scheme in the region, aimed at catalyzing development in identified aspirational districts through targeted credit support.

Aligned with its mandate to promote financial literacy and inclusive banking, NABARD J&K Regional Office has disbursed an amount of Rs 7.93 crore as a grant under the Financial Inclusion Fund (FIF) to various banks operating in J&K and Ladakh.

Chief Justice for collaborated effort to fight drug menace

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 2: Chief Justice Tashi Rabastan called for a collaborated and integrated approach in fighting drug menace in Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh.

He was speaking as Chief Guest in a seminar on the topic 'Drug Use; Addiction, Effects And Solutions: a cue for capacity building' under Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan organized by the J&K High Court Bar Association in Collaboration with the criminologists society of J&K at conference hall lawyers chambers Jammu. Justice Sanjeev Kumar presided over the function.

Prominent among others who were present include Pricipal District and session Judge Jammu, Yash Pal Bourney, Registrar Judicial Sandeep Kour, PS to Chief Justice M K Sharma and a large number of Judicial officers prosecution officers and Advocates participated in the seminar.



The prominent office bearers of both the organizations include, Baldev Singh, Pardeep Majotra, Anshu Mahajan, Rahul Agarwal Ajay Gandotra, Sandeep Singh, R S Durswal, Mr Ashwani Kumar, Rajiv Khajuria, Amarveer Manhas, Hemani Uppal, Deepali Kapoor, Adeep Bandral and Chander Dev Manhas Aman Sharma, Saksham Sharma Hitesh koul and Sushil Kumar.

Advocate Balbir Singh Manhas Advisor Criminologists Society presented the welcome address while the vote of thanks was presented by Advocate Ranjit

Singh. Advocate Nirmal Kotwal President J&K High Court Bar Association Jammu highlighted the New criminal laws with special reference to Dismantle terror and Separatist infrastructure apart from providing stricter punishment as Compared to IPC.

Rameshwar Singh Jamwal, President Criminologists Society gave a detailed key note address through a power point presentation and emphasized how people develop criminal behavior and how the Children of the addicts are affected by their behaviour both genetically and epige-

netically.

He show cased the yogic and meditational techniques piloted by the criminologists society in the District Jail Jammu and informed the 75% results were positive. He sought the support of senior Judiciary and Govt. to reach out at grass root level to deal with this grave issue effectively.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar In his address said that there are two major parties in the Drug menace one is victim who consume it and other who grow and peddle it. He advocated counseling and alternate therapies for victims while for

Accused the deterrent punishments for the time being.

He appreciated the role of Some NGOs and Criminologists society particularly and called upon the civil society to come forward to fight it in tooth and Nail.

Just Tashi Rabastan Chief Justice congratulated Advocate Rameshwar Jamwal, Balbir Singh Manhas and their team for taking up such a noble cause.

While sharing his experience he informed that when he was chairperson of SALSA he use to aware students in schools and colleges through nuked natak, skits and drama apart of their interaction with the panel lawyers.

Termining lawyers as the backbone of the society he called upon the legal fraternity to contribute in fighting the drug menace. He also emphasized that the new criminal laws will also be instrumental in creating deterrence in the society.

Jal Shakti employees demand pending wages, regularization, implementation of Minimum Wages Act

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Apr 2: The Jal Shakti PHE Employees and Workers Association held its monthly executive body meeting at the PHE Complex Udhampur, under the chairmanship of Mr. Som Nath, District President & Senior Trade Union Leader (Jammu Province). The meeting focused on key issues affecting daily wagers, including the release of pending wages, implementation of the Minimum Wages Act, and acute staff shortages.

Addressing the gathering, Som Nath stressed the need for the government to immediately release pending wages and implement the Minimum Wages Act in Leh UT. He emphasized that these crucial demands must be discussed during the upcoming Assembly Session from April 7-9. He warned that if the government fails to address these long-standing concerns, the daily wagers will be forced

to resume their agitation.

The Jal Shakti Minister, Javed Rana, assured the media that the government is aware of the workers' plight and will take necessary steps to resolve their genuine demands as soon as possible.

One of the primary concerns raised during the meeting was the regularization of daily wagers. The association demanded that CP, ITI, and Land Case Workers who have completed seven years of service be regularized under SRO-64 without any further delay. It was also stressed that all pending documentation should be completed to ensure timely wage disbursement in the future.

The meeting also highlighted the issue of pending wages, as workers have not received their salaries for 65-70 months (2014-2020). The association demanded that these long-overdue wages be released with interest, including dues for retired employees who

have served 25-28 years in the department.

Another major demand was the implementation of the Minimum Wages Act. T

he association pointed out that while Leh UT has enhanced daily wage rates, the Lieutenant Governor of J&K has yet to take similar action. Currently, daily wagers in Jammu are paid a mere ₹311 per day, one of the lowest rates in the entire country. The association urged the government to align wage rates with those of Delhi UT to ensure fair compensation for workers.

A significant issue discussed was the acute shortage of staff in the department. Thousands of workers are needed to maintain newly commissioned water supply schemes, yet no provision has been made for their recruitment. Many schemes are now non-functional due to staff shortages, and daily wagers are being overburdened with additional work without proper wages. The association made it

clear that no worker should be forced to take on the duties of retired employees or new projects without proper staffing and compensation.

Additionally, the association demanded that the pending 2% DA (Dearness Allowance) be released immediately for UT employees, as the Central Government has already approved it. Som Nath appealed to the government to take immediate action and end the delaying tactics that have caused extreme hardship for daily wagers.

He urged authorities to fulfill these long-overdue demands and ensure that workers receive the rights and benefits they deserve. The meeting was attended by several senior leaders, including Vijay Kumar Sharma, Suraj Parkash, Dinesh Kesar, Sham Singh, Karan Singh, Rattan Lal, Mohan Singh, Janit Ali, Puran Chand, Prabu Lal, and Shanker Dass, who all supported the demands put forth by the association.

SCJS celebrates Navratras with devotion, culture, social Service



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 2: The Senior Citizens Joy Society (SCJS), in collaboration with Vichar Kranti Manch International (VKMI), organized a grand celebration of Navratras, emphasizing devotion, culture, and social service. The event was graced by Vikram Randhawa, MLA, Bahu Jammu, as the Chief Guest and presided over by I.D. Soni, a distinguished educationist and philanthropist.

The gathering witnessed insightful discourses on the significance of Navratras and the Nine Swaroops of Maa Durga, delivered by Ashok Gupta, President of SCJS, and H.C. Vaid, Executive Member. They highlighted the festival's role in fostering virtue, discipline, and devotion.


A special highlight was the birthday celebration of Dr. Shreyansh

Kumar Jain, Chairman/Advisor of SCJS and President of VKMI, recognizing his five decades of contribution to social welfare and yoga. The Chief Guest lauded Dr. Jain's relentless efforts in societal service, emphasizing how Navratras instill cultural values and social harmony.

Prominent dignitaries present included Satya Paul Sharma, State President, Bhartiya Yog Sansthan, Arun Pachnanda, Vice President, Bhartiya Yog Sansthan, K.S. Samyal, President, Senior Citizens Rejuvenation Centre, Shubhchander Verma, Former Corporation & President, Trikuta Nagar Development Council, Parmod Jain, Former General Secretary, SS Jain Sabha, Y.C. Thaper, Lal Singh Nag, Angrej Singh, Dr. Usha Tickoo, Vice President, VKMI, Srinagar, Prof. Virender Gupta, Rakesh Verma, Rajesh Vaid,

Rishik Mengi, Director, Pusap Vatika, B.B. Sharma, Former State President, Bharat Vikas Parishad, Arun Sharma, Regional Executive, Bharat Vikas Parishad, Sunita Mahajan, National Mahila Sahbhagita, Sunita Gupta, State President, Bharat Vikas Parishad and other members of SCJS & VKMI who shared their insights on the spiritual and cultural relevance of Navratras. The event also featured soulful bhajans dedicated to Maa Durga, performed by K.S. Samyal, Veena Jain, Rajesh Vaid, and Anju Bansal, enhancing the devotional atmosphere.

The program, skillfully coordinated by Ashok Gupta and Ashok Khajuria, concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks by Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, followed by the National Anthem, reinforcing the essence of faith, righteousness, and social service.



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER, JAMMU
AMBPHALLA, 180001-JAMMU

Manager,
Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India,
Auxiliary Production Centre,
Mohali, Punjab.

No:- DSWO/J-16-22/2025 Dated:-01-04-2025

Ref:-AAPC/Mohali/J&K/02/BC Dated:-11-03-2025

Sub:- Conduction of Assessment/Distribution Camp for assessing the Divyangjans (PWDs) & Senior Citizens in District Jammu for free distribution of Aids and Appliances under ADIP & RVY Scheme of Govt. of India.

Sir/Madam,
Referring to the subject and reference captioned above. In this connection, it is intimated to your good self that the dates for organizing assessment camps has been scheduled as per the details given below:-

S.No.	Name of Tehsil	Name of TSWOs with Contact No.	Date of Assessment Camp	Location/Venue
1.	Jammu	Sh.Manjeet Singh, TSWO, Jammu (9419764254)	07-04-2025	Composite Regional Centre (CRC), 11AD, Valmiki Chowk, Gandhi Nagar Jammu
2.	R.S.Pura	Sh.Aman Bali, TSWO, R.S.Pura (6005100601)	08-04-2025	Tehsil Social Welfare Office, R.S.Pura (Tehsil Headquarters)
3.	Akhnour	Sh.Dheeraj Lakhnotra, TSWO, Akhnour (7889796647)	09-04-2025	Tehsil Social Welfare Office, Akhnour (Tehsil Headquarters)
4.	Bishnah	Sh.Jasbir Singh, TSWO, Bishnah (9419180306)	11-04-2025	Tehsil Social Welfare Office, Bishnah (Tehsil Headquarters)

Yours faithfully

DIP No:DIP/J-1/25

Nawaz Sharief, JKAS
District Social Welfare Officer,
Jammu.

EDITORIAL

Time for
Intellectual Growth

Summer holidays are often seen as a time for relaxation and fun, but they also present a golden opportunity for personal growth and learning. The extended break from the daily school routine allows children and adults alike to explore new interests, enhance skills, and develop a deeper understanding of the world around them. Instead of merely spending this valuable time idly, embracing summer for self-improvement can lead to a more fulfilling and enriching experience.

Summer vacation offers a break from structured academic learning, but that does not mean learning should stop altogether. Reading is one of the most effective ways to continue intellectual development. Children can engage in age-appropriate books, while adults can take up insightful literature that expands their horizons. Participating in summer reading programs, joining book clubs, or simply setting personal reading goals can significantly improve language skills, comprehension, and critical thinking.

Beyond reading, summer is also an ideal time to explore new educational interests. Online courses, workshops, and self-study programs provide opportunities to learn new languages, coding, creative writing, or even business skills. Educational travel can also be beneficial—visiting museums, historical sites, or engaging in cultural exchanges provides real-world knowledge that textbooks often cannot offer.

The summer holidays provide a perfect setting for acquiring life skills that may not be part of the regular school curriculum. Cooking, budgeting, gardening, and home organization are practical skills that contribute to self-sufficiency and responsibility. Engaging in these activities helps children and young adults develop a sense of accountability and independence.

For older students and young professionals, internships, part-time jobs, or volunteering opportunities can offer hands-on experience in various fields. Such exposure not only enhances resumes but also helps in gaining practical knowledge, networking, and exploring career interests. Skills like teamwork, communication, and leadership, which are crucial for future success, can be honed through these experiences.

Creativity flourishes when the mind is free from routine pressures. Summer break is an excellent time to explore creative pursuits such as painting, music, dance, photography, or writing. Taking up a new hobby or rekindling an old one can be both therapeutic and rewarding. Creative activities enhance problem-solving abilities, boost confidence, and provide a sense of accomplishment.

Additionally, engaging in do-it-yourself (DIY) projects, handicrafts, or even filmmaking can be a productive way to channel creativity. Many online platforms offer free tutorials that help individuals refine their artistic skills, making self-learning accessible and fun.

With the lack of school routines and deadlines, summer is the perfect time to focus on health and well-being. Outdoor activities like hiking, cycling, swimming, and playing sports encourage physical fitness while also fostering social interactions. Yoga and meditation are excellent practices for mental well-being, helping to reduce stress and improve focus.

Adequate rest and a balanced diet also play a crucial role in overall well-being. Summer provides an opportunity to develop healthy eating habits, experiment with nutritious recipes, and learn the importance of self-care. Moreover, spending time in nature has been shown to improve mood and mental clarity, making outdoor adventures a refreshing break from screen time.

Summer holidays offer a chance to strengthen family and social bonds. Quality time with family members through vacations, game nights, or simple household activities fosters stronger connections and mutual understanding. Engaging in community service, participating in local events, or joining social clubs allows individuals to build relationships and develop a sense of belonging.

For children and teenagers, summer camps provide an excellent platform to make new friends, learn teamwork, and cultivate independence. These experiences create lasting memories while also imparting valuable life lessons in cooperation and resilience.

While relaxation is essential, a well-balanced summer includes a mix of learning, creativity, personal growth, and recreation. Planning ahead with a flexible schedule ensures that time is spent productively while still allowing room for spontaneity and fun. By embracing summer holidays as an opportunity for enrichment, individuals of all ages can develop valuable skills, enhance their well-being, and return to their routines feeling refreshed and empowered.

In essence, summer is not just a break—it is a season of possibilities. Whether through reading, traveling, acquiring new skills, or simply enjoying nature, making the most of this time leads to a more fulfilling and rewarding experience. So, this summer, embrace the endless opportunities for growth and learning, and make it a time of personal transformation.

