TOP NEWS OF J&K



JAMMU, SATURDAY, APRIL 05, 2025

ENTERTAINMENT

16

Sonali Bendre's Book of Books to hit the stands on April 23



NATIONAL

Railway projects to improve connectivity infrastructure: PM Modi Daily Evening Newspaper

INTERNATIONAL

Sri Lanka will not permit its territory to be used against India: Sri Lanka Pres Dissanayake



e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

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BRIEFLY

Massive fire breaks out at hotel in Khayam Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Apr 5 (Agencies): A massive fire broke out in a hotel in the Khayam area of Srinagar.

Officials said that they received information about the incident at around 9 am. They added that multiple fire units from Headquarters, Gawkadal, Babademb, and Rainawari fire stations were pressed into service to douse off the flames.

"The fire has been brought under control; however, the operation is yet to be concluded. It is a hotel building, but the name of the hotel is yet to be officially confirmed," said an official.

According to reports, fire engulfed Hotel Azad in Khayam Chowk, Srinagar.

Officials said that the cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained. They added that there have been no reports of any injury in the incident, and the extent of damage will be known once the operation concludes.

Teenager found hanging by tree branch in Rajouri, **Investigation Initiated**

JAMMU, Apr 5 (Agencies): A 19-year-old boy was found hanging by a tree branch in Kotranka Rajouri, an official said on Saturday morning.

The official said that on intervening night between Friday and Saturday, Shafqat Ali, son of Mohammad Din, resident of Ponda Naka (Peeri), Kotranka was found hanging by an oak tree branch.

"The local police was informed, who arrived at the scene and have taken the body into its possession," the official

Confirming it, a police official said that they have initiated medicolegal formalities to investigate the body under such circumstances.

Man booked after uploading irresponsible content on social media in Doda

JAMMU, Apr 5 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday said they have registered an FIR against a man for uploading sensitive content against a particular community in **Turn to page 9** **Security heightened in Jammu's RS Pura** sector after foiled infiltration bid

JAMMU, Apr 5 (Agencies): The security has been heightened in Jammu's Ranbir Singh Pura sector following a recent intervention by the Border Security Force (BSF) to foil an infiltration attempt by an intruder crossing the International Border (IB) in the region.

According to PRO BSF Jammu, the security forces neutralised the intruder, who kept moving to cross the border.

"On the intervening night of April 4 and 5, 2025, BSF troops observed a suspicious



movement across the IB (International Border) in the Jammu border area and an intruder was observed crossing the IB. He was challenged by the BSF troops but paid no heed and kept

on moving. BSF troops,

sensing the threat, neutralised the intruder. The identity and motive of the intruder are being ascertained," PRO BSF Jammu said.

A flag meeting has been called for, where the BSF will state its

protest against the infiltration bid.

According to PRO BSF, the BSF troops stationed along the IB in the region observed suspicious movement in the border area where an individual was seen crossing the IB, prompting the BSF personnel to issue a challenge.

The intruder, however, did not respond and continued moving towards the Indian side and in response to the perceived threat, BSF troops neutralised the intruder.

The release added

■Turn to page 9

Jammu Kashmir Congress workers protest in Delhi, Demand removal of Karra, Mir

SRINAGAR: Scores of Congress workers from Jammu and Kashmir staged a protest outside the All India Congress Committee (AICC) headquarters in New Delhi, demanding the immediate removal of Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) President Tariq Hameed Karra and senior leader Ghulam Ahmad Mir.

The agitating workers shouted slogans against the two leaders, accusing them of weakening the party's roots in Jammu and Kashmir.

"These two are responsible for the downfall of Congress in Jammu and Kashmir," said one of the protesters. "Congress was once a strong force here, but their leadership has turned it into a sinking ship."

The protesters recalled how ordinary Congress workers had risked their lives to keep the party flag flying during the most difficult years of militancy in Kashmir. "We stood by the party when even stepping out with a Congress flag meant risking death," said a senior Congress

worker from South Kashmir. "But now the real threat comes from within, not from outside."

Protesters held placards and chanted slogans such as "Remove Karra, Save Congress" and "Congress Workers Betrayed by Mir & Karra." The demonstration saw participation from long-time party workers who claimed they had no personal agenda—only a desire to save the party from further collapse in the region.

The protesting members have appealed to Turn to page 9

CM's Advisor counters LG: Says 'We know our Jurisdiction too'



SRINAGAR, Apr 5 (Agencies): A day after Jammu and Kashmir

that the elected government is well aware of its boundaries. "We also know our

jurisdiction," said Wani, a close aide of the Chief Minister. He added that the

middle-rung officers,

claiming he acted within

his jurisdiction. Chief

Minister Omar Abdul-

lah's Advisor, Nasir

Aslam Wani, asserted

ruling alliance had already made its position clear during a meet-ing **Turn to page 9**

Indian national stabbed to death in Canada; **Embassy offers support to kin**

OTTAWA Apr 5 (Agencies): An Indian national was stabbed to death in the Rockland area near Ottawa, Canada, prompting a swift response from local authorities. The Indian Embassy in Canada confirmed the incident early on Saturday morning, stating that a sus-

pect has been taken into custody.

The Indian Embassy released a statement expressing deep sorrow over the incident, offering support to the victim's family.

"We are deeply saddened by the tragic death of an Indian national in Rockland near Ottawa,

due to stabbing. Police has stated a suspect has been taken into custody. We are in close contact through a local community association to provide all possible assistance to the bereaved kin," the Embassy wrote

While the details of the stabbing are still unclear,

in a post on X.

local media reports indicate that the incident occurred early in the morning in the Clarence-Rockland area.

to confirm if this is the same case referenced by the Indian Embassy. According to CBC

Authorities have vet

News, the Ontario

■Turn to page 9

Lieutenant Governor

Manoj Sinha defended

his decision to transfer

JAMMU, Apr 5 (Agen-UT till March 2026.

A decision in this regard was taken after approval from the Ministry of Home Affairs. Government of India.