By: Omkar Dattatray

On the motion of thanks for LG Manoj Sinaha's address to the assembly commotion unfolded when PDP legislator Waheed -ur-Rehman Para raised the issueless issue of restoring holiday for July 13, commemorating the so called martyrs in his view and as per the biased view of the traditional and regional parties such as NC,PDP ,PC,AIP and so on and so forth. The fact of the matter is that those bracketed as martyrs by the Kashmir based political parties are in true sense rioters and anti -social as well as anti -national elements who indulged in riots and created fear psychosis among the minorities and worked against the then Dogra rulers and so calling them martyrs is in fact to the fine and beautiful word and status martyr and thus cannot and should not be called martyrs as they do not qualify to be called martyrs by any stretch of imagination leave alone on the basis of myopic ,narrow and biased view. There was communal and sectarian uprising in 1931 in Srinagar Kashmir and the anti -social elements raised a revolt of banner against the then Dogra rulers forcing them to resort to unwanted firing killing several Kashmiris and thus they cannot and should not be given the status of martyrs which in fact amounts to disrespect to the very undiluted and pure word martyr. Para said the people killed on 3rd December 1931 were no communalists but the revolutionaries who fought against the autocratic Dogra rulers. However the leader of opposition of the legislative assembly that is BJP's Sunil Sharma objected to the unjust demand of PDP,MLA Parra and countered his argument and called those killed in 1931 as traitors which infuriated the legislators of PDP,NC,AIP and others forcing the speaker Abdul Rahim Rather to order expunging of the

Martyrs Vs Traitors

controversial word traitor for the so called martyrs. There were heated exchanges between the NC,PDP legislators with the BJP MLA's and the action of speaker to expunge the word traitor from the proceedings of the legislative assembly resulted in the walkout of all 28 members of the BJP from the legislative assembly as protest against the decision of expunging word traitor as it was construed by speaker as being derogatory. The speaker is expected to be fair, just and neutral and he should not have ordered the expunction of the BJP MLA and the opposition leader in the assembly. The fact is that traitors, rioters, anti -social and anti-national elements and those who are involved in seditious activities against the country and the then ruler of Jammu and Kashmir cannot be given the status of martyrs and cannot be equated with martyrs and doing so by the NC,PDP,AIP, Congress and other parties is undesirable. These parties have been exploiting the gullible people of J&K especially the Kashmiris on the so called martyrs and martyrs day -13 July. While the reality is that there is only one martyrs day in our nation and that is the 30th January 1948 the fateful day when Mahatma Gandhi was murdered by one fanatic namely Nathuram Godsea and so 30th January is every year observed as the martyrs day and there cannot be two martyrs days. There political parties espousing the demand of the restoration of holiday on 13th July are following a sectarian, regional and communal agenda but they cannot be successful in their bad intentions of fomenting sectarian, communal and anti national trouble simply for cheap publicity ,politicking and gaining the sympathy of the gullible masses of the UT. It is so good that we have a strong pro nationalist opposition and so it will be difficult for the regional political parties and for the congress to

pursue anti national ,sectarian and communal agenda. LoP Sunil Sharma deserves a pat on his back for calling so called martyrs as traitors and he should be commended for calling a spade a spade.NDA government headed by Narendra Modi has done well to have abrogated controversial and unnecessary article 370 of the constitution and thus equated J&K with other UT's and states of the country. Article 370 is a history and it has gone forever and no power on earth can restore the special status by virtue of article 370 back .All the political parties and their leaders especially the regional mainstream parties should accept and recognize this reality that article 370 had been buried in the ground and so there is no need to follow the beaten track. There is moreover no need to for Gadhay Murday Ukhadna and the old cupboards should not be opened to seek article 370's restoration and hoodwink the people of J&K. Jammu and Kashmir government and political parties should move ahead and concentrate on delivering promises made with the electorate during elections. So the government should sit down and see seriously how can the promises made with the people of Jammu and Kashmir during the recent assembly polls be fulfilled. People have high expectations from the elected government of Omar Abdullah and he and his government should make concerted efforts in the direction of meeting the promises to the people. Thus no futile and non-issue should be raked and raised by the legislators and instead they should cooperate with the government in fulfilling the poll promises otherwise people will feel let down and deceived and they will have the impression that there is hardly any difference between the LG dispensation and the duly elected government. Leader of opposition Sunil Sharma has rightly said that article 370 is a closed chapter

and history. So sooner the political parties appreciate and accept this reality is better for the people of J&K and for governance. There is a dichotomy in our politics and contradictions are galore and one man's martyr is another man's traitor. Similarly one man's freedom fighter is another man's terrorist and there are no good and bad terrorists .Terrorism,extremism and fundamentalism cannot be justified in any form and on any ground and pretext whatsoever. There is hardly any need of hypocrisy over dead issues and political parties should desist from this. It is absurd ,ridiculous and humbug to raise sectarian ,communal ,dead issues and the hypocrisy of NC,PDP,PC,AIP etc has been exposed during the discussion on the reply on the motion of thanks on LG's address.BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh said it rightly that his party's stance is that July 13,1931 is a black day and a day of betrayal. He further said that BJP would continue to uphold the truth of history and counter any attempt to distort it. The political parties who follow and ad hare sectarian, regional and communal agenda are more dangerous to the nation's integrity and sovereignty than the terrorists and militants busy in seditious activities. Such political parties should be shown their place and the society should not allow them to exploit the masses on following the beaten track and emotional and communal agenda. In short there is need to differentiate between the martyrs and traitors and there is no need to claim that the traitors are martyrs as it is dangerous for the country and the people of our UT.

(The author is a columnist, social, KP activist & Freelancer)

Why "NO" action on pension updation of Bank Retirees even after 30 years ?

By: Vinod Chandrashekar Dixit

Pension is one of the important social security measure. It is based on the concept that it is the duty of the employers and governments to provide for a respectful and decent living to their workers after retirement, considering the services rendered to the institution and the country. Being a retired Senior Office from Bank, I would like to point out that the bank pension scheme, effective from November 1, 1993, remains unchanged, contrasting with other public sector schemes that have seen periodic revisions. Despite a Supreme Court ruling affirming pensions as a right, the push for pension revision in banks has not been prioritized. The justified demand of bank retirees was not fulfilled even after their representatives have met FM not less than four times in the past by All India Bank Pensioners & Retirees Confederation, an organization for banking sector retirees, by and for retirees (AIBPARC)

viz they met twice late FM Shri Arun Jatley and the Present FM Nirmala Sitharaman. The bank pension scheme implemented from 01-11-1993 with retrospective effect from 01-01-1986, still continues without any change. This problem was faced in almost all pension schemes in the organised sector. But over the passage of time, a system of periodical revision came into practice in almost all areas, except banking. The present system of pension revision along with revision of salary is prevailing in Central Government service since the time of fifth pay commission in 1996.

Today, Officers and workmen retired from nationalised banks are much worried on "NO" action on 'provision for pension updation' is forthcoming even after 30 years of an agreement 'with enabling provision.' In Reserve Bank of India, however, the retiree pension was revised as per a circular dated March 7, 2019, which was followed up by another one dated July 13, 2023. Pension scheme in Banks is patterned on the lines

of the pension schemes of the Government and the Reserve Bank of India pensioners and that there is a robust pension fund of more than Rs 4.27 lakh crore including SBI as on March 2024.

The plight of thousands of retirees and pensioners, who after years of dedicated service to the country, are struggling to meet ends pending pension updation. No pension updation exercise was carried out for the banking sector in the past 30 years which is effectively depriving sources of sustenance after employees gave their best years to the organization they served.

Though the IBA and some other quarters argue to the contrary, it is a fact and reality that provision for pension is inbuilt in the Pension Regulations 1993 and there is no provision in it preventing the revision of pension. It is appropriate to note that the pension scheme in RBI was revised twice during this period and the pension scheme in banks are drawn in similar lines with that of RBI. It is a great prejudice that the authorities have

till date not showed any liking to do justice to their legal, social and moral obligation. The bank retirees are still subjected to this negligence and exploitation.

The demand of bank retirees was not fulfilled even though the All India Bank Retirees' Federation has met the Finance Minister four times in the past one and half years. The Union government must not forget the years of services rendered by the Bank retirees and they must be treated justly, enabling the retirees to lead a dignified life post-retirement. Government should not continue to ignore the demands, including that for an increase in pension, raised by retired bank employees who had a key role to play in the growth of public sector banks in the country.

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Greater Shahre Khaas chairman urges PM, LG to conduct ULB Elections in J&K without delay

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Apr 2: Muhammad Faheem Reshi, Chairman of Greater Shahre Khaas, has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir to expedite the process of conducting the Urban Local Body (ULB) elections in the region.

Reshi emphasized the significance of ULB elections in strengthening grassroots governance and ensuring effective redressal of public concerns. He stressed that timely elections would empower local representatives to address civic issues efficiently.



In addition to calling for elections, Reshi also urged the government to relax the current age limit for candidates, extending it up to 50 years, thereby allowing experienced and capable individuals to contribute to urban development.

"Relaxing or extend-

ing the age limit would enable more competent candidates to participate, ensuring dynamic and effective governance in our cities and towns," Reshi stated.

Furthermore, he advocated for setting the minimum qualification for ULB elections at 10+2, ensuring a basic educational standard among the elected representatives.

Reshi's appeal comes at a time when the demand for local governance is growing stronger in Jammu & Kashmir, highlighting the need for swift electoral action to empower municipalities and urban administrations.

JKMEF Block Gool President extends welcome to new Director Health Services Jammu



Top News Report

GOOL, Apr 2: The President of Jammu Kashmir Medical Employees Federation (JKMEF), Block Gool, Mohd Irfan Shan, has extended a warm welcome to Dr. Abdul Hameed Zargar on his appointment as the new Director of

Health Services Jammu. Expressing his heartfelt congratulations, Mr. Shan stated, "We are thrilled to have Dr. Zargar on board and look forward to working closely with him to address the healthcare needs of the people of Jammu."

The JKMEF remains committed to safeguard-

ing the rights and welfare of medical employees while promoting quality healthcare services across Jammu and Kashmir. With Dr. Zargar's leadership and expertise, the federation is optimistic about transformative improvements in the region's healthcare sector.

Social, BJP activists honour Dev Raj for his good deeds



Top News Report

R.S.PURA, Apr 2: At a brief function held in village Gegjan today, the social and BJP activists honoured a gentleman Dev Raj for his good deeds.

Speaking on the occasion, R.L. Kaith described Dev Raj as the most kind, thought-

ful, and compassionate, always prioritizing the needs and well-being of others. Darshan Kumar, Sub Inspector (Retd) also praised Dev Raj for his sympathetic behaviour, simple living, honest approach and thorough gently nature.

While BJP Office Secretary Hens Raj Loria said, Dev Raj is the

most intelligent person who has always given considered and analytical opinion to people in their important matters.

Others who spoke in his praise were Subedar Karam Chand Bassa (Retd), Subedar Baldev Chand (Retd), Havildar Des Raj (Retd), Jagdish Raj Kaith and Kamal Kishor.

GDC Marheen in collaboration with IBT organizes expert lecture

Top News Report

MARHEEN, Apr 2: The Career Counseling Cell of Government Degree College (GDC) Marheen in collaboration with IBT organized an expert lecture that aimed at guiding students of the 6th semesters in exploring various courses provided by IBT for different career options.

The primary objective of this lecture was

to aware the students about different courses under IBT for respective careers like SSC, SSB, CGL CHSL etc.

The seminar reached its peak during the dynamic Questions & Answers segment, where students eagerly engaged with the speaker. Several thought-provoking questions were posed, focusing on the current job market and career growth.

The speaker responded with personalized, actionable advice, addressing the concerns of each student while providing guidance for managing these transitions successfully. His responses not only clarified students' doubts but also empowered them to take proactive steps towards shaping their future careers.

The event was managed by Dr Balbinder

JKPDP leader Narinder Sharma felicitates outgoing SDM RS Pura Seema Parihar

Appreciates Parihar's remarkable accomplishments during her tenure

Top News Report

R S PURA, Apr 2: Senior leader of J&K Peoples Democratic Party (JKPDP) Narinder Sharma today felicitated outgoing Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) RS Pura Seema Parihar.

Sharma acknowledged and appreciated Parihar's remarkable accomplishments during her tenure, wishing her good luck on her new assignment.

Speaking on the occasion, Narinder said Seema Parihar's tenure as SDM of R.S. Pura will be remembered for her outstanding contributions and dedication to the tehsil.

Her good work has left a lasting impact on the community. She has indeed demonstrated exceptional governance and wisdom during her tenure. By

addressing and resolving public issues in an amicable manner, she has showcased her commitment to serving the community, added Narinder.

Narinder further said that her impressive leadership skills and dedication to public service have earned her recognition and appreciation. Parihar's life story is a testament to her strength and resilience. She is a capable and influential leader. Her experience in navigating complex social and political landscapes has likely equipped her to tackle public issues effectively.

Seema Parihar will always be remembered for her exceptional approachability and dedication to public service. She made herself available to all visitors, regardless of their background or issue, and

provided a welcoming and family-like atmosphere in her office. Her willingness to lend a patient ear and provide personalized attention to each visitor's grievances has left a lasting impression on the community. Parihar's commitment to creating a congenial environment has been instrumental in building trust and fostering positive relationships between the administration and the public, added Narinder.

Seema Parihar, during her tenure, was known for her dedication to public service, inaugurating initiatives like longer seva for Amarnath Yatra pilgrims. Her efforts were recognized by various leaders, including Vikram Randhawa, who assured support for ongoing construction works in the area.

Narinder also lauded



outgoing SDM of R.S. Pura for her outstanding efforts in organizing anti-drug programs and taking bold steps to eradicate the scourge of drugs in the region. Her initiatives have been instrumental in educating the public, especially youth, about the dangers of drug abuse, involving local residents, schools, and organizations in the fight against drugs by implementing effective measures to prevent drug trafficking and abuse.

Parihar's commitment

to creating a drug-free R.S. Pura has earned her widespread appreciation and recognition. Her legacy will continue to inspire future efforts to combat this social menace, added Narinder. Narinder also welcomed the new SDM of R.S. Pura Ms Anuradha and extended his support in addressing public issues.

This gesture is in line with Sharma's earlier appreciation for outgoing SDM Seema Parihar's impressive work in the tehsil.

IGNOU extends last date for submission of assignments, other academic works to April 30, 2025

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 2: The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has extended the submission deadline of assignments, project reports and other academic works for the June 2025 Term End Examination to April 30, 2025.

The decision has been communicated through a notification issued by the Student Evaluation Division (SED) under reference number F.No. IG/SED/June, 2025 TEE/2025/15568 which aims to provide students with additional time to complete their coursework amid ongoing academic demands.

According to the notification, the last date for submitting

assignments, project reports, field work journals, practicums, dissertations, and internship reports has been extended to April 30, 2025. This extension applies to students enrolled in Open and Distance Learning (ODL) programs, online programs, as well as those under the Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL) and the Education via Broadband (EVBB) initiatives. The decision was approved by the Competent Authority, reflecting IGNOU's commitment to supporting its diverse student base.

The extension is expected to benefit thousands of learners who manage academic pursuits with professional and personal responsibilities. It is worthwhile

to note that a huge student-base of Regional Centre Jammu belongs to far off places of the region and a substantial number of students are working professionals which makes them duty bound to personal and professional commitments. Keeping this in consideration, IGNOU has consistently adapted its policies to ensure flexibility and student-centric approach.

"This extension comes as a relief to many of our learners, reinforcing IGNOU's reputation as an institution observant to the needs of its students. Students are, therefore, advised to utilize the additional time efficiently and submit their work through the designated online portals or Learner Support Centres



well before the revised deadline", said Dr. Sandeep Gupta, Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre Jammu.

Waqf amendment bill an unconstitutional assault on Muslim religious rights: Hakeem Yaseen

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Apr 2: Hakeem Muhammad Yaseen, President of the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Front (PDF) and former minister, has vehemently opposed the proposed amendments to the Waqf Act, terming them as a direct assault on the religious rights of Muslims and an infringement upon their faith.

He asserted that such amendments are unjustified and go against the secular ethos of the

Indian Constitution.

"India is a secular country, and the Constitution guarantees freedom of religion to all its citizens. Muslims from Jammu and Kashmir and across the country have made immense sacrifices for India's independence, and the government must respect their rights and aspirations," PDF leader said.

Hakeem Yaseen expressed deep concern over the ruling government's claims of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas," highlighting

that such moves only serve to create division instead of fostering national unity.

He questioned the rationale behind the selective targeting of Muslim religious institutions while other religious communities enjoy autonomy in managing their affairs.

"If Sikh, Hindu, and Christian religious institutions enjoy autonomy, why are exclusive laws being framed to regulate Muslim institutions? This is blatant discrimination and interference in the religious affairs of

Muslims. The Bill should be reconsidered in the spirit of fairness and justice," he said.

The senior leader did not mince words in his criticism, calling the Bill a serious attack on the Indian Constitution. "Through this Bill, the government aims to dilute constitutional rights, defame minority communities, divide Indian society, and disenfranchise minorities. Their double-engine governments have even gone to the extent of restricting people from offering namaz in public spaces," he pointed out.

Hakeem Yaseen also warned that any move to interfere with religious autonomy could have serious repercussions. He urged the central government to withdraw the proposed amendments and respect the religious autonomy of all communities.

He reiterated that such unilateral decisions without proper consultations would only deepen the existing trust deficit between the government and minor-



ity communities.

"India thrives on its diversity and pluralism. Any attempt to disrupt this harmony will only weaken the country. The government must reconsider its stance and engage with all stakeholders before making such significant changes," he asserted.

The former minister called upon political parties, religious scholars, and civil society organizations to come forward and oppose the proposed amendments collectively.

He reiterated that protecting the rights of religious institutions is crucial for maintaining the social fabric of the nation and ensuring equal treatment of all communities.



Singh (Convener, Career Counseling Cell), Prof. Anoop Sharma, Dr. Munisha Devi and Prof

Manu Saini (Member, Career Counseling Cell). The other faculty members who were present

during the program were Prof. Sandeep Chaudhary, Prof. Meenu and Prof. Naresh Kumar.

Spring a surprise: Here's how you can up your fashion game this season

Spring is here, so can fashion be far behind? Powder pinks, sunny yellows, leopard prints, striped pants and chunky accessories are all set to rule the roost this season. As summer makes its presence felt, it's time to bring out the chiffons, air out the summer scarfs and step into the spotlight. We scour the fashion scene and bring out the trends.

#1 Pink, yellow and mint

Pastel colours make their strong presence felt in spring. This season, if powder pink is making a powerful statement, so are sunny yellows. If demure pink has labels wrapped around its finger, red carpet has seen multitude of yellows, donned by men and women alike. Mint green is enjoying its own space too. "This spring, at The Story Brand, it is all about effortless style. We're seeing a mix of fluid silhouettes, relaxed tailoring and soft fabrics, which feel as good as they look. Pastels are always a spring favourite, but this year we have combined it with interesting textures and details that make each piece feel special. It's less about trends and more about versatile, feel-good fashion—clothes that move with you and fit seamlessly into your life," says Mayana Sobti Rajani,



founder and creative director, The Story Brand.

#2 Style the saree

Spring time is the best to take your saree game a notch ahead. With plethora of options today, style your saree with a corset blouse or add a pocket or purse. Designer Ridhi Mehra's capsule saree collection Ever After comes with corset belts and jackets in the shades of ivory, gold, powder pink and fuchsia. "With Ever After, the addition of corset belts and jackets brings a bold new dimension to traditional draping, allowing women to embrace heritage with a modern, fashion-forward edge,"

shares Ridhi Mehra.

#3 Pastels meet black

Wearing pastels gives that ultra-feminine feel. If that's what you want to avoid, pair pastel with a dark shade. Pair black or white with a softer shade to break the feminine look, while still keeping up with the times. Alternatively, wear a pastel in a smart pant suit to give a professional look.

#4 Harness the print power

While monochromes are stealing the show on the red carpets, you can stand out in print! Go for small prints for a softer look or go bold in big motifs. Keep the accessories plain for a subtle

look. Print-on-print is a trend in itself and being embraced by fashionistas. A bold print paired with something subtle can help create a balanced look.

#5 At work, stay neutral

When it comes to work-wear, minimalism is the key and so are gender-neutral dresses. Pleated skirts, clear-lined blazers and slim pants hold the key this spring. Stripes are touted to make their way back into office wardrobes in 2025 too.

#6 Charming purse

Let your accessory do the talking. Pair a bold, multi-coloured clutch with a plain dress. Go big on bag charms, right from studs to tassels. Chunky jewellery is flavour of the season too. Brands from Loewe, Celine, Miu Miu, Prada to Coach have plenty on offer.

#7 Animal roar

Believe it or not, animal prints are going to make another roaring comeback this season. Enjoying almost timeless appeal, animal prints are big this spring. Leopard prints are touted to lead the fashion scheme if you want to dip your toe in the trend, start with animal print accessories. If a pro, move from staple cat to giraffe or even zebra print!

Sandeep Kapoor joins the cast of Jamai No. 1



Sandeep Kapoor is all set to portray the role of Promod Shrivastav in the TV show Jamai No. 1, produced by Prateek Sharma and Parth Shah's Studio LSD. The recently released promo hints at a gripping storyline where Neel aims to expose Kanchan Chotwani's true nature to Riddhi. To achieve this, he must

meet Promod, Riddhi's father, whom Kanchan had previously accused of being a wife abuser. The promo shows Neel encountering Promod at a temple, setting the stage for a dramatic twist that promises to shake Kanchan's life.

The upcoming episodes are expected to bring intense drama and high-voltage confronta-

tions, keeping the audience hooked. Sandeep Kapoor is a versatile actor known for his impressive work across television, web series and Bollywood films. He has been a part of popular TV shows such as Suman Indori, Pushpa Impossible, Bhagya Lakshmi, Patiala Babes, Kuch Reet Jagat Ki Aisi Hai, Kasautii Zindagi Kay and Channa Mereya. The actor has also made his mark in the digital space with web series like Johri, Human, and Ishq Aaj Kal. His Bollywood journey includes roles in movies like Ek Ladki Ko Dekha Toh Aisa Laga and Thank God.

Additionally, he has worked in various TV commercials and Punjabi films, showcasing his versatility as an actor. Fans are eagerly awaiting Sandeep Kapoor's entry as Promod Shrivastav in Jamai No. 1, curious to see how this new character will impact the unfolding storyline.

Brad Pitt, David Fincher reunite for 'Once Upon a Time in Hollywood' follow-up

Hollywood star Brad Pitt is set to return as Cliff Booth, his stylish stuntman character from Quentin Tarantino's "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood", in a follow-up project from filmmaker David Fincher.

Tarantino wrote the script for the new film, which is set up at Netflix where Fincher has a first-look deal, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

In the 2019 movie, Pitt's Cliff Booth was a charismatic, rugged stuntman and the loyal best friend of fading actor Rick Dalton, portrayed by Leonardo DiCaprio.

While Rick struggles with his declining career in 1969 Hollywood, Cliff remains his steadfast companion, often acting as his driver, handyman, and confidant. Pitt's performance as Booth earned him an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor.

It remains unclear whether DiCaprio will appear in the follow-up.

The project takes shape after Tarantino shelved plans for "The Movie Critic", which was supposed to be his 10th and final film.

Pitt was expected to reprise his role



as Cliff Booth in that project, set in the '70s, following a film critic who wrote for a porn magazine. In Tarantino's novelisation of "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood", Booth is revealed to be a movie buff, which would have tied into the story.

The untitled project reunites Pitt and Fincher. The duo has collaborated on critically-acclaimed films such as "Se7en", "Fight Club" and "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button".

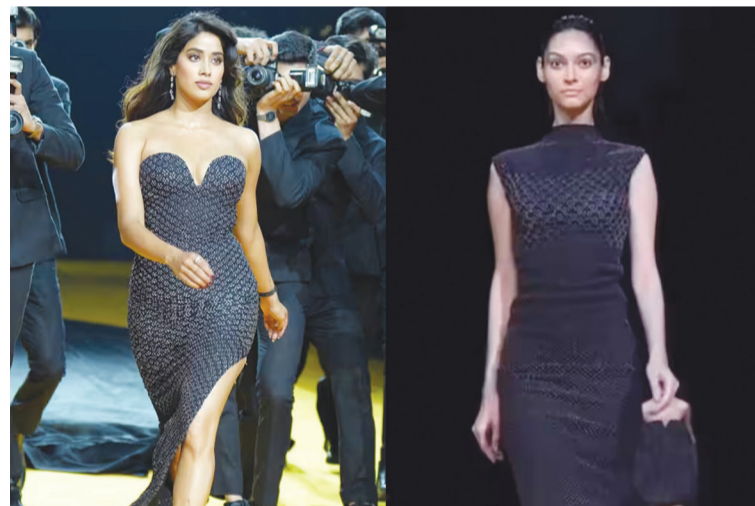
It is not rare for Tarantino to write a script for another director. He earlier penned the scripts for Tony Scott's "True Romance" and Robert Rodriguez's "From Dusk till Dawn".

Tamanna Katoch steals the show at LFW, internet roasts showstopper Janhvi Kapoor

Janhvi Kapoor, Bollywood royalty and daughter of the legendary Sridevi, recently took centre stage as the celebrity showstopper at Rahul Mishra's show at Lakmé Fashion Week 2025. Clad in a Bandhani black gown, the actor certainly grabbed attention as she strutted down the ramp. But what happens when the model who follows her completely steals the show instead? Enter Tamanna Katoch, the model who sashayed onto the runway behind Janhvi in the final walk. Dressed in a black body-hugging gown with a ruffled slide slit, Tamanna stole the spotlight in her own right; afterwards when she posted a casual video of the show on social media, it blew up into a netizen-fuelled ramp walk war.

Here's what happened

The video starts with a solo walk of Tamanna on the ramp. But then, the second half of the video? A cheeky juxtaposition of her walking right behind Janhvi Kapoor. And though Tamanna's caption was all about the



designer and makeup, the internet was not so kind about the walk comparison, and the shade came flying faster than you could imagine.

One of the first comments that caught attention was: "Line second se shuru hoti hai," referring to Tamanna's position after Janhvi's, implying her walk was the true showstopper. Then came the savage remarks. "Let's pretend there was no

Janhvi," read one comment, essentially erasing the celebrity from the scene entirely. Another netizen fired off with, "Your walk is fire, teach some to that little Kapoor." Ouch. But it didn't stop there. Another user, clearly not holding back, wrote, "Your walk was on fire! You have overshadowed Janhvi Kapoor." Furthermore, people couldn't help but point out the apparent difference between the

"celebrity" and the "model," with one comment even calling out, "There is a difference between a Celebrity and a Model." The most savage, however, had to be: "Girl, you did it better than that nepo kid." Another comment that read, "You slayed, girl. We only noticed you and nepotism failed badly in front of you!"

The age-old debate between models and celebrities taking the spotlight as showstoppers is still very alive and well in the fashion world. While celebrities are often booked to draw in the crowd, models are the true professionals on the runway — trained to showcase the designer's work with poise, positioning the garment as the star of the show. This time, the crowd certainly picked their winner, and it wasn't the Kapoor name. Tamanna's IG stories and fiery ramp walk might have just unintentionally sparked a social media war but the internet has spoken: when it comes to runway, it's all about the "model power".

India's Got Latent row: Apoorva Mukhija deletes all her Instagram posts

Social media influencer Apoorva Mukhija deleted all her Instagram posts days after YouTube Ranveer Allahbadia made his social media comeback post India's Got Latent row.

In February this year, a complaint was filed against Apoorva, Ranveer, and comedian Samay Raina over a series of alleged controversial and offensive remarks made on the show.

Apoorva Mukhija deletes all Instagram posts

On Instagram, Apoorva's posts as well as following showed 0 (zero). Her followers are currently three million. However, all her Highlights are still visible. This comes just after Ranveer, who made the offensive comments on an episode of the show, returned to Instagram and also posted his first YouTube video following the row.

All about Apoorva and India's Got Latent row Amid the controversy, Apoorva took her time off from social media. She didn't even promote Nadaanian, where she had a supporting role, neither did she attend the film's premiere.