As per an order, the



financial assistance scheme for 5,764 West Pakistani Refugee (WPR) families, initially notified in 2018, will now continue from April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026 within the approved outlay of Rs. 317.02

■Turn to page 9

Financial Assistance Schemes for WPRs, PoJK and Chhamb Refugees extended till Mar 2026

cies): The Jammu and Kashmir Government has extended the Financial Assistance Schemes for West Pakistani Refugees (WPRs). and PoJK and Chhamb Refugees settled in the

No plans to reconsider ban on Pakistani medical degrees: Health Ministry

SRINAGAR, Apr 5 (Agencies): The Central government has ruled out any possibility of reconsidering its advisory prohibiting Indian nationals and Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs) with medical degrees from Pakistan from seeking employment or higher education in

In reply to a question of NC MP Aga Syed

Ruhullah Mehdi in the Lok Sabha, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has said that the public notice issued by the National Medical Commission (NMC) on April 28, 2022, remains operational.

According to the Ministry, however, candidates enrolled in Pakistani medical colleges before December 2018 or those who

obtained security clearance from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) are eligible to appear in India's Foreign Medical Graduate Examination (FMGE) or pursue employment in the country.

The government has, however, clarified that an exception has been made for migrants and their children who have

Turn to page 9



REMEMBRANCE

It has been two years since you have left us for heavenly abode. Your memories, love and blessings remind us of your presence every moment in our lives. We miss your guidance, affection, inspiration and remember you with pride.

Deeply remembered / missed by Smt Meenakshi Gupta (Wife)

(Son and Daughter-in-law)

Sh Abhishek Gupta and Smt Prachi Mahajan

(Daughter and Son-in-law)

Smt Nidhi Mahajan and Sh Sachin Mahajan Grand children: Saira, Aarin, Samayra, Swarit

NIDAAN DIAGNOSTICS, NIDAAN KIDS, MEDICLINIC

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

beloved Sdn. Harjeet Kour Ji (Retd. Teacher), wife of the late S. Avtar Singh Tegh Ji (Retd. Bank Manager, Punjab & Sind Bank), resident of House No. 32, Sector 12, Guru Nanak Nagar, Jammu. She left for her heavenly abode on 30/03/2025.

Shri Akhand Path Sahib will commence on 04/04/2025 at 10:00 AM at our residence. Bhog Shri Akhand Path Sahib will be held on 06/04/2025

from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM at our residence. The Antim Ardas will be performed at Gurudwara Fateh Singh, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, on 06/04/2025 from 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM. GRIEF STRICKEN:

S.Harbhajan Singh Teigh (Rend Dy.Director Horticulture) (Brother-in Law) & Sds. Indefeet Kour (Retd Teacher) (Bhabhi)

5dn, Avneet Kour (Daughter) & S Bhupinder Singh (Bholla) Sdn. Baldeap Kour (Daughter) & LtS Dalbir Singh (Mangu) S. Jatinderpal Singh Tegh, J.P (Son) & Sdn. Guneet Kour Sdn.Pushapjit Kour (Sister-in-Law) & LI S Nihai Singh

Sdn Sarabijt Kour (Sister-in-Law) & S.Daljit Singh 3. Amariest Singh (Nephew)

Sdn. Surjeet Kour (Sister) & L.L.S. Paramjeet Singh Sdn.Charanjeet Kour (Sister) & Lt S. Gumeet Singh

S.Salpal Singh (Brother) & Sdn.Rajinder Kour S Harjinder Singh (Brother)

Grand Childrens: Gunveen, Simran, Kunwar, Avleen, Ronak, Aryan, Karan Bhai Parivar and all Nears & Dears

Mob No: 9419192641, 7006618893, 9797778676



Sh D.K. Gupta

(SE Retd. PDD)

05.04.1949-05.04.2023

SDN. HARJEET KOUR JI

(RETD. TEACHER)

TENTH DAY/ KRIYA

SAHIB BANDAGI

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved Dr. Kiran Bala Gupta wife of Er. Rajesh Kumar Gupta who left for heavenly abode on 27 March 2025.

10TH DAY will be held on 5th of April 2025 (Saturday) at shri Amar Kshatriya Rajput Sabha Samba near Veer Bhoomi Park from 10 to 11 AM followed by Satsang

KRIYA will be performed on our residence at Ward No. 6 Samba at 12 Noon on 8th of April 2025 (Tuesday) **GRIEF STRICKEN:-**

Smt. Kamla Devi (Mother in law)

Er. Rajesh Kumar Gupta Retd.Xen (Husband)

Tushar Gupta (Son)

Daughter and Son in law Dr. Sonakshi Gupta & Sajan Mahajan

Dr. Sonali Gupta & Sahil Sharma

Varinder Gupta and Snigdha Gupta (Brother in law & Sister in law) Sister in law & Brother in law

Neelam Gupta and Suresh Gupta Canchan Gupta and Jugal Kishore Gupta

Uncle and Aunty

Baldev Rai Gupta & Urmila Gupta

Yash Pal Gupta and Lalita Gupta Grand children's : Kabir, Arika

CONTACT: - 9419233857, 7889911015, 9858501150

Smt. Kamta

Koul

DR. KIRAN BALA GUPTA

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

Mrs. Sarita Jamwal W/o Lt. Sh. Samarjeet Singh

Mrs. Sipika Jamwal & Dushyant Dev Singh Jamwal

Sh. Behari Lal Koul & Kiran Koul (8275858917).

Daughter & Son-in-Law

Brothers & Bhabis

Mrs. & Mr. Inderjeet Singh Jamwal

Daughters-in-law & Sons

Daughter & Son-in-law

Mr. Mohit Dev Singh Jamwal

Mrs. & Mr. Paramjeet Singh Jamwal

Mrs. Deepika & Sidharth Singh Jamwal

Grand Daughter: Ishanya Jamwal

Mob.No: 9419238316, 7298566050

Jamwal

Smt. Deepali Jad W/o Late Sh. Sanjay Jad (09336054966)

NARAYAN BALI & KRIYA With profound grief and sorrow, we inform you about the untimely & sudden demise of our beloved Sh. Kamal Dev Singh Jamwal (RT. Major) S/o Lt. Sh. D.D.S Jamwal R/o Raipur Bantalab (Bagani) Narayan Bali & Kriya will be performed on 06-04-2025 (Sunday) at our residence Raipur Bagani. **GRIEF STRICKEN** Jamwal Family Smt. Neelam Jamwal - Wife

SH. KAMAL DEV SINGH JAMWAL (RT. MAJOR)

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother Sdn. Isher Kour Ji Wd/o Lt. S. Raghbir Singh Ji (Nagni Wale) R/o Master Hakim Singh Colony, Camp Gole Gujral, Jammu on 28.03.2025.