However, later, Apoorva had reacted to an Instagram Reel where influencer Sufi Motiwala praised her acting in the film.

Sufi praised Apoorva's fashion and said that she is one of the very few girls who 'knows what looks good on her'. He added that she was 'severely underused' in Nadaanian given that she could speak Hindi well.

Sufi criticised the styling of the actor in the film, commenting that when compared with her real-life fashion choices, the difference is 'jarring.' This commentary caught the attention of Apoorva, who comment-



ed, "Got hated so hard that now even Sufi Motiwala doesn't say hateful things about me."

All about India's Got Latent controversy, Apoorva

The comments on the show, which were made in a joking context, sparked widespread outrage.

On Samay Raina's show, Apoorva was one of the guests along with Ranveer and Ashish Chanchlani.

Apoorva and Ranveer had also recorded their statements before the NCW Chairperson and legal team.

Apoorva avoided questions from the media and covered her face with a mask while exiting a police station in Khar.

She had also attended Sabrina Carpenter's concert in Paris. A Reddit user posted a TikTok video of Apoorva allegedly creating a fuss at the concert.

Esha Deol wants Dhoom to re-release: Kids still remember me for the film



Bollywood actor Esha Deol recently made her big-screen comeback with Tumko Meri Kasam. The Vikram Bhatt-directed project also featured Ishwak Singh, Anupam Kher, and Adaa Sharma. Recently, in a conversation with India Today Digital, Esha Deol spoke about her wish to see her film Dhoom getting re-released. She also shared that the kind of fandom she received for that film remains unmatched.

When asked about the trend of films

getting re-released, the actor said that today the audiences decide what they want to watch. "And if there is a necessity for such films, I would absolutely like some of my films to be back in theatres again. I think it's up to the audience and also the producers to decide which ones they would pick," Deol said.

When asked if she had a wishlist for her films to be re-released, the actor smiled to say, "I do have a wishlist... first it would be Dhoom. The kind of love I got for that film is unmatched. A lot of youngsters and kids still remember me because of Dhoom. It has touched all generations, and kept them glued."

She further added, "I would also want Na Tum Jaano Na Hum to be back. It's such a sweet love story. I am someone who absolutely believes in love, and it would be very nice to have the film back."

Vikram Bhatt, who was also present during the chat, mentioned how he feels re-releases mean a death of content. He added that he wouldn't be happy to do that. Bhatt said, "Also, because I don't have the copyright of most of my films, my hands are also tied. Hence, I am producing my own films. However, I am not someone who likes to look back. I am like a blinkered horse that wants to move ahead."

Esha Deol's last theatrical release was Kill Them Young in 2015.

Shah's 12 crore workers versus 5 family men retort to Akhilesh's BJP chief poll delay jibe

NEW DELHI, Apr 2 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday hurled a "dynastic parties" salvo at Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav who asked why the ruling BJP was finding it hard to elect its new president.

"In our party 12 crore workers have to elect a president. On your side five people in one family have to select. Because we have to elicit opinion from crores of workers it takes time," said Shah after Yadav rose to speak on the Waqf Amendment Bill 2025 being debated in Lok Sabha today.



Shah also told Yadav, "I can declare sitting here today that

you will be your party's president for 25 years, no one can

replace you."

Yadav quickly deflected the issue and said: "there's one more thing about a certain yatra and whether it was meant to extend the retirement age beyond 75 years".

Yadav's reference was to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to RSS headquarters in Nagpur on March 30 and claims of Shiv Sena UBT leader that Modi had gone there to announce his retirement as per the party's rule to retire leaders at 75 years.

Modi will turn 75 on September 17 this year.

Rail accidents came down to 81 in FY25: Vaishnaw



NEW DELHI, Apr 2 (Agencies): Railway safety has improved with the number of rail accidents coming down significantly to 81 in the last financial year from the 400 earlier, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw asserted on Wednesday.

During the Question Hour in the Lok Sabha, he also said that contin-

uous efforts are being made, including by way of technological and procedural changes and training methods, to further bring down the rail accidents in the country.

Vaishnaw said there has been a very significant improvement in railway safety.

"During Lalu ji time, there were around

700 accidents per year, during Mamata Ji's time, there were around 400 accidents, during Kharge ji's time, there were around 385 accidents...In the just closed financial year (2024-25), the number has reduced from 400 to 81, there has been a very significant improvement," he said.

Lalu Prasad Yadav, Mamata Banerjee and Mallikarjun Kharge had served as railways ministers.

To a query about instances of delay in filing of FIRs for crimes related to railways, the minister said the GRP (Government Railway Police) of each state and RPF (Railway Protection Force) continuously have discussions and implementation of the system for zero FIRs will help address the issues.

Waqf bill attack on Constitution's basic structure, INDIA bloc opposes it: Gogoi

NEW DELHI, Apr 2 (Agencies): Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi on Wednesday said the INDIA bloc will oppose the proposed changes to the Waqf law and called the bill an attack on the basic structure of the Constitution with an aim to dilute its provisions, defame minorities, disenfranchise them and divide the Indian society.

Hitting back, former Union minister and BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad said when large number of Waqf properties are lying vacant and being looted, the government has all powers to bring a law to regulate it.

He told Gogoi that while he cited Constitution, he did not present a complete picture on its various provisions authorising government to bring laws on various issues, including Waqf properties.

Initiating the debate on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, Gogoi accused the government of misleading Parliament, referencing past discussions on the matter. "This bill is an attack on the basic structure of our Constitution, an attack on our federal structure, and has four primary objectives: to dilute the Constitution, to defame minority communities, to divide Indian society, and to disenfranchise minorities," he alleged.

"The claim that the 2013 UPA government did not act on this issue is false. Repeated alle-

gations have been made," Gogoi said, questioning the necessity of the amendments.

He further argued that the bill had not been adequately discussed with minority representatives.

"In 2023, four meetings of the Minority Commission were held, and yet, there was no mention of the need for a Waqf amendment bill. I ask the government - was this bill drafted by the Minority Affairs Ministry or some other department?" The opposition MP also raised concerns over Clause 3, which defines individuals practising Islam.

"Minorities are now being forced to prove their religious identity with certificates. Tomorrow, will people from other faiths also have to do this? This is against Article 26 of the Constitution," he said.

"Which community do you want to mislead? The same community that fought for India's independence? The community that sacrificed alongside Mangal Pandey in 1857? You want to tarnish the reputation of a community in which 2 lakh ulema were martyred? You seek to defame the community that supported us during the Quit India Movement? You want to stain the name of the community that supported the Dandi March on April 6, 1930?" Gogoi said.

"You wish to malign the community that

opposed the British policy of divide and rule in 1926? You aim to taint the community whose leader, Maulana Hussain Ahmad Madani, demanded complete independence?" he added.

Gogoi also accused the government of spreading misinformation about the bill's impact on women's rights.

"There is an attempt to create the illusion that the existing law discriminates against women. In reality, the law already has provisions for the protection and empowerment of women, including widows," he said.

He also claimed that the Joint Parliament Committee did not take any suggestions of the Opposition into consideration. Gogoi noted the reduction in revenue allocation from 7 per cent to 5 per cent, arguing that instead of reducing it, the government should consider increasing it to 11 per cent to strengthen the Waqf Board. He also claimed that provisions on imprisonment had been diluted. "There is a clear attempt to take control of Waqf properties. Today, their eyes are on one minority group; tomorrow, they will target another. We support necessary reforms, but this bill will only lead to increased litigation and more problems," he said.

Countering the Opposition attack, Prasad



said the church community is also in favour of Waqf amendment bill as churches too are facing the problem of encroachment by Waqf bodies.

He said the government cannot watch silently as corruption on Waqf properties continues unabated.

"Waqf is not a religious body; it is a statutory body. There are over 8 lakh Waqf properties, including schools, hospitals, and orphanages. Shouldn't there be a mechanism to ensure proper governance? The opposition is politically bound to oppose reforms, but they must look within themselves," he added.

Prasad said that the amendments were necessary to ensure transparency and fairness in Waqf administration.

"The Waqf Bill is about regulating properties, not about targeting any community. If the bill provides more representation to backward Muslims in Waqf affairs, why is the opposition objecting? If Waqf properties are being misused or illegally occupied, the Constitution allows for corrective legislation,"

he said.

Prasad said the Congress has over the years only paid lip service to the cause of minorities but did nothing to empower them.

He also referenced the Shah Bano case, accusing the Congress of undermining legal reforms for political gains.

"When the Supreme Court ruled in favour of Shah Bano, the Rajiv Gandhi government overturned the decision for vote bank politics. Congress had 400 seats then but never got a majority after that. Today, they continue to oppose necessary reforms for political reasons," he said.

According to the bill, trusts created by Muslims under any law will no longer be considered Waqf, ensuring full control over them.

Only practising Muslims (for at least five years) can dedicate their property to Waqf, restoring the pre-2013 rules. Also, women must receive their inheritance before Waqf declaration, with special provisions for widows, divorced women and orphans, the bill proposes.

India's media ecosystem doesn't need validation from foreign bodies: Govt

NEW DELHI, Apr 2 (Agencies): India has a vibrant press and media ecosystem which does not need validation from foreign organisations, the government told the Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting L Murugan said this in a written response to a question from Congress MP K Sudhakaran, who asked about "India's decline in the Global Press Freedom Index ranking in 2024".

"India has a vibrant press and media ecosystem, which does not need validation from foreign organisations," he said.

In its report published last year, global media watchdog Reporters Without Borders (RSF) ranked India 159th out of 180 countries based on journalists' ability to work and report freely and independently.

India was ranked below Turkey, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, which



stood at 158th, 152nd, and 150th positions, respectively.

RSF has consultative status with the United Nations, UNESCO, the Council of Europe and the International Organisation of the Francophonie.

Asked about steps taken by the government to safeguard press freedom and journalists' rights, the minister said freedom of speech and expression is protected under Article 19 of the Constitution.

He added that India has a robust judicial system that ensures the enforcement of constitutional provisions.

The minister also said the Press Council of India (PCI), an auto-

nous statutory body set up under the Press Council Act, 1978, and headed by a retired Supreme Court judge, adjudicates complaints from journalists about curbs on press freedom, physical assaults and attacks on journalists.

Under Section 13 of the Press Council Act, 1978, the PCI can also take suo motu cognisance of urgent issues related to press freedom and maintaining journalistic standards.

Similarly, he said press freedom in electronic media is ensured through a self-regulatory mechanism under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995.

2 women Naxalites killed in police encounter in Madhya Pradesh's Mandla district

BHOPAL, Apr 2 (Agencies): Two women Naxalites were killed in an encounter with the police in Madhya Pradesh's Mandla district on Wednesday morning, a senior official said.

The gun battle took place under Bichhiya police station limits, Director Gen-

eral of Police (DGP) Kailash Makwana said.

An SLR rifle, an ordinary rifle, wireless set and some items of daily use were recovered from the spot.

The search was on for other Naxalites, the DGP said.

UP student dies by suicide in hostel room soon after talking to fiancé

JAUNPUR, Apr 2 (Agencies): A final-year BSc student of biotechnology at Veer Bahadur Singh Purvanchal University allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself in her hostel room soon after talking to her fiancé over phone, police said on Wednesday.

The incident took place in Jaunpur on Tuesday night when Shivangi Mishra (22), who was set to tie the knot with her fiancé on November 25, reportedly took the extreme step, Superintendent of Police, Kaustubh, said.

A resident of Kotwalpur village under the Jalalpur police station limits, Mishra was staying in room No. 35 at Laxmibai Women's Hostel.

According to her hostelmates, Shivangi was engaged in a loud conversation around 11 pm. When the noise subsided, they called her but she did not respond.

After repeated knocks on her door went unanswered, the other students alerted the hostel warden who informed the university authorities.

As they broke open the

door, Mishra was found hanging from the ceiling fan with a 'dupatta' tied around her neck, the SP said.

She was immediately rushed to the district hospital, where doctors declared her dead on arrival, the officer said, adding that the body has been shifted to the mortuary for autopsy.

"Preliminary inquiries suggest that she may have been under stress over her upcoming wedding.

However, police are probing the case from all possible angles," the SP said.

Thousands of refugees settled in Manipur since 1960s: Ex-CM N Biren Singh

IMPHAL, Apr 2 (Agencies): Former Manipur chief minister N Biren Singh on Wednesday said that thousands of refugees settled in the state since 1960s with the knowledge of the authorities and those people were provided assistance for rehabilitation.

Singh, who resigned as the chief minister in February leading to imposition of President's Rule in the restive state, also wondered what happened to those families and whether those people were added to the electoral roll.

His comments, made in a lengthy post on X, came a day after BJP MLAs of Manipur sought a "review" of the 2001 Census and implementation of the NRC before carrying out delimitation exercise in the state.

Singh, when he was the CM, and the Centre accused illegal immigrants from Myanmar of largely being respon-



sible for the ethnic violence in the state which left more than 250 people dead since May 2023.

"Official records show that even before we became a full-fledged state, thousands of refugees were settled here with the knowledge of the authorities at the time. As early as the late 1960s and early 70s, documents reveal the presence of over 1,500 families who had crossed over and were provided assistance for rehabilitation," Singh

largely unspoken, even as the demographic structure of the state changed over the years, the BJP leader claimed.

Paokai Haokip, then Member of Parliament from Manipur, wrote a letter to KC Pant, Minister of State for Home Affairs, informing him about the presence of over 1,500 refugee families who settled in Manipur by 1967, Singh said in the post, sharing a copy of the letter.

"His correspondence is just one among several that confirm how deeply rooted and longstanding this issue is," the former chief minister said.

Wondering whether Manipur was "a dumping ground for refugees from the very beginning", Singh said it is important to ask whether there were legal mechanisms in place to ensure these individuals remained in refugee status.

"Were they extended benefits meant for indig-

enous communities? These are not small matters; they touch the core of our identity, our social balance, and the direction we're heading in as a society," he said.

Singh said it is time to revisit this chapter and not to assign blame, but to understand what happened, reflect on its implications, and chart a fair and balanced path forward, as the issue has far-reaching consequences and will shape the state's present and future.

"From my experience in active politics and high office, I understand the weight it carries to a representative of the people. It's easy to go with the tide, but true responsibility lies in standing firm on facts. We owe it to our people to be truthful, defend their dignity, and be forward-looking. That's what it means to be a statesman, not just a politician," he said.

US will boom: Trump rejects stagflation fears as experts warn of economic crisis

WASHINGTON, Apr 2 (Agencies): United States President Donald Trump on Wednesday brushed aside concerns about stagflation, insisting that America's economy is on the verge of a major resurgence.

When asked whether he was worried about stagflation — a combination of stagnant economic growth, high inflation, and rising unemployment — Trump responded, "I haven't heard that term in years. I don't know anything about it. This country is going to be more successful than it ever was. It is going to boom. We're going to have a boomtown. We're going to boom".

The President's remarks came at a time when economic analysts have raised alarms about the risk of stagflation — a scenario where economic growth slows while inflation remains high and unemployment rises. Historically, stagflation has



been one of the most difficult economic challenges to manage, as it combines two typically opposing economic forces: inflation and stagnation. The term gained prominence in the 1970s when the US struggled with surging oil prices, economic stagnation, and high joblessness, leading to a prolonged period of economic distress. Despite concerns from

experts, Trump remained confident that the US economy would thrive, calling his ongoing term a 'golden age' for America. He also vowed to bring manufacturing and production back to the United States, emphasising economic self-sufficiency.

"We are going to bring manufacturing and products back to America. For instance, we need pharmaceuticals for our country

— we don't want to buy them from other countries. Similarly, we have our own lumber, we have our own energy. We don't need energy from Canada, we don't need lumber from Canada. In fact, we don't need anything from Canada. I believe this will be a golden age for America," Trump said during a press gaggle aboard his Air Force One flight.

With the impending rollout of Trump's reciprocal tariffs, economists are warning of a looming stagflation crisis in the United States.

Experts cite Trump's economic policies — tariffs, mass public sector layoffs, and government program shutdowns — as key drivers of these concerns. They said warning signs are already emerging, including declining consumer sentiment, falling stock markets, and persistent inflation.

Israel expands military operation in Gaza, plans to seize large areas

JERUSALEM, Apr 2 (Agencies): Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz announced a major expansion of the military operation in Gaza on Wednesday, saying large areas of the enclave would be seized and added to the security zones of Israel.

In a statement, Katz said there would be large-scale evacuation of population from areas where there is fighting, and urged Gazans to eliminate Hamas and return Israeli hostages as the only way to end the war.

He did not make clear how much land Israel intends to seize, how-

ever.

It has already set up a significant buffer zone within Gaza, expanding an area that existed around the edges of the enclave before the war and adding a large security area in the so-called Netzarim corridor through the middle of Gaza.

At the same time, Israeli leaders have said they plan to facilitate voluntary departure of Palestinians from the enclave, after US President Donald Trump called for it to be permanently evacuated and redeveloped as a coastal resort under US control.

Israel resumed air strikes on Gaza and sent ground troops back in this month, after two months of relative calm following the conclusion of a US-backed truce to allow the exchange of hostages held by Hamas for Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.

Efforts led by Qatari and Egyptian mediators to get back on track talks aimed at ending the war have failed to make progress yet.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said the application of military pressure is the best way to get the remaining 59 hostages back.

Fire kills 3 in S Vietnam

HANOI, Apr 2 (Agencies): At least three people were killed in a fire at a two-story house in south Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City early Wednesday morning, Vietnam News Agency

reported.

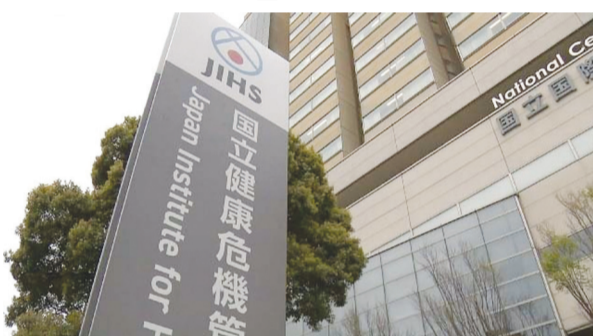
At around 3 a.m., the fire engulfed the 60-square-meter house located in a small alley in the city's district 8, the state-owned news agency reported.

When the fire broke out, there were eight people in the house, five of whom escaped in time, and three were trapped and died, according to the media outlet.

Japan launches new research institute for future pandemics

TOKYO, Apr 2 (Agencies): Japan has launched a new infectious diseases research institute, the Japan Institute for Health Security (JIHS), in an effort to prepare for future infectious disease crises.

The new institute was established through the merging of the National Institute of Infectious Diseases and the National Center for Global Health and Medicine, and will be responsible for information analysis, research and crisis response related



to infectious diseases. The JIHS will collect information on infectious diseases and conduct risk assessments in normal times while reporting scientific findings to the Government.

In the event of an infectious disease outbreak, the organization will work with the Government to develop and draw up guidelines for medical treatment.

China conducts military drills focusing on Taiwan Strait

TAIPEI, Apr 2 (Agencies): China conducted military drills around Taiwan for a second day Wednesday focusing on the Taiwan Strait separating the self-governing island democracy from China that is a crucial conduit for international trade.

The Strait Thunder-2025A drills were held Wednesday morning in the middle and southern areas of the Taiwan Strait, a People's Liberation Army spokesperson said.

Taiwan's military said it was closely monitoring the drills but there was nothing unusual on the island of 23 million people that China claims as its own territory.

Wednesday's exercises "focus on subjects of identification and verification, warning and expulsion, and interception and detention



so as to test the troops' capabilities of area regulation and control, joint blockade and control, and precision strikes on key targets." Eastern Theater Command spokesperson Shi Yi was quoted as saying on the Chinese Defense Ministry's Weibo social media account.

Taiwan on Wednesday reported 76 military aircraft, and 19 naval or government ships had entered waters and airspace near the island

over the past 24 hours, with 37 of the planes crossing the center line in the 160-kilometer (110-mile) wide Taiwan Strait that forms an unofficial border, but which China refuses to acknowledge.

China's Shandong aircraft carrier group also entered into Taiwan's air defense identification zone, a self-defined area tracked by the military.

Beijing sends warplanes and navy vessels

toward the island on a daily basis, and in recent years it has stepped up the scope and scale of these exercises. Taiwanese officials have recently warned that China could launch a sneak attack under the guise of military exercises.

Any conflict could draw in the U.S. which maintains a series of alliances in the region, provides Taiwan with high-tech arms and is legally bound to respond to threats to the island.

"Once again, China's aggressive military activities and rhetoric toward Taiwan only serve to exacerbate tensions and put the region's security and the world's prosperity at risk," State Department spokesperson Tammy Bruce said.

"In the face of China's intimidation tactics and

destabilizing behavior, the United States' enduring commitment to our allies and partners, including Taiwan, continues," Bruce said in a statement.

Taiwan has set up a central response group to monitor the latest exercises, according to Taiwan's Defense Minister Wellington Koo.

China's Taiwan Affairs Office said the exercises were directed at Lai Ching-te, Taiwan's strongly pro-independence president. Polling shows the overwhelming majority of the island's residents reject the possibility of Chinese rule and back their current state of Taiwan independence.

Taiwan and China split amid civil war 76 years ago, but tensions have risen since 2016, when China cut off almost all contacts with Taipei.

Myanmar earthquake victim rescued after 5 days, over 2,700 killed

MANDALAY, Apr 2 (Agencies): Rescuers on Wednesday pulled a man alive from the rubble five days after Myanmar's devastating earthquake, as calls grew for the junta to allow more aid in and halt attacks on rebels.

The shallow 7.7-magnitude earthquake on Friday flattened buildings across Myanmar, killing more than 2,700 people and making thousands more homeless.

Several leading armed groups fighting the military have suspended hostilities during the quake recovery, but junta chief Min Aung Hlaing vowed to continue "defensive activities" against "terrorists".

UN agencies, rights groups and foreign governments have urged all sides in Myanmar's civil war to stop fighting and focus on helping those affected by the quake, the biggest to hit the country in decades.

Hopes of finding more survivors are fading, but there was a moment of joy on Wednesday as a man was pulled alive from the ruins of a hotel in the capital Naypyidaw.

The 26-year-old hotel worker was extracted by

a joint Myanmar-Turkish team shortly after midnight, the fire service and junta said.

Dazed and dusty but conscious, the man was pulled through a hole in the rubble and put on a stretcher, video posted on Facebook by the Myanmar Fire Services Department shows.

Call for peace
Min Aung Hlaing said Tuesday that the death count had risen to 2,719, with more than 4,500 injured and 441 still missing.

But with patchy communication and infrastructure delaying efforts to gather information and deliver aid, the true scale of the disaster has yet to become clear, and the toll is likely to rise.

Relief groups say that that response has been hindered by continued fighting between the junta and the complex patchwork of armed groups opposed to its rule, which began in a 2021 coup.

Julie Bishop, the UN special envoy on Myanmar, called on all sides to "focus their efforts on the protection of civilians, including aid workers, and the delivery of life-saving assistance".

Even before Friday's earthquake, 3.5 million

people were displaced by the fighting, many of them at risk of hunger, according to the United Nations.

Late Tuesday, an alliance of three of Myanmar's most powerful ethnic minority armed groups announced a one-month pause in hostilities to support humanitarian efforts in response to the quake.

The announcement by the Three Brotherhood Alliance followed a separate partial ceasefire called by the People's Defence Force — civilian groups that took up arms after the coup to fight junta rule.

But there have been multiple reports of junta air strikes against rebel groups since the quake.

"We are aware that some ethnic armed groups are currently not engaged in combat, but are organising and training to carry out attacks," said Min Aung Hlaing, mentioning sabotage against the electricity supply.

"Since such activities constitute attacks, the Tatmadaw (armed forces) will continue to carry out necessary defensive activities," he said in a statement late Tuesday.

Thailand toll rises

Australia's government decried the reported air strikes saying they "exacerbated the suffering of the people".

"We condemn these acts and call on the military regime to immediately cease military operations and allow full humanitarian access to affected areas," Foreign Minister Penny Wong said.

Amnesty International said "inhumane" military attacks were significantly complicating earthquake relief efforts in Myanmar.

"You cannot ask for aid with one hand and bomb with the other," said the group's Myanmar researcher Joe Freeman.

Hundreds of kilometres (miles) away, in the Thai capital Bangkok, workers continued to scour a pile of rubble that formed when Friday's tremors collapsed a 30-storey skyscraper. The structure had been under construction at the time, and its crash buried dozens of builders — few of whom have come out alive.

The death count at the site has risen to 22, with more than 70 still believed trapped in the rubble.

Most immigrants at risk of deportation from US are Christian, report finds

WASHINGTON, Apr 2 (Agencies): As many as four in five immigrants at risk of deportation from the United States are Christian, according to a new report that calls on their fellow believers to consider the impact of the Trump administration's aggressive deportation policies.

The report says about 10 million Christians are vulnerable to deportation and 7 million US citizens who are Christian live in households where someone is at risk of deportation.

The report, under the auspices of major Catholic and evangelical organisations, draws on a range of data, including percentages of religious affiliation in various migrant and national populations and on an advocacy group's analysis of US census data on migrants.

"Though we're deeply concerned about fellow Christians, we're not exclusively concerned with immigrants who happen to share our faith," said Matthew Soerens, vice president of advocacy and policy at World Relief, an evangelical humanitarian organization that cosponsored the report.

"As Christians, we believe that all people, regardless of their religious tradition or nationality, are made in God's image with inherent dignity," Soerens said in a video statement. But he added that many Christians in the US may not realise that most of those who could be deported share their faith. Other groups that helped produce the report include the National Association of Evangelicals, the US Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Migration and the Centre for the Study of Global Christianity at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Massachusetts.

While the report doesn't advocate any political positions, it mainly seeks to raise awareness of the

issue among Christians, and some of its sponsoring groups have individually advocated for reforms that would give some categories of immigrants a path to legal status. Immigrants at risk of deportation range from those who crossed the border illegally to those who may have some sort of legal status that could be revoked.

For example, the Trump administration has taken steps to end temporary protected status, held by many from Venezuela and Haiti, as well as humanitarian parole that had been granted for others from those troubled countries as well as Cuba and Nicaragua.

President Donald Trump enjoyed wide support from certain Christian blocs in all three of his campaigns. In 2024, he was supported by about 8 in 10 white evangelical Christian voters, about 6 in 10 white Catholics and just over half of Latino evangelicals, according to AP VoteCast, a sweeping survey of more than 120,000 voters.

While the report doesn't directly refer to that support, it says it seeks to raise awareness of the potential impact of Trump's immigration crackdown. Even the fear of deportation could cause people to avoid going to public places — such as worship services. In an era when a growing number of people in the U.S. don't have a religious affiliation, many immigrants who are Christian have helped reenergise churches and spur their growth, said Walter Kim, president of the National Association of Evangelicals. "They're coming from parts of the world where the church is actually thriving," Kim said. "Not only are they bringing that thriving faith and contributing to America, they're also contributing to the vibrancy of the church in America." Mass deportation would amount to a government-fostered "church decline

strategy," Kim said.

Kim said his organisation has long advocated for reforms that would distinguish between those convicted of violent crimes and "the much larger share of immigrants who are contributing to our communities and to our churches, and who are serious and eager" to stay in the country.

Many studies have found immigrants are less drawn to violent crime than native-born citizens.

The recent report said Catholics in particular represent more than half of all those vulnerable to deportation in the United States, noted Bishop Mark Seitz, chair of the Committee on Migration of the bishops' conference. The deportations would likely separate family members, Seitz said.

"We know the impact of tearing apart the family unity and also the tremendous threats that are faced by people who are summarily deported to their home countries, which they fled in the first place because of the tremendous threats they were living under there," said Seitz, who heads the Diocese of El Paso, Texas.