Arambhta of Shri Akhand Path Sahib on 04/04/2025 at 09:30 am at our residence. Bhog Shri Akhand Path Sahib on 06/04/2025 at 10:00 a.m at our residence. ANTIM ARDAS will be performed at Gurudwara Shri Guru Singh Sabha, Munshi Chak, Gole Gujral Jammu on

06/04/2025 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. Grief Stricken:

Sdn. & S. Kulwant Singh

(ex Gen. Secy. JKMTC & Ex President Gurudwara Sachkhand Gole Gujral) Sdn. & S.Jaspal Singh

Sdn. & S. Manmohan Singh (Former Dy. Comptroller, SKUAST-Jammu)

& All Nagni Family Ph: 9796638300, 9697526242, 9419226131

Sdn. Isher Kour Ji

Karamyogin Smt. Ram

Rani

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and with great heartfelt sorrow it is to inform the sad demise of our beloved mother Karamyogin Smt. Ram Rani W/o late Shri Ram Chand Pandita on 01.04.2025 originally resident of Krangsoo Anantnag presently at H.No.84-A/1 Shastri Nagar near Godrej Service Centre, Jammu.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed at Akhnoor Ghat on 09.04.2025 (Wednesday) and assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School

Education Jammu at 11 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh. Sham Lai Pandita, Devar Smt. Shama G w/ o Late Sh. Kashi Nath Pandita, Devrani

AND SAMAST SHANKER PANDIT PARIWAR.

Sh. Mohan Lai Pandita & Smt. Bita Pandita, Son & Daughter in law--- 9149434475 Sh. Autar Krishan Pandita & Smt. Kiran Pandita, Son & Daughter in law- 7051132897 Sh. D. N. Pandita & Smt. Reeta Pandita, Son & Daughter in law -- 8825016855 Smt. Nancy Kumari & Sh. Ashwani Kumar, Daughter & Son in law- 7006042069 Sh. Dalip Pandita & Bunty Pandita, Grand Son & Grand Daughter in law- 90 15409584

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Smt Raj Kumari W/o Sh. Ashok Kumar R/o H.No. 128 Gali No. 4, Krishna Nagar, Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 28.03.2025.

10TH DAY will be held on 06.04.2025 (Sunday) at Shree Guru Ravidass Mandir

Krishna Nagar, Jammu **GRIEF STRICKEN**

Sh. Ashok Kumar (Husband) Mr. Akshay Menia (Son) Mrs. Ekta & Mr. Ram Pal (Daughter & Son-in-law) **Brothers**

Sh. Gian Chand Dogra Late Sh. Sushil Kumar

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved and respected mother Smt Santosh Bhat Wo Lt Sh. Pran Nath Bhat originally resident of Nagam Chadoora Budgam, Alp 316 A, Shantidoot Apartment Vasundhra 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, Eshaan, Anant, Shuhul



Smt Raj Kumari

SMT SANTOSH BHAT

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

TENTH DAY KRIYA/UTHALA

With deep sorrow & heartfelt grief, we regret to inform the sad & untimely demise of our beloved SH. ABHINANDAN ABROL, S/o Sh. Mohan Lal Abrol, R/o H.No 195 Mast Garh Near Dhakki Sarajan (Link Road Chowk Parade) Near Lakshmi Narayan Temple, Jammu City, who left us for his heavenly abode on 26th March, 2025.

TENTH DAY will be performed on Friday 4th April, 2025 at 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM VENUE: Lakshmi Narayan Temple Dhakki Sarajan Near

Link Road Chowk, Jammu City KRIYA will be performed at our Residence. UTHALA will be performed on Monday 7th April, 2025 at

Brahmin Sabha Parade Jammu City at 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM Family, friends and well-wishers are kindly requested to join us in praying for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

DEEPLY LOVED AND MISSED BY: Mohan Lai Abrol (Father) 6005211372 Abhishek Abrol (Brother) 6005422810 & OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS



SH. ABHINANDAN ABROL (22-07-1990 to 26-03-2025)

BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and utilinate demise of our beloved **Dr Maninderpal Singh** Sto Surmeet Singh Rt. Med. Dept., who left for heavenly abode IBH SRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB on 04-04-202

y) at 9:00 AM at our residence Moh Khorinor ne

Pipal Wala Gurudwara Poonch.

BHOG SRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB on 06-04-202 (Sunday) at our residence at 9:00 AM. KIRTAN AND ANTIM ARDAS will be held on 06-04-2025 (Sunday) at Gurudwara Sahib pipal wate, Moh. Khorino Poonch from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM followed by Guru Ka

anger. SRIEF STRICKEN S. Jodh Singh (Grandfather) S. Gurmeet Singh (Father) Sdn Darshan Kour (Mother)

S. Ravinder Singh (Uncle) idn. Inderpal Kour (Aunty) S. Narinder Singh (Uncle) Idn. Jatinder Kour (Bhuii)

Jasvinderpal Singh and Sdn Manmeet Kour inavreet Kour (Sister) And S. Vardanveer Singh (Brother

TENTH DAY / KRIYA

our beloved Late Sh. Ashok Kumar Gupta Slo Late Sh. Krishar Dutt (Master) (Chigli Chouri, Ramnagar wale) Rio At Present Rathian Udhampur who left us for heavenly abode on 25th March 2025. Tenth Day will be performed on 3rd April 2025 (Thursday) a

Kriya will be performed on 6th April 2025 (Sunday) at our res dence Rathian, Udhampur at 10,00 am. GRIEF STRICKEN Smt Gayatri Devi (Veena) - Wife

Mr. Avineet Gupta - Son Brothers & Sister-in-law Sh. Girdhari Lal & Smt. Nirmala Devi

Sh. Bhushan Kumar & Smt. Kanchan Gupta Sh. Saniay Gunta & Smt. Kanu Gunta Sister & Brothers-in-law

Late Sh. Jagdish Gupta & Smt. Charchala Devi

Late Sh. Girdhari Laf Gupta & Late Smt. Shakuntia Devi Sh. Sudesh Gupta & Smt. Rama Sh. Naresh Gupta & Smt. Sneh Lata