They face danger from government oppression and organized crime in their home countries, Seitz said.

"People are going to die if this deportation effort continues at the level it is," he said.

The report's methodology included calculating the percentages of Catholics, evangelicals and other Christian groups in the countries from which immigrants originated, based on self-reported affiliations. The report then applied those percentages to immigrant populations within various categories of immigrants. While such methods include numerous assumptions, many regions of origin for major immigrants and refugee groups, including Latin America, sub-Saharan Africa and Ukraine, have large Christian populations.

Kavinder slams Omar Govt's contradictory policies, says fuel & fare hikes undermine free travel for women

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 2: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta has expressed concern over the National Conference (NC) government's recent policy decisions, highlighting a contradiction between offering free bus travel for women and simultaneous increases in fuel prices and public transport fares.

Speaking at the meeting held at Party Headquarters in Jammu, the BJP stalwart acknowledged the initiative to provide free travel for women in government-owned buses across Jammu and Kashmir, recognizing it as a step toward women's



empowerment. However, he pointed out that this benefit is overshadowed by the government's decision to reduce rebates on petrol and diesel, leading to a price increase of ₹1 per liter for petrol and ₹2 per liter for diesel.

"While the NC government claims to support women by offering free bus rides, they simultaneously burden the general public with increased fuel prices,"

he stated. "This move not only affects individual vehicle owners but also has a cascading effect on the economy, leading to a proposed 7% hike in public transport fares."

Kavinder lambasted the NC government for its economic mismanagement and deceptive tactics.

"These back-to-back financial assaults on the people of Jammu and Kashmir reveal the

NC's utter disregard for the hardships faced by everyday citizens. Their strategy is clear: give with one hand and take away much more with the other, all while expecting applause for their so-called generosity."

The senior NC leader further emphasized that the cascading effect of fuel price increases extends beyond transportation, inflating costs across all sectors and

deepening the financial strain on households. "This isn't just about bus fares; it's about the skyrocketing cost of living that the NC government is directly responsible for. Their policies are a masterclass in hypocrisy, punishing the very people they pretend to help."

Kavinder called upon the NC government to immediately reverse these detrimental policies and adopt a transparent, honest approach that genuinely prioritizes the well-being of Jammu and Kashmir people. "The people deserve governance that is forthright and truly supportive, not a regime that hides punitive measures behind hollow gestures," he added.

Union Minister Rijju praises Dr Andrabi for Waqf transformation in J&K during Waqf Amendment Bill discussion in Parliament

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 2: During the discussion on Waqf Amendment Bill in Parliament, Union Minister of Minority Affairs, Kiren Rijju praised Chairperson J&K Waqf Board, Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi for her transformation in J&K Waqf Board during the past three years, when for the first time ever J&K got its first Board under Central Waqf Act in 2022.

Dr Darakhshan became the first Female Chairperson of any Waqf Board ever and her tenure along with her team of newly appointed well edu-



cated team of Board Members bulldozed the old ailing Waqf management system in J&K which was full of loopholes and leakages, and there was no development at the shrines and mosques.

Dr Andrabi amid huge criticism from the politicians who used to

manipulate Waqf assets and revenues and other beneficiaries, reformed the whole system and ushered in a new era of development and transformation in Waqf in whole of J&K. Andrabi today expressed her gratitude for the Union Minister for praising her for the exceptional work done by J&K Waqf Board in J&K. "This is the endorsement of our dedicated work and Honourable Union Minister has infused in us all energy beyond words. Team Waqf J&K has worked hard and Inshallah the transformative work will go on with more zeal & dedication", said Andrabi.

One nation one election conviction for consistent optimum governance: Arun



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 2: BJP believes with firm conviction that optimum and consistent good governance in India can only

be achieved with clear focus to progress without any disruption in the working of governments.

This is possible with complete utilization of governance machinery

in a fixed time frame of governments by conducting simultaneous elections for Centre and states.

This was stated by Arun Gupta, Spokesperson, J&K BJP while he, accompanied by Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Media Incharge, J&K BJP, addressed a press conference at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

"India got independent in 1947 and with the introduction of representation of people acts 1950-51 in India, four general elections alongwith state assemblies were conducted

simultaneously in 1952, 1957, 1962 and 1967. Premature dissolution of Lok Sabha on 7 occasions and premature dissolution of legislative assembly on various occasions coupled with personal interest of leaders disturbed this electoral process", said Arun Gupta.

Arun Gupta said that India loses precious time and money in managing elections, where political parties in governance, their leaders, legislators and central/state governments keep focusing their efforts on preparing for upcoming elections, rather than prioritizing good optimum consistent governance for the growth and welfare of its citizens.

"As a result, even after 67 years of continued governance in the country from 1947 India remained a fragile 5 economy in the world, while small countries progressed and improved their economy in that period. Its only in 2014, when BJP came in power, the graph of economy improved and reached upto top 5 economy," said Arun Gupta.

The gravity of the issue is very important to understand that if governments are made to work without any disruptions for their mandated tenures, accountability by citizens becomes much more effective.

In conducting elections spread over five years, besides wasting precious time, the loss of human resources quality time and huge financial loss the country has to face is not conducive for growth

and results are quite evident in being fragile 5 economies in the world.

The citizens of the country understand the need to preserve five important resources called TEGBA, which are very important for any democratic country to improve its economy and GDP.

TEGBA defines time, economy, governance brain-drain and accountability, which citizens of India are eagerly looking to implement and BJP is committed with conviction to adopt this in India, giving fair opportunity to all the citizens and especially the young generation of the country who look for their employability and growth. The urge of youth to leave the country needs to be addressed, stopping brain-drain from country. Our brain has been utilized very effectively by many nations and their needs to be controlled.

The resources of India have to be utilized in the most optimum manner and this will become possible if TEGBA concept is understood in totality and election country are conducted simultaneously for Centre and state.

India has to reach the third top economy and then continue moving to the top economy in the world. This will be achieved with radical changes and understand TEGBA concept for overall growth and sustainability.

One election is important for all states and the general election to achieve all one needed programme in future.

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 2: Pawan Sharma, a senior BJP leader and former state secretary, has strongly criticized the Omar Abdullah government's decision to increase bus fares for men by 7% and hike diesel and petrol prices by ₹2. This move comes under the guise of providing free rides to women in government buses. Sharma argues that this move is contrary to the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Sharma alleged that this decision is a clear case of cheating and injustice to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. "The government's attempt to appease one section of society by burdening another is unacceptable," he said.

According to Sharma, this decision will dis-



proportionately affect the common man, who is already struggling to make ends meet. He demands that the government reconsider its decision and explore alternative solutions that do not place an undue burden on the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir.

It's worth noting that fare increases are often implemented to keep pace with rising costs and inflation. However, the timing and magnitude of such increases can have significant impacts on commuters,

particularly those who rely heavily on public transportation.

Sharma's statement highlights the need for policymakers to carefully consider the potential consequences of their decisions on the lives of ordinary people. As the government moves forward with its plans, it will be important to monitor the impact of these changes and make adjustments as needed to ensure that the needs and aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir are being met.

The BJP leader also questioned the timing of the decision, alleging that it was a desperate attempt by the government to divert attention from its failures. "The people of Jammu and Kashmir will not be fooled by such tactics," Sharma said. "We will continue to fight for their rights and interests."

Shiv Sena demands inquiry into expenditure incurred on cleaning of Ranbir Canal

Historical Ranbir Canal is turning into a dirty drain: Sahni

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 2: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit has demanded strict action against the concerned department and officials on the increasing dirt and plight of Ranbir Canal, which is considered to be the historical heritage of Jammu and the lifeline of the farmers, and an inquiry into the funds spent on cleaning.

In a press conference held today at the party's state central office, state chief Manish Sahni said that in 1905, Maharaja Ranveer Singh had built the 60 km long Ranbir Canal to supply water from the Chenab river of Akhnoor to the fields of farmers in hundreds of rural areas of Jammu district. While Ranbir Canal became the life-



line of the farmers, it also provided relief to the people of Jammu from the scorching heat. But for the last few years, due to the indifferent attitude of the concerned department and the government, this historical heritage has taken the form of a garbage dump. The garbage floating on the water makes the historical canal look like a dirty drain. Despite spending crores of rupees every year for cleaning and

repair, the condition of the canal remains the same.

In almost every place of Jammu city, including Trikuta Nagar, Akhnoor Road, Mutthi, Mira Saheb etc., the water level of the canal is low and heaps of garbage are clearly visible floating on the water.

Sahni said that water is released in the canal before Baisakhi festival and this year also preparations have been made to release water in the canal without cleaning. Sahni has taken strict cognizance of the Lieutenant Governor and Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir and has demanded an inquiry into the expenditure incurred on cleaning the canal and strict action against the negligent attitude of the department officials.

All J&K POJK 1947 SIF announces new Core Committee Members

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 2: The All J&K POJK 1947 Sharnarhi Intellectual Forum (SIF), under the leadership of its President, Adv. Amrik Singh, has officially released the list of its newly appointed Core Committee members. The forum, dedicated to advocating for the rights and welfare of POJK displaced persons, aims to strengthen its efforts through this diverse and experienced committee.

The newly appointed Incharge, Prof. K.D. Singh, will lead the team, which comprises distinguished individuals from various sectors, including education, public service, and administration.

The Core Committee members include Prof. K.D. Singh-Incharge, Surjit Singh, Khazan Singh, Avtar Singh (Ex-Pilot), Bhupinder Singh Sudan, Hardev Singh PSB, Jasbir Singh (Unique Public School), Inder Singh (Corporator), Manjit Singh (FCI), Bhajan Singh, Yashpal Singh PSB, Joginder Singh Simbal, Prehlad Singh (W.H), Prehlad Singh (Sanjay Nagar), Gurdev Singh (K.B),

Dara Singh (Nanak Nagar), Waryam Singh (Udhampur), Gurdeep Singh (Sainik Colony), Harpal Singh (Preet Nagar), Daljit Singh (Nanak Nagar), Amarjit Singh (Bhour Camp), Amrik Singh (Advocate), Sub Mohinder Singh (L. Garh), Pushkar Nath (Bhour Camp), Jagjit Singh (Nanak Nagar), Dara Singh (Chatha), Balbir Singh (Khandwal), Dilbagh Singh (Gandhi Nagar), Ajit Singh (Digiana), Surjit Singh (Kud), Joginder Singh (Raipur Satwari), and Jaideep Singh (Trikuta Nagar).

Adv. Amrik Singh stated that the newly formed Core Committee will play a crucial role in addressing the concerns of displaced families from POJK (Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir).

He emphasized that the forum will continue its struggle for justice, rehabilitation, and rights for the Sharnarhi community.

The forum remains committed to working closely with the administration and relevant stakeholders to resolve long-standing issues faced by POJK refugees and ensure their rightful place in society.

From Page No:1

Pakistan Army violates ceasefire after mine blast along loc in Poonch

two countries renewed an agreement on February 25, 2021. However, several incidents were reported on the LoC in Poonch-Rajouri sector in February.

Two Indian Army personnel, including a captain, were killed and another injured in an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attack carried out by suspected terrorists in

the Akhnoor sector of the Jammu region on February 11.

Two army personnel were also injured in separate incidents of small arms firing from across the LoC in Rajouri and Poonch districts, while two more army personnel were injured in separate landmine explosions in Poonch in February.

Employees entitled to 42-Day special casual leave for organ donation: Centre

surgery on the recommendation of government registered medical practitioner or doctor, the order stated.

NC to Oppose Waqf Amendment Bill, Confident of Support from JD(U) & TDP: Larmi

raising concerns over its implications. The NC has been vocal about protecting the interests of Waqf properties and ensuring transparency in their management.

GoC visits Rajouri to assess prevailing security situation

Monday, urging troops to prioritise operational preparedness and ensure peace.

His visit comes in the backdrop of ceasefire violation by Pakistani troops and mine blasts along the LoC in Poonch.

Waqf bill designed to disempower

Muslims: Mehbooba Mufti

was that of "Gandhi" and should be governed by the Constitution and not the agenda of BJP. Mufti called on the Hindus to rise up against injustices so that India doesn't become like Myanmar or Muslims don't face the same situation as that of Kashmiri Pandits for which "we are ashamed." She said that the BJP is "breaking this country apart" and called on the people of India to unite and resist the divisive tactics "if we wish to preserve the fabric of our nation." She said that the measures to

overtake the Waqf board need to be stopped.

J&K Govt issues guidelines for reimbursement of trap money

seized in corruption cases by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB). Jammu travel packages Jammu travel guide According to a Government order, the trap money provided by complainants will be reimbursed in deserving cases, subject to thorough verification and approval from the Director of ACB.

Zarla Winter Festival inaugurated with free Ski training, cultural events



Top News Report

KARNAH, Apr 2: The much-anticipated Zarla Winter Festival was inaugurated today, bringing an exhilarating mix of winter sports, cultural programs, and community engagement activities to the snow-covered landscape of Tangdar. Organized with the active support of the Indian Army, the festival aims to promote sports-

manship and foster youth engagement in adventure activities.

The grand inauguration witnessed the presence of Deputy Commander of 104 Shakti Vijay Brigade as the Chief Guest, along with distinguished guests including the Commanding Officer of 7 Rashtriya Rifles, Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) Tangdar, Principal of GDC Tangdar, Judge Munsif Court

Karnah and Principal of Army Goodwill School (AGS) Hajinar. The festival has drawn participation from nearly 150 young enthusiasts from various schools and colleges in the region.

One of the major attractions of the event is the free ski training program conducted by certified instructors from Gulmarg, offering young participants an opportunity to learn professional

skiing techniques. The initiative is designed to encourage local youth to take an active interest in winter sports and explore potential career opportunities in adventure tourism. Adding to the excitement, the festival features multiple fun games, snow-related activities, and cultural performances. Several food stalls have been set up, offering local delicacies and warm refreshments to the guests and participants, creating a festive atmosphere.

The festival saw enthusiastic participation from ex-servicemen, members of the media fraternity, and local youth showcasing their skills in various activities. Snow-related games kept the audience entertained, and young participants demonstrated their talents in multiple competitions, making the event a true celebration of winter sports and community spirit.

The Indian Army, which played a key role in organizing the festival, has been instrumental in guiding the youth towards sports and positive engagements. By providing infrastructure, training, and encouragement, the Army continues to nurture talent and promote adventure sports in the region.

The Zarla Winter Festival will continue for the next two days, culminating on April 4 with a grand closing ceremony that will include more competitions, cultural performances, and a final showcase of skiing talents honed during the training sessions.

The festival stands as a testament to the collaborative efforts of various stakeholders in promoting winter tourism and engaging the youth in constructive activities, ensuring a bright and promising future for adventure sports in the region.

NC's Grand promises prove to be mere Election Gimmicks: Adv. Purnima Sharma

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 2: Adv. Purnima Sharma, Spokesperson of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K and former Deputy Mayor of Jammu, has strongly criticized the National Conference (NC) for its complete failure in fulfilling the tall promises made to the people during the 2024 Assembly elections. Despite over six months passing since assuming office, the NC-led administration has not taken any concrete steps to implement its much-hyped electoral commitments, leaving the people of Jammu and Kashmir disillusioned and betrayed.

Adv. Purnima Sharma highlighted that the NC's manifesto was filled with grandiose promises aimed at misleading the public and securing votes. However, once in power, the party has conveniently ignored the very people it vowed to uplift. She pointed out that the essential pledges such as providing 12 free gas cylinders annually, 200 units of free electricity per year, and free drinking water for every household remain unfulfilled.

The senior BJP leader further lambasted the NC for its failure to



generate the promised 100,000 job opportunities for the youth, a commitment that had raised expectations among the unemployed populace. Instead of taking proactive measures to address unemployment, the government has remained silent, offering no concrete policy framework or roadmap for job creation. Additionally, the much-publicized scheme of providing Rs 5,000 per month to female heads of economically weaker households has remained mere rhetoric, exposing the NC's lack of intent to empower women. Another major area of concern highlighted by Adv. Purnima is the deteriorating healthcare scenario in the region. The NC had assured the establishment of a state-of-the-art cancer hospital, free medical insurance up to Rs 5 lakh for terminal diseases, and the creation of village and mohalla clinics. How-

ever, no tangible progress has been made in this direction. The delay in executing these critical health initiatives is a clear indication of the party's disregard for the well-being of the people.

She also criticized the NC for failing to establish the Minority Commission, a key promise aimed at safeguarding the rights of minority communities. Furthermore, commitments such as free education up to the university level, enhanced old-age and widow pensions, and a comprehensive state health policy remain mere words on paper.

Adv. Purnima Sharma accused the National Conference of engaging in deceptive politics and making hollow promises to gain power. She asserted that the people of Jammu and Kashmir deserve a government that prioritizes development, governance, and welfare rather than indulging in empty rhetoric. She urged the NC-led administration to take immediate steps to fulfill its commitments or be prepared to face the ire of the public in the upcoming elections.

The BJP, she affirmed, will continue to hold the government accountable and stand by the people in their fight for justice and development.

Army organizes lecture on Physical Fitness for students at Gursai



Top News Report

POONCH, Apr 2: A lecture on physical fitness was conducted at Govt Higher Secondary School, Gursai under the aegis Indian Army emphasizing the importance of regular exercise and healthy lifestyle

habits for students. The lecture was attended by 30 students and 12 teaching staff and covered various aspects of physical fitness including the benefits of exercise, nutrition, and stress management. Indian Army encour-

aged students to adopt healthy habits and make physical activity a part of their daily routine.

The aim of this lecture was to educate students regarding the significance of physical fitness and encourage them to develop healthy lifestyle habits.

The lecture was made interactive, especially with students participating in discussions and asking questions.

The event was part of the Army's efforts to promote physical education and wellness amongst the students of the region.

JU, Care-North organize Hands-on Workshop on Autism Awareness and Inclusion

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 2: In observance of World Autism Awareness Day, the Department of Home Science, University of Jammu, in collaboration with Care-North, successfully organized a hands-on workshop on Autism Awareness and Inclusion today. The event provided a platform for educators, parents, and students to deepen their understanding of autism and enhance their capacity to create inclusive environments for children on the autism spectrum.

Prof. Sarika Manhas, Head, Department of Home Science, welcomed the participants and highlighted the objectives of the workshop, emphasizing the importance of early identification and intervention in autism. She mentioned the need for a concerted effort to raise awareness about the needs and challenges of children with autism. Later, she conducted a technical session focusing on creating inclusive teaching-learning environments.

Dr. Abhishek Chauhan, Consultant Psychiatrist at the Government Psychiatric Disease Hospital, Jammu, was the invited resource person, providing expert insights into autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and its early detection. Dr. Chand Trehan, RCI-licensed psychologist and Director of Care-North, conducted the third technical session, focusing on behavioral strategies and effective communication techniques for supporting individuals with autism.

The workshop witnessed enthusiastic participation from teachers of Doon International School, Jammu Sanskriti School, IDPS, Army School, BEE ENN Care, Zuvi International School, and Raindrop Preschool, along with parents and students. Their active engagement facilitated meaningful discussions on inclusive education and effective support for children with autism.

This workshop held immense relevance for teachers, as it equipped them with strategies to create inclusive classrooms that cater to the diverse needs of students with autism. Parents benefited by gaining a better understanding of their child's condition and learning practical techniques to support their development at home. For students, especially those pursuing education and psychology, the workshop provided valuable insights into autism, encouraging a more empathetic and informed approach toward individuals on the spectrum.

Prof. Rajni Dhingra, former Dean Research Studies, graced the occasion as the special guest and distributed certificates to the participants, acknowledging their commitment to promoting inclusivity. She also noted that this initiative marks a significant step towards raising awareness and advocating for a more inclusive society for individuals with autism.

Army organizes awareness lecture on 'Harmful Effect of Drug Abuse' at Kotranka



Top News Report

RAJOURI, Apr 2: Indian Army organised an awareness lecture on harmful effects of Drug Abuse at JNV, Kotranka. The event was conducted under the theme of 'Protecting the youth and promoting welfare of humanity. Drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking are significant issues that plague societies worldwide.

Drug abuse refers to the harmful or excessive use of substances for non-medical purposes, leading to physical, mental and social harm. Illicit drug trafficking involves the illegal production, distribution and sale of drugs, contributing to a range of negative consequences for individuals and communities. To effectively address the intertwined challenges of drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking, a multi-faceted and holistic approach is essential. Governments, communities, healthcare providers, law enforcement agen-

cies and individuals play crucial roles in prevention, intervention and treatment efforts. Drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking are complex challenges that require a comprehensive and coordinated response from all sectors of society. Drug abuse has wide-ranging harmful impacts on health and well-being of individuals, families and society. A total of 04 teachers and 54 students attended the awareness lecture.

The students and local residents expressed their sincere thanks and gratitude towards Indian Army for organising such awareness programmes and seminar on social issues which have greatly affected the youth and people of remote area.

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Army organises awareness lecture on Traffic Rules for students at Kalal

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Apr 2: The Indian Army organised a lecture on "Traffic Rules" at Govt Middle School, Lamberi.

Traffic is a paramount concern that affects everyone.

Every year, millions of lives are tragically lost or permanently altered due to traffic accidents. In order to address this critical issue, an awareness campaign focused on traffic safety was conducted.



The campaign was aimed at educating individuals, raising awareness about safe practices and encouraging responsible behaviour in the traffic.

During the event Indian Army provided comprehensive information on traffic rules,

safe driving techniques and the consequences of reckless behaviour.

The attendees (38 Students, 06 Teachers, 02 Parents and 03 ESM) paid keen interest and conveyed that they felt more confident and educated after the event.

Tawi Trekkers J&K releases calendar of activities

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 2: Tawi Trekkers J&K, the biggest trekking club of J&K, would give more thrust to Adventure Picnics/short treks to Heritage sights of Jammu especially in Mohore Garh, Dher Garh, Bhupner Garh-Mansar, Devi Pindian near Katra and Naina Devi near Mantalai in Udhampur district for school students during the current year. It was announced by Ram Khajuria, Advisor of the Club, while highlighting the detail of activities included in the Calendar of Activities of the Club for the year 2025-26, which was released in an impressive function held at Press Club of Jammu.



Patron of Tawi Trekkers J&K Ashwani Sharma, former MLA released the Calendar of Activities along with Advisor of the club Prof. Lalit Magotra, Padma Shri Awardee; Co-Chairman of the Club Zorwar Singh Jamwal, Chairman, Team Jammu; Patron of the club Rahul Sharma, Chairman, Sprawling Buds ICSE School, Bantab, Jammu; Vivek Chauhan, Principal, Oriental Acad-

emy Sr. Sec. School, Jammu; Sanjeev Gupta, Chairman, The Shri Ram Universal School; Shawetica Khajuria, working president, Arti Sharma, Sr. Vice President; Sonam Sidharth, General Secretary and Seema Kharyal, a senior member of the club.

Highlighting the activities to be undertaken by the club this year Advisor of the club Ram Khajuria mentioned that this year the club shall

organize three trekking expeditions in Dhauladhar Range in Himachal Pradesh including one to Triund (10000ft) for Junior members and an expedition to Minkiani Pass (14500ft) for senior members and a trek from Dalhousie to Chamba exclusively for senior citizens. Besides, a Heritage Trekking Programme in Kangra area of Himachal Pradesh shall also be organized for about 200 students

during the months of October to December, 2025.

Another challenging adventure of the club is an ambitious 10 days high altitude trekking expedition in Stok area of Leh. The club plans to depute only 8 members for this prestigious expedition Besides, the club shall also organize a small, low budget mountaineering expedition to Mun peak in Dhauladhar range of Dharamshala.

To spot the talent in sport climbing at the grass root level and to groom it for future competitions the club has an ambitious plan of conducting year long coaching camps and monthly competitions for sport climbers including physically and visually challenged ones.

Zaheer Khan slams Lucknow pitch: 'Feels like a Punjab curator's work'

The former pacer says he will continue giving precedence to a 'process-oriented setup' than a result-oriented one despite a big loss at home

LUCKNOW, Apr 2 (Agencies): Two losses in three games have hit Lucknow Super Giants hard, and team mentor Zaheer Khan did not hold back in his criticism of the home-ground pitch following the heavy defeat to Punjab Kings, remarking, it looked like the PBKS "curator out here".

Chasing 172 on a track that offered grip and variable bounce, PBKS rode on opener Prabhsimran Singh's 34-ball 69 to outplay the home side by eight wickets as LSG find themselves saddled at the No.6 spot with just one victory in three games and a net run rate in the negative.

"What was a little disappointing for me here, considering it's a home game, and you know, in IPL you've seen how teams have looked at taking a little bit of home advantage, you know," said the former India pacer in the post-match press interaction.

"So yeah, from that point of view, you've seen the curator is not really thinking that it's a home game. You know, I think maybe it looked like, you know, it was Punjab curator out here."

The former pacer, who was the global head of cricket development at Mumbai Indians before joining LSG, added that all this deprives the home team fans of watching their side dominating the proceedings.

"So, that's (pitch) something which we'll figure out. It's a new



setup also for me here. But I hope that this is the first and the last game when it comes to that, because you are disappointing the Lucknow fans as well."

"They've come up with so much expectations of winning the first home game here. As a team, we are confident, you know, we accept that we've lost the game, and we're going to do whatever it takes to make that impact in the home leg. We still have six more games to go here," he added.

Zaheer also said he will continue giving precedence to a "process-oriented setup" than a result-oriented one despite a big loss at home.

"This is the third game of the season, you know, so we've been very vocal about how the team is looking at this season. So, that's something which is

very important for us as a group. It's a very process-oriented setup, not so much result-oriented.

"So, we're going to definitely focus on the positives. Yes, there is some work to be done, which will happen in the due course," said the former India pacer.

This was the first home game for LSG and a loss did come as a dampener to the fans but Zaheer said his main focus was on creating a "parameter" for the side to follow.

"See, that's the nature of IPL, isn't it? You will be on the go, you'll be playing home games, away games. It was the first home game for us for this season, so yes, there were a lot of expectations and hopes. Punjab did outplay us, that's how the game went.

"Like I said, you know, we are looking at the season in setting the parameters for us as a group. For us, it's important that we look at the whole group as one and with one mission, one vision, going out there, finding ways to win games.

"So, when you're looking at it that way, you know, there are going to be good days, bad days for us as we move along in the tournament. What matters is how we're looking at things."

The former pacer added that he was not really bothered about injuries to some players, adding that the bigger plus for his side was that it had made a "impact" despite the losses.

"Yes, there were some injuries, but you look at the team which has taken the highest wickets in this tournament so far. You know, we've managed to create that impact, our first two games taking 18 wickets.

"This team has shown in the season so far, whatever little cricket is played, that we have the right outlook and the mindset to look at IPL, to look at the games. What you can expect is innovation, out of the box thinking, the fight, the hunger. And I think, you know, that sums up, you know, that sums up a team.

"And I think, you know, that's something which we want to give it to the fans. We want to give it to the loyalists of Lucknow Super Giants. So that's how we are looking at things."

IPL 2025: Lucknow Super Giants bowler Digvesh Rathi fined by BCCI, know why



LUCKNOW, Apr 2 (Agencies): Lucknow Super Giants spinner Digvesh Rathi was fined 25 per cent of his match fees and handed a demerit point for his unusual 'letter-writing' celebration after dismissing Punjab Kings batter Priyansh Arya.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India penalised Rathi for "breaching the IPL Code of Conduct" during LSG's match against PBKS at the Ekana Stadium in Lucknow on Tuesday. PBKS won the game by eight wickets.

"Digvesh Singh admitted to the Level 1

offence under Article 2.5 and accepted the Match Referee's sanction," an IPL media advisory stated.

"For Level 1 breaches of the Code of Conduct, the Match Referee's decision is final and binding."