Contact Nos.: 9858541287, 9697293519



LATE SH. ASHOK KUMAF

Vipan Bakshi

10TH DAY

10th Day of Vipan Bakshi S/o Mulkh Raj R/o House No. 302, Lane No. 11, Shakti Nagar, Jammu. Date 6/04/2025 at 11.00 am at our residence

GRIEF STRICKEN Veena Bakshi (Wife) (Daughter & Son in law) Rahul & Divya Sharma (Sons & Daughter in law) Dheeraj & Neha Bakshi

Amit & Ayushi Bakshi Ravya, Raganya, Udyati (Grand Children) Contact Number: 7889934868, 9796238485

ADH-BARKHI

Adh Barkhi of our beloved Late Shri Dev Datt Sharma Ji will be performed on 06-04-2025 (Sunday), 11 a.m. at our residence 247, Friend Sector, Subash Nagar, Jammu. Grief Stricken

Smt. Bimla Devi- Wife

Daughter in law Smt. Aradhana Sharma W/o Lt. Sh. Subhash Chander Sharma Smt. Verthana & Sh. Ashwini Dubey- Daughter & Son in law Granddaughter in law & Grandson

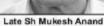
Mrs. Surbhi & Mr. Chetan Sharma Mr. Ketan Sharma- Grandson

BARKHI

One Year have passed since you left us in deep pain. Your loving memories are still fresh in our hearts and your presence is felt everywhere.

BARKHI of our beloved Late Sh Mukesh Anand(Retd. SE) S/o Late Sh Ghani Sham Anand shall be performed on 6th April 2025 (Sunday) at our residence HNo 47/48 Sector-C East Extension Trikuta Nagar Jammu at 12 Noon.

GRIEF STRICKEN



Mr Mohit And Mrs Kritika Anand (Son and Daughter in law) Mrs Deepika and Mr Vishal Abrol (Daughter and Son in Law) Mrs Shuchi and Mr Varun Gupta (Daughter and Son in Law) Smt Tripta Anand (Chachi Ji) Mrs Sushma and Mr Sawarkar Anand (Brother and Bhabi)

Vihaan And Mitansh (Grand Children)

Phn: 8825041596, 7889695212, 9149982661, 9419144820

10TH DAY/13TH DAY With profound grief & sorrow we inform about sudden death of our beloved father Sh. Janak Singl

Slathia Master S/o Late Sh. Taja Singh who left us for heavenly abode on 26-03-2025. 10TH DAY will be performed on 04-4-2025 at 10 AM at our residence & 13th Day Rasam Pagri will be performed on 07-04-2025 at our residence at Mandi Garh Gurha Slathia.

Son & Daughter-in-law Sh. Sudhir Singh Slathia & Smt. Reitha Slathia aughter & Sons-in-law Sent. Poola Slathia Wio Sh Varindar Singh Jamwai (MW Officer at Indian Air Force) mt Arti Slatnia Wo Sh. Ravinder Singh Jasrotia (J.E Agriculture Deptt)

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Rajani Stathia Wio Sh Sandeep Singh Badyal (Manager ITC) Grand Children: Srut, Cheeru, Mona, Nanna



ADH-BARKHI

In the loving memory of Sh Late Jagdish Raj Sharma Six months has passed since you left us

for your eternal journey.

Adh-Barkhi of our beloved Sh Jagdish Raj Sharma shall be performed on 6th of April (6-4-2025) at 12.30 PM at H.No. F-772 Bharat Nagar Rehari Colony

Deeply Missed & Remembered By : Sharma Family

M.No. 9419226684, 6006712691

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The lecture was fol-

lowed by the Basantar

Memorial Inter-School

English Declamation

Contest and a Poetry

Composition Contests

which was well partici-

pated by top schools of

across the country. Siya

Shukla of The Lawrence

School, Sanawar won

first prize in the Poetry

Composition Contest,

followed by Tanisha

Ravi Choudhary of

Welham Girls College

and Shrishti Joshi of

Rajmata Krishna Kumari

Girls Public School.

Mauleen Pangal from

RIMC also participat-

ed. In the Declamation

Contest, Hiten Ahuja

of Springdale School,

Amritsar secured first

place, Ahana Gupta

of Welham Girls Col-

lege came second, and

Tvisha Dave of Army

Public School, Dagshai

Wadhwa in the presence

of school's headmaster

Himmat Singh Dhil-

lon attended a solemn

wreath-laying ceremony

marked by the notes of

the bugle's Last Post

held in honor of the

brave martyrs who sac-

Lt Gen

stood third.

Earlier,

Lit fests celebrate nation's soul, reflecting courage of soldiers beyond battles: Lt Gen Wadhwa

Two day long Sanawar Military Literature Festival concludes



Top News Report

JAMMU/SRINAGAR, Apr 5: In a motivational address on the concluding day of the two day long Sanawar Military Literature Festival held at The Lawrence School, Sanawar, Lt Gen Mohit Wadhwa (Sena Medal), Chief of Staff, HQ, Western Command urged students to embrace discipline, courage and a sense of purpose in their lives. Addressing a packed Barne Hall of students, educators, authors, military veterans and literary enthusiasts, the Lt Gen Wadhwa while appreciating the smooth conduct of two day long event said a literature festival is not merely about stories and narration of wars or battles but the soul of a nation which reflects the courage of our soldiers.

"Sanawar has a proud legacy of producing leaders and patriots. Today, more than ever our nation needs young minds who are not only academically strong but also driven by values, integrity and service," he stated.

Drawing parallels between military life and student life, Lt Gen Wadhwa highlighted how qualities like perseverance, leadership and resilience are essential in both arenas. He encouraged students to rise above challenges, dream big and work relentlessly toward their goals to fulfil the Prime Minister's vision of a Viksit Bharat by 2047.

At the sidelines of the Military Literature Festival, a special book fair is also being organised showcasing a diverse collection of literature centered around military themes. The fair featured books authored by veterans, war historians and defense experts, offering deep insights into the lives, sacrifices, and experiences of armed forces personnel. Simultaneously, War Veteran Col Bobby Grewal delivered an engaging talk on the Battle of Basantar, one of the biggest tanks confrontations of the 1971 Indo-Pak war. His vivid recounting of the bravery, strategy and sacrifices of th brave hearts, including many alumnis of Sanawar, during the battle captivated the audience, particularly the students who listened with keen interest and gained valuable insights into India's milirificed their lives for the nation.

He also reviewed the coffee table book The Lawrence School, Sanawar – Military Heritage 1847–2024 compiled by Gen Abdo Sandhu, a tribute to the school's illustrious military heritage.

tary heritage.

The book captures the institution's journey through archival photographs, historical records, and inspiring stories of its distinguished alumni who served in the armed forces, reflecting Sanawar's long standing contribution to nation-building and military excellence.

Amongst many dignitaries present on the occasion included Col Parry Grewal, Major General Kulpreet Singh, Mukesh Khetrapal, brother of Param Vir Chakra Second Lt. Arun Khetrapal, Lt Gen Teiinder Shergill, Brigadier Pardeep Sharma, Col AP Randhawa, Commodore Rohit Kaushik, Col Amresh Sharma, Col Jasper Sandhu, Brigadier AS Bal and others.

DFSS supports LG's decision on Administrative Reshuffle in J&K



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 5: In a significant administrative overhaul, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has ordered the transfer and posting of 48 Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS) officers, including 14 Additional Deputy Commissioners (ADCs) and 26 Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs), as part of a mid-level bureaucratic reshuffle across the Union Terri-

The reshuffle impacts key administrative positions in various districts, with the ADCs being transferred to and posted in Pulwama, Kupwara, Basohli, Doda, Anantnag, Sunderbani, Rajouri, Nowshera, Baramulla, Srinagar, Ganderbal, Kathua, Bhaderwah, and Handwara. These changes are expected to recalibrate administrative focus in the run-up to future elections and governance challenges in the region.

However, this transfer order has triggered a political flashpoint, drawing sharp reactions from some sections of the former elected leadership and civil society, who see it as a violation of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, which delineates powers between the elected government and the Lieutenant Governor's office.

Ashok Gupta, president of Dogra Front & Shiv Sena, came out strongly in support of the LG's decision. Leading a rally through Jammu city, Gupta addressed the media, criticizing the National Conference (NC) leadership for questioning the move. "These transfers are routine and well within the LG's jurisdiction," Gupta asserted, referring to provisions under the Reorganisation Act of 2019, which came into effect following the abrogation of Article 370. Highlighting that law and order, police, and central services such as the IAS and IPS fall under the LG's purview, Gupta stated that the recent changes were carried out in accordance with the amended transaction of business rules by the Ministry of Home year. The amendments expanded the LG's powers, allowing direct action in several administrative areas.

Gupta reiterated, "The era of Article 370 is over. Jammu and Kashmir is now a Union Territory, like Delhi and Puducherry, and the Raj Bhavan holds authority over law and order-related transfers, including that of revenue officers who serve as magistrates."

The reshuffle has been viewed by some critics as an attempt to bypass the elected government's role in administrative matters. However, BJP leaders and supporters argue that the transfers fall within the legal scope of the LG's authority under the J&K Reorganization Act.

The rally, led by Ashok Gupta, witnessed the participation of several Dogra Front and Shiv Sena workers, including Abhishek, Suresh, Prem, Naresh, Bantu, Vikky, Raju, Ganesh, and many others who expressed their solidarity with the LG's decision and demanded that governance reforms be prioritized over political bickering.

JKTF demands continuation of Aayas/Helpers sevices

tary history.

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 5: Jammu & Kashmir Teachers Forum (JKTF), affiliated with the All India Secondary Teachers Federation (AISTF), has strongly demanded the continuation of Aayas-cum-Helpers in government schools, particularly for the welfare and safety of small children enrolled in Nursery classes, whose current term concluded on 31st March 2025.

In a press statement issued by UT Spokesperson Joginder Singh, it was stated that JKTF UT President Mohd Ashraf Sheikh has urged the Education

Minister, Additional Chief Secretary School Education Department, Director School Education Jammu/Kashmir, and the State Project Director SAMAGRA to take immediate and sympathetic action by issuing necessary orders for the continuation and regular engagement of Aayascum-Helpers in all concerned institutions

institutions.

He appreciated the visionary step of the J&K Government in launching Nursery classes in government schools and equipping them with Kinder Garten infrastructure, which has led to a notable rise in enrollment at the pre-primary level. He stated

that this progressive initiative has opened a new chapter in the public education system by introducing early childhood care and learning within the government setup.

The presence of Aayas/Helpers has made a significant difference in ensuring quality care and attention to the young learners, many of whom are entering the school environment for the first time. Their support in maintaining hygiene, managing routines, and providing emotional comfort has been invaluable for both children and teaching staff.

With teachers already handling academic responsibilities and

being overburdened, it becomes almost impossible to manage the tender needs of these small children without adequate assistance

The role of Aayas/Helpers is not only essential for student well-being but also contributes to creating a safe, supportive, and child-friendly atmosphere in schools.

JKTF strongly appeals to the government to recognize the critical importance of these support staff and ensure their continuation without interruption, in the interest of quality education and the overall development of early learners.

Sham Lal meets veterans, promises time-bound solutions

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 5: A meeting of ex-servicemen was held on Saturday in Domana, falling under the Jammu North Assembly Constituency, under the leadership of retired Brigadier Balbir Singh Sambyal (Sena Medal).

The event witnessed the presence of several decorated veterans, including Captain Paras Ram Sharma, former Sarpanch Shamsher Singh, and many other ex-servicemen from

Jammu North Constituency.

MLA Jammu North Assembly Constituency, Sham Lal Sharma, who was the Chief Guest on the occasion, paid tribute to the immense sacrifices and unwavering dedication of the Indian armed forces.

He assured the gathering that their concerns will be given top priority and conveyed his deep respect and commitment towards the welfare of veterans.

During the interactive session, the ex-

servicemen raised several pressing issues, including poor road connectivity, irregular drinking water supply, lack of proper sanitation facilities, and problems related to delayed and

Sharma gave a patient hearing to each concern and assured that he would personally take up these matters with the concerned departments for swift resolution.

inflated electricity bills.

Sharma emphasized his progressive and proactive approach towards

addressing the needs of his constituency. He assured the attendees that all the issues raised in the meeting would be taken seriously and resolved in a time-bound manner through coordinated efforts with the concerned departments.

Sham Lal further added that he would issue clear directions to the administrative machinery to ensure that all public-related concerns—especially those related to road infrastructure, drinking water supply, sanita-

tion, and electricity are addressed on priority. He reaffirmed his commitment to transparent and responsive governance, where public service delivery is prompt and effective.

Notice Inviting Tender Sr.DEE/TRD/FZR acting for and on behalf of the President of India Invites E-Tenders for the works as under. Biddens will be able to submit their originalitevised bids upto closing date 28.04.2025 at 15.00 Hrs only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall not be considered. S. Tender No. Name of work App. Cost. (f) Cost of Tender form (f) submitsation of Tender 1. 701- TRD work in dw vericus 88,24,042.38 NIL Upto 28.04.2025, 15:00 hrs Period Tender 1. 701- TRD work in dw vericus 88,24,042.38 NIL Upto 28.04.2025, 15:00 hrs Period Tender 1. 701- TRD work in dw vericus 88,24,042.38 NIL Upto 28.04.2025, 15:00 hrs Period Tender 1. 701- TRD work in dw vericus 88,24,042.38 NIL Upto 28.04.2025, 15:00 hrs Period Tender 1. 701- TRD work in dw vericus 88,24,042.38 NIL Upto 28.04.2025, 15:00 hrs Period Tender 28. Tender Trd Work: "Design, supply, erection testing & commissioning of 50ftz, single phase 25RV AC OHE". (Ref. OHE Works 5.No.1.1 of Pr. CEEINR's Letter No. 181-Elect/TRD/189/PLII, dated 28.07.2021). 1. TRD work in dw vericus 34,34,930.61 NIL Upto 28,04.0025 Months 15:00 hrs Period Tender No. 181-Elect/TRD/189/PLII, dated 28.07.2021). 2. 702- TRD replacement of vericus 54,34,930.61 NIL Upto 28,04.0025 Months 15:00 hrs Period Replacement of vericus 28,04.2025 Months 15:00 hrs Period Replacement of vericus 28

Affairs (MHA) in July last

Note: # Tenderer (a) may please note that offers received without Bid Security either in cash through e-payment gateway or as Bank Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned in tender documents (as per Annexure-21) valid for a period of 90 days beyond the bid validity period, will be considered as incomplete 8 invalid offer and for which contractor shall have no claim on Railway.

Tenders Notice No.: 701 & 702-TRD-FZR-2025-26 Dated: 04.04.2025 103

SERVING CUSTOMER WITH A SMILE

Office of the Executive Engineer, Sub Transmission Division-I, Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDCL), Jammu CIN NO: U40300JK2013SGC003898 (e:mail: xenstd1@yahoo.co.in) Tel. Fax 0191-2543343

CORRIGENDUM-I

Providing of Dedicated 11 KV Feeder to Central Jail Jammu KotBhalwal and District Jail Amphalla Jammu in respect of Sub-Transmission Division-I, JPDCL, Jammu

e-NIT No: STD-I/JPDCL/Tenders/2025-26/02/7696-99 dated:29-03-2025

Please read the following points in BOQ as

S.No. in BOQ	Particulars in BOQ	Read Particulars in BOQ as
1	Part-"A" Central Jail Jammu Kotbhalwal	Part-"A" Central Jail Jammu Kotbhalwal
	11 KV VCB Panel Board (12 KV, 1250A, 25	11 KV VCB Panel Board (12 KV, 1250A, 25
	KA, Outdoor) with O/C, E/F relays	KA, Outgoing) with O/C, E/F relays
	(IEC61850), Mimic Diagram, Voltmeter,	(IEC61850), Mimic Diagram, Voltmeter,
	Annunciation Windows with annunciation	Annunciation Windows with annunciation
	relays, 3-phase Tri-vector meter-5 Amps,	relays, 3-phase Tri-vector meter-5 Amps, DLMS
	DLMS Compliant with RS-485 port	Compliant with RS-485 port
2	ST Poles 9 meter long	ST Poles 9 meter long (ST-410SP33)
26	Part-"B" District Jail Jammu	Part-"B" District Jail Jammu
	11 KV VCB Panel Board (12 KV, 1250A, 25	11 KV VCB Panel Board (12 KV, 1250A, 25
	KA, Outdoor) with O/C, E/F relays	KA, Outgoing) with O/C, E/F relays
	(IEC61850), Mimic Diagram, Voltmeter,	(IEC61850), Mimic Diagram, Voltmeter,
	Annunciation Windows with annunciation	Annunciation Windows with annunciation
	relays, 3-phase Tri-vector meter-5 Amps,	relays, 3-phase Tri-vector meter-5 Amps, DLMS
	DLMS Compliant with RS-485 port	Compliant with RS-485 port
27	ST Poles 9 meter long	ST Poles 9 meter long (ST-410SP33)

*** Note:-i) It shall be the sole responsibility of the bidders to apprise themselves adequately regarding all corrigendum/addendum uploaded against the e-NIT ii) The quantity shall remain same.

DIP/J-66-P/25

Executive Engineer Sub Transmission Division-I JPDCL, Jammu

Why are officials not raiding private schools and book shops, question parents

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 5: Raising serious concerns over the unchecked commercialization of education, Amit Kapoor, President of Parents Association Jammu, has slammed the silence of Jammu's political leadership and questioned the inaction of government officials against private schools and affiliated book-uniform shops.

Addressing a press conference in Jammu, Kapoor voiced the deep anguish of hundreds of parents who feel helpless against what he termed as a "well-established nexus" between private educational institutions and retail chains that continue to exploit parents financially.

Kapoor stated that despite having complete knowledge of how private schools force parents

to purchase overpriced books and uniforms from specific vendors, the administration has failed to crack down on this practice. "Why are the officials turning a blind eye to this looting?" he asked pointedly, emphasizing that the School Education Department is well aware of the situation but is choosing not to act. He reminded the media that although the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Jammu had raided some bookshops last year, the initiative was abruptly halted, and no further action has been taken since.

He accused the authorities of protecting the interests of private schools at the expense of ordinary families, alleging that this silence amounts to indirect support of the exploitation. "Even the top officials who are supposed to regulate school affairs have remained mute

spectators," he said, expressing dismay over the apparent breakdown of accountability.

down of accountability. In addition to urging officials to crack down on this unfair practice, Kapoor also made an earnest appeal to the government to issue an immediate order allowing relaxation in age criteria for Class 1 admissions, a move that would save an academic year for many children. He emphasized that in light of evolving education policies and social challenges, such a step would be both pragmatic and compassionate.

The Parents Association called upon political leaders, government officials, and civil society to come together and curb this ongoing exploitation, asserting that education should be about nurturing futures, not monetizing childhood.

EDITORIAL

Viksit Bharat-Role of Youth

n the heartbeat of every Indian youth, there echoes a shared dream — a dream of a strong, self-reliant, and inclusive India. That dream is Viksit Bharat — a vision of a fully developed nation by the year 2047, when India completes 100 years of independence. It is not merely about tall skyscrapers and economic statistics. Viksit Bharat envisions an India where every citizen, regardless of their background, lives with dignity, access to opportunity, and the freedom to shape their destiny.

India, with over 65% of its population under the age of 35, is home to one of the youngest populations in the world. This vast youth force is not just a number it is the very engine of transformation. Young people across the country are igniting change in every sphere — from launching tech startups to leading climate movements, from excelling in international sports arenas to innovating in agriculture, health, and education. They are dreamers, doers, and digital natives ready to carry India forward.

To unlock this immense potential, India is steadily investing in education, skills, and innovation. The National Education Policy 2020 aims to shift learning from rote memorization to critical thinking and creativity. The Skill India and Startup India missions are equipping youth to be not just job seekers, but job creators. Through Digital India, even young minds in remote corners are getting access to tools that empower and connect them to the world.

But development is not just economic. True progress lies in inclusivity and integrity. Viksit Bharat must be just, equitable, sustainable, and spiritual. Our youth must grow not only as engineers and entrepreneurs but as ethical leaders and responsible citizens. They must be the flag-bearers of India's core values — liberty, fraternity, and social justice. Participating in civic life, raising awareness on social issues, promoting communal harmony, and protecting the environment are as crucial as excelling in academics and careers.

All across the country, examples of youthled change shine brightly. From Ladakh to Kanyakumari, young leaders are launching green initiatives, teaching underprivileged children, building mobile apps, and creating sustainable businesses. Their energy and empathy are bringing real change to real lives. And it is this spirit of seva (service), sankalp (resolve), and samarpan (dedication) that will define the India of tomorrow.

Of course, the path to Viksit Bharat is not without its challenges. Unemployment, drug addiction, mental health issues, and inequality still plague our society. But these are not insurmountable. With focused policies, mentorship programs, inclusive education, and robust support systems, the youth can overcome every obstacle. It is essential for government institutions, civil society, and communities to come together to uplift and empower them.

The dream of a developed India can only be realised if the youth lead from the front. Every young person has a role to play — be it in shaping policy, building businesses, promoting arts, or reforming systems. They must believe in their own strength and never underestimate the power of their voice and actions. Even small, everyday efforts — helping a classmate, starting a cleanliness drive, mentoring juniors, standing against injustice — contribute towards nation-building.

As we look ahead to 2047, we must remember that the future of India rests not just in boardrooms or parliaments, but in classrooms, playgrounds, tech labs, farms, and streets — wherever young minds think and create. Their ideas, actions, and values will determine the soul of Viksit Bharat.

Let this be the era of youth-led development. Let our youth rise not just to seek opportunities, but to create them. Let them not just adapt to the future, but shape it. For in every confident step they take, in every dream they dare to dream, lies the promise of a new India — a Viksit Bharat.

Durga Ashtami and its significance

By: Omkar Dattatray

urga Ashtami is the most important day of the Navratri festival and it occupies an important place in the order of significance of the nine days of Navratri .It is the eight day of Navratri and is dedicated to Maa Durga and everyone is celebrating the nine days long festival with pomp and show as well as with devotion to propitiate Maa Durga .Durgaashtami is the Ashtami in Navratri is the eight day of the festival. .As we celebrate Chaitra Navratri of 2023, we all know that Ashtami is one of the most important days in Navratri and devotees undertake fasts to please Maa Durga on this day .But why the Ashtami is so important? Aahtami during Navratri has multiple significance .We will put forwards some of them to throw light on why Durga Ashtami is so significant and is highly venerated during Navratri. Astra Puja on Astami day ,the eight day of Navratri is also known as Astra Puja and known as Virashtami. This is because all weapons are propitiated and worshipped on this day along with a display of martial arts.AS an answer to the prayers of gods and humans .Maa Durga decided to annihilate the demon Mahishasura ,the buffalo faced giant .As she prepared for the war, all gods gave their divine weapons and powers to Maa Durga .All those weapons were worshipped and handed over to Maa Durga on the day of Ashtami and therefore the day came to be called as Astra Puja .Another name Virashtami attributed to this day heralds the courage and valor of Maa Durga .The emergence of Maa Kali (Ashtami). On the day of Ashtam ,Maa Kali emerged from the face of Durga .In addition .Astanayikas or the eight aspects of Durga emerged from her and assumed their roles in war. Therefore on the day of Astami, the war with Mahishasura gained full momentum and force .There was a fierce battle between Kali and demons Chanda, Munda and Raktabhija . As part of the Navratri Puja ,Ashtami is so significant in worshipping the 64 Yoginis ,Maa Kali,Maa Durga and the Ashtanayikas. The eight aspect of Durga that emerged from her and assumed distinctive forms and names include Brahnacharni ,Maheshwari ,Kameshwart ,Vaishnavi ,Varahi ,Narasinghi ,Indrani ,Maa Chamunda .Each of these aspects signifies a particular a particular attribute of Ma Durga .The Puja done on the day of Navratri Ashtami is meant to propitiate all the aspects of Ma Durga together and there it is highly significant .It is believed that Ma Durga manifested on Ashtami day .Month on month ,special Pujas are performed to Ma Durga on Ashtami .The Ashtami falling during Navratri festival is called Maha Ashtami or Maha Durga Ashtami .This is also second day of the last set of three days of Navratri dedicated to worshipping Ma Durga .On Maha Durga Astami Durga is propitiated with an elaborate Puja .Ashtami and Navami are auspicious days to celebrate the essence of womanhood. Therefore on this day Kanya Pujan is observed by Hindus across India. Kaniya Puja on Ashtami or Navami is offered to the Shakti .Usually nine girls who have not attained puberty are invited to homes and their feet are washed .They are considered to represent the nine forms of Durga namely Shilputri, Brahmacharni, Chandrag anta, Kushmanda, Skandmata, Katayayni, K alaratri, Mahagauri and Siddhidatri . They are presented with delicious food and some nice gifts which are believed to propitiate Ma Durga .It is believed that on Astami, the eight incarnation of Ma Durga namely Maha Gauri took birth .She is the symbol of her devotees welfare .She is the problem solver and bestows good health ,good life ,and happiness to all. .The most famous Sandhi Puja connected with Navratri is observed on

Ashtami . This is the time when the Ashtami tithi ends and Navami tithi starts .At this juncture, Balidan or sacrifice is offered to Ma Durga .Since animal sacrifice is prohibited for the Hindus ,a symbolic Balidan consisting of cutting vegetables like pumpkins is done on this day .Durga Puja or Navratri is one of the most important and revered of all Hindu festivals .This Pan -India festival involves the ceremonial worship of Goddess Durga in nine forms spread over nine nights and celebrated in different ways across various parts of India. .Durga Ashtami is celebrated in particular with great passion and fervor especially in West Bengal .The ten armed Goddess riding loin is highly regarded in this part of the country and even the weapons of Goddess Durga are worshipped while reciting mantras in a ritual known as Astra Puja .Ashtami marks the eight day of the festival and on this auspicious day , devotees tend to observe rigorous fast , feast and worship Goddess Durga who symbolizes strength .A celebration of traditional culture and customs, massive idols of Goddess Durga are installed throughout India, while enormous Puja Pandals are set up at various places for devotees to visit and worship Goddess Durga Ashtami celebrates the victory of Goddess Durga over the evil buffalo demon ,Mahishasura .Legand has it that owing to a boon bestowed upon Lord Beahma, Mahisasura could only be defeated by a female warrior .When Lord Indra was vanquished in the battle field, the holy trinity ,Brahma ,Vishnu and Shiva created Durga and each part of her body was blessed with strength, with energy of different male Gods .On this day ,Durga Ashtami ,she made use of the use of weapons that symbolized their masculine strength to defeat Mahisasura with the trident .In this festival women tend to take center stage while being stark reminder of how women used to hold a lot more power and status in ancient India .In

certain parts of the country .especially West Bengal ,Odessa ,and Assam ,animal sacrifices are performed at temples to commemorate the occasion .In South India ,computers, vehicles ,books and equipments are worshipped on the ninth day as an expression of gratitude for the blessings received in the previous year .By offering the tools of their trade to God ,one commits to performing all work as worship .On the day of Ashtami before breaking the fast ,nine girls blow the age of ten are worshipped and fed sumptuously and among other things ,presented with new clothes .One of the many reasons why this festival is widely celebrated to receive blessings of the Goddess with the aim of being granted wealth ,prosperity ,as well as knowledge .Every festival in India has a profound attachment and significance with buying investments in the form of gold ,silver properties .This is because festivities are usually associated with wealth and people strongly tend to believe that investing in some significant or start something new on such auspicious occasions will bring in more happiness and prosperity in the following year .In short Maha Ashtami holds a great significance among Hindus .The eight form of Maa Durga is worshipped on this day .It is believed that eight forms of Maa Durga emerged from her and these eight Shaktis are Bharmni ,Maheshwari ,Kaumari ,Vaishnavi ,Varahi ,Narsinghi ,Indarni and Chamunda. Thus Durga Ashtami is most significant for the sanatan Dharma and Hindus celebrate it with great devotion and fervor.

(The author is a columnist, social and **KP** activist)

Children learn a lot from their mothers in their childhood

By: Vijay Garg

uman life is full of the treasure of price-less gifts of nature. A grown-up human being first develops in the womb of his mother. After birth, the child starts learning the taste of life from his surroundings. Through this, he becomes civilized. This process is very important in childhood. Until he becomes a civilized and mature human being, the child has to go through three stages of life - childhood, youth and old age. Out of these, childhood is the most precious stage of human life. The child starts completing this stage at home from the warmth received from his mother's lap and the swings taken on the shoulders of his father. In this way, the child's culture starts from home. He has to learn the first letters and lessons of culture from home itself.

Royal childhood

In the childhood stage, the child is the king. Innocence and carefreeness, tenderness, fun, smiling faces, freedom, unique stubbornness, small cries and laughter, naivety of anger, etc. are the beauty of childhood. Scholar Patrick Rothfuss writes, 'When we are children, we rarely think about our future. This naivety frees us to enjoy ourselves, but when we start worrying about the future, we leave our childhood behind.'

Life-like book

Human life is a kind of book, the first lesson of which is childhood. Childhood is also called the rule of the book of life. If the rule of childhood is civilized and full of manners, then the book of life will also be beautiful. The question is, who and how guided the child in these years of childhood? What kind of cultural and moral values were given to him? Then what kind of person did he become when he grew up? To what extent was his mother tongue, heritage and legacy, i.e., culture, connected with his love? In this way, childhood and culture are interrelated. After birth, the first sound of a child's cry, cooing, smile and first

response give him the finger of his mother tongue and culture. He learns the entire cultural life style like sitting-standing, speakingwalking, eating-drinking, dressing, folk games, folk tales, folk stories, folk songs, folk customs, festivals etc. from his home, surroundings and social system. Our concern is to connect today's children with Punjabi culture and Punjabi heritage and cultural values, so that our children can become the bearers of a civilized and healthy human life in today's digital age of technology and computerization. Learning mother tongue from mother

The child learns his mother tongue from his mother. Through this, he grows up and gets connected to his cultural phenomena. Culture is called the learned part of human behavior. The regulated character of human life is called culture. These rules and principles are accepted by the group of people. According to TS Eliot,

culture is the way of living life. Cute, well-behaved children

Culture both shapes and adorns a child's behavior. Children with civilized behavior and good manners are loved by everyone. Every parent wants their child to be talented, eloquent, sweet-spoken, hardworking, admired by people, and their good behavior to be an example for society. This can only happen if the parents themselves