The controversial celebration took place on the penultimate ball of the third over during PBKS' chase of 172.

Digvesh bowled a short and wide delivery, which Arya attempted to pull without much foot movement, only to top-edge the ball. Shardul Thakur sprinted from mid-on and completed

a running catch. As Arya walked back to the pavilion after scoring eight off nine balls, Digvesh, his teammate from the Delhi T20 League, mimicked writing a letter — an act seemingly directed at Arya.

The umpires took note of the gesture and had a word with the bowler as it also drew immediate comparisons to West Indies pacer Kesrick Williams, who popularised the 'notebook' celebration after dismissing opponents, including a famous spat against Virat Kohli during a 2019 bilateral series.

Cricket legend Sunil Gavaskar and Mohammed Kaif, while doing commentaries, did not appreciate Digvesh's antics.

The leg-spinner was the pick of the LSG bowling lineup, picking up 2/30 runs in his four overs.

However, the rest of the LSG bowling attack failed to make an impact as PBKS chased down the 173-run target in just 16.2 overs.

The win propelled PBKS to second place in the IPL 2025 points table. PBKS, RCB, and DC currently have four points each, having won their first two matches.

Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini meets Asian Wrestling Championship 2025 medalists

NEW DELHI, Apr 2 (Agencies): Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Wednesday met Asian Wrestling Championship gold medal winner Manisha Bhanwala, silver medal winner Reetika Hooda, bronze medal winner Muskan Nandal, and coach Mandeep. Olympic medalist and Bharatiya Janta Party leader Yogeshwar Dutt was also present.

CM Nayab Singh Saini posted on his official X handle, he congratulated all the players for their victory and wished all the players a bright future ahead.

"Today Senior Asian Wrestling Championship gold medal-winning wrestler Manisha, silver medal-winning Reetika Hooda, bronze medal-winning Muskan Nandal, and coach Mandeep made a courtesy visit. On this occasion, everyone was welcomed and congratulated, and best wishes for the victory were sent. May the blessings



of Mata Rani always remain with all of you. I wish you a bright future," CM Nayab Singh Saini posted on his official X handle.

Wrestlers Manisha Bhanwala (62 kg) and Antim Panghal (53 kg) brought laurels for India as they bagged gold and bronze medals, respectively, in their respective categories at the Asian Wrestling Championships 2025 in Amman, Jordan, on Friday, as per Olympics.com.

Manisha Bhanwala defeated the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's Ok J Kim 8-7 in the final to secure India's first women's freestyle wrestling gold medal at the continental

meet since 2021. Manisha, who had won three consecutive bronze medals at the Asian Championships from 2022 to 2024, seemed destined for a silver this time around as she was trailing 2-7 against Ok J Kim. However, she upgraded to gold at the 11th hour after spectacularly turning the tables.

Reigning U23 world champion Reetika Hooda won a silver medal in the women's freestyle 76kg division. Muskan Nandal (women's 59kg), Mansi Lather (women's 68kg) and Greco-Roman wrestlers Nitesh (97kg) and Sunil Kumar (87kg) had won bronze medals earlier in the competition.

"He had a very keen interest on Indian game development": Animesh Agrawal on his conversation with PM Narendra Modi

NEW DELHI, Apr 2 (Agencies): India Esports Player Animesh Agrawal has spoken about his meeting and conversation with Prime Minister Narendra Modi about Indian gaming and e-sports in India. Agrawal believes that the conversation with Prime Minister Narendra Modi about Indian gaming and e-sports has shifted the national perception of the industry.

The e-sports conclave further legitimizes gaming and e-sports in India. With e-sports medal events coming up, Agrawal emphasized the need to take gaming seriously and shape its future in India. "It's been a year and I think it's first April, so yes, almost been a year since we met him and the conversations are all on social media, the conversations went out in the form of video, but it was good to discuss with him about the, you know, about e-sports, about gaming. He had a very keen interest on Indian game devel-



opment, Indian game development scene and games that can come out, talking about Indian culture, Indian societal values, etc. Post that conversation, definitely the mood of the nation has definitely changed about how people perceive gaming and e-sports and obviously events like this, events like the e-sports conclave that's supported by PEFI in West India, and we have such representatives from the sports ministry and other government bodies, I think it definitely legitimates how people in India are now looking at gaming and e-sports, with e-sports medal events coming up

in the following years, definitely gaming has to be taken up seriously in India and this is one of the prime examples of how we are shaping our future." Animesh Agrawal told agency.

Set to take place in Riyadh later this year, the Esports World Cup 2025 is shaping up to be the biggest esports event in history. With an unprecedented prize pool and a stacked lineup of global teams, the tournament promises to be legendary. Last year's edition saw over 1,500 players from 200 teams competing for a jaw-dropping 60 million USD (Rs 500 crore) prize pool, attracting a global audience of 500

million viewers- including 10.5 million viewers from India.

The Esports World Cup 2025 will feature a diverse lineup of top-tier competitive titles across multiple genres. A total of 23 popular titles have been confirmed so far, including Chess, VALORANT, Counter-Strike 2, Honor of Kings, DOTA 2, EAFC 25, League of Legends, PUBG: Battlegrounds, and many more.

Agrawal believed India's e-sports scene is still developing and lacks skilled players across various titles. He acknowledged that while India excels in a few games, achieving podium finishes in all medal events at the Olympics is a distant dream. However, Agrawal emphasizes the need to start building talent now, considering the recurring nature of e-sports at the Olympics. He highlights the industry's efforts to cultivate domestic talent and elevate India's e-sports presence on a global scale.

"Definitely, I think it becomes more difficult for us, like I have always said, Indian e-sports scene is still growing, there is always a lack of skilled players across different titles, gaming is a huge industry with multiple titles and India has always been, I would say somehow been masters of few, so even if I say few, it could be one or two, so if you talk about all medal events, it's easier said than done, it could be easy to represent, but to be able to get this podium finishes for it is, like I would say, it's a very far distant dream, but if we don't start building today, I think Olympics, e-sports are going to happen again and again on a concurrent basis, we need to plan for the future and I think the industry is trying to move towards that direction, where we try and grow more of domestic talent to be able to take Indian e-sports industry or take Indian e-sports flag to the higher level," he added.

Arjun Bhati aims for Olympic glory after receiving National Youth Award

NEW DELHI, Apr 2 (Agencies): Indian golfer Arjun Bhati, who was recently honoured with the National Youth Award, expressed his gratitude and reflected on his journey in the sport.

The young golfer, who has been playing for over a decade, considers this recognition a significant milestone in his career, and is now aiming for Olympic gold. "I'm very grateful for this award, and it is a very big thing for my family and me. My

efforts have borne fruit," Bhati told agency.

"I was nine years old when I played golf for the first time in my school. I've been playing for the past 11 years now, and the journey has been very nice. I've had a lot of supporters in my journey, and I love this game," he said.

Bhati has long admired legendary golfer Tiger Woods, drawing inspiration from his career. However, when it comes to Indian sports icons, Virat Kohli holds a special place in his heart.

"Tiger Woods has been my inspiration for a very long time," Bhati said. "I personally love Virat Kohli. I love his dedication, fitness levels, physique, and mindset towards his game. He is very inspiring for all the youngsters in the country. He's a very sweet and genuine person, and his support means a lot to me," he added.

Bhati also praised Kohli's contribution to young athletes through the Virat Kohli Foundation.

"Virat Kohli Foundation



helps around 40 children from a lot of different dis-

ciplines. The things he's done for the country, I

admire him," he noted. With his eyes set on the future, Bhati has one clear goal—to win an Olympic gold medal for India.

"My future goal is to bring an Olympic gold medal for India. I'm trying to make myself better each and every day," he stated.

As he continues to refine his skills and push himself towards excellence, Bhati remains a promising talent in Indian golf, with the ambition and determination to make his coun-

try proud on the global stage.

The Department of Youth Affairs, under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, confers the National Youth Awards (NYA) on individuals (aged between 15 and 29 years) and organisations for outstanding work and contributions in fields such as health, human rights promotion, active citizenship, and community service, as per a PIB press release.

The awards aim to motivate young people to achieve excellence

in national development and social service, encourage them to develop a sense of responsibility towards the community, enhance their potential as responsible citizens, and recognise the outstanding work done by voluntary organisations in youth development for national progress, including social service.

The award includes a medal, a certificate, and Rs 1,00,000 for individuals, while organisations receive Rs 3,00,000, the press release added.

GIEO Gita Sansthanam to organize 'Hindu Sanatan Jagran' on April 4

World-Famous Bhajan Singer Kanhiya Mittal to perform live

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 2: In a grand initiative to celebrate the ongoing Navratri festival, GIEO Gita Sansthanam, Jammu & Kashmir, is set to organize a Vishal Jagran on April 4, 2025, at Manhas Biradari Ground, Jammu, from 7:30 PM onwards. The event, titled 'Hindu Sanatan Jagran,' will feature an enthralling bhajan performance by world-renowned singer Kanhiya Mittal, known for his soulful and devotional renditions that have inspired millions across the country.

To apprise the general public of this auspicious event, a press conference was held today, where GIEO Gita Sansthanam Jammu & Kashmir State Convenor Chetan Wanchoo, along with prominent members Atul Sharma, Ravish



Mengi, Ankush Sharma, and Tejas, addressed the media and emphasized the significance of the event in reinforcing spiritual and cultural values within society.

Speaking on the occasion, Chetan Wanchoo highlighted that Navratri is a time of immense spiritual energy, devotion, and divine blessings. The festival, dedicated to Maa Durga, symbolizes the victory of good over evil and

is celebrated with great enthusiasm by devotees across the nation.

"The upcoming 'Hindu Sanatan Jagran' will be a sacred occasion for devotees to immerse themselves in devotion and seek the blessings of the Divine Mother," said Wanchoo. "With the presence of Kanhiya Mittal, whose bhajans resonate with deep spiritual meaning, we aim to make this a truly divine experience for all attendees."

attendees."

Kanhiya Mittal, a celebrated devotional singer, is widely revered for his bhajans, particularly "Jo Ram Ko Laye Hain, Hum Unko Layenge", which has become a spiritual anthem among devotees. His ability to connect with audiences through his melodious voice and devotion is expected to make the Vishal Jagran a deeply enriching experience for all. "Devotees can

expect an evening of divine music, where bhajans and kirtans will create an atmosphere of positivity, devotion, and divine bliss," added Atul Sharma, one of the key organizers.

The organizers extended a heartfelt invitation to all devotees, families, and spiritual seekers to attend this grand Jagran in large numbers. "This is an opportunity for all of us to unite in devotion and strengthen our Sanatan Dharma," said Ravish Mengi.

He further stated that special arrangements have been made for the convenience of the devotees, ensuring a safe, comfortable, and spiritually fulfilling experience. "We request everyone to come with their families, participate wholeheartedly, and seek the divine blessings of Maa Durga," added Ankush Sharma.

Field of Union Ministry of MSME implements Common Facility Centre for Apricot Processing



Top News Report

JAMMU Apr 2: MSME-Development Nucleus Cell, Ladakh the field office of Union Ministry of MSME implements various schemes and activities for the benefit of MSMEs of Ladakh.

Cluster Development Programme is a scheme under which Common Facility Centre projects with Project Cost of up to 30 Crs can be taken up for implementation for the benefit of MSEs with 15% beneficiary contribution and remaining 85% as grant. As per the scheme guidelines the scheme may be implemented with close co-ordination with Government of Ladakh.

The objectives of the scheme are to enhance sustainability, Competitiveness and growth of MSEs by addressing common issues such as improvement of technology, skills & quality, market access, etc. Common Facility Centre can also be established for testing, training center, raw material depot, effluent treatment, complementing production process-

es. The detailed guidelines can be accessed at <https://msmedijammu.gov.in/Resource/CDP-06-22.pdf>

Ladakh region as a whole has a long tradition of growing horticulture produce unique to its Geo climatic condition. Apricot cultivation is done in more than 900 hectares as per department of horticulture with an annual production estimated above 5000 MT. Next to apricot is the Apple crop grown in Ladakh with cultivation area of more than 500 hectare with an annual production of above 3000 MT.

The apricot produced in Ladakh often fails to reach market in the same quality which is expected by the buyers due to various reasons including unscientific way of collection, drying method etc. Though the apricot crop from Ladakh reaches to various countries like Singapore, Mauritius, Vietnam, Dubai, USA, Bangladesh, Oman etc, still a lot of scope for improvement in value addition is available.

Cluster Development

Programme can be helpful for the entrepreneurs of Ladakh. G.Velladurai IEDS Joint Director of MSME DFO Jammu visited Khalsae in proposed Sham district of Ladakh to meet the entrepreneurs of the region to disseminate the awareness of MSE-CDP. To reap the benefit of the scheme Land for the proposed Common Facility Centre was found to be the bottle neck for which Namgyal of Khalsae has agreed to offer the Land for the proposed CFC. Detailed Project Report for the CFC is to be prepared with the inputs from all the stake holders.

The facilities proposed in the common facility center includes Drying of apricot, Apricot oil extraction, breaking seeds of apricot and option to use the facility for drying apples and other produce including horticulture production.

As per the scheme guidelines, projects with project cost up to 10 Crs can also be considered with beneficiary contribution of only 5% in case of Ladakh.

JKTF urges Education Minister to revise school timings in Jammu Province

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 2: The Jammu & Kashmir Teachers Forum has appealed to Education Minister Sakina Itoo, along with the Principal Secretary and Director of School Education, Jammu, to revise school timings in Jammu Province to counter the challenges posed by rising temperatures.

Joginder Singh, UT Spokesperson of JK Teachers Forum, stated that State President Mohd Ashraf Sheikh has formally requested the administration to modify school hours from 10:00 AM -

4:00 PM to 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, while proposing 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM for the winter zone.

"This change in timing will significantly benefit both students and teachers, who struggle due to extreme heat," said Singh. "We urge the Education Minister and concerned authorities to consider our request and implement the necessary changes promptly."

The forum hopes for a positive response from the administration to ensure a more comfortable and conducive learning environment for students and educators across the region.

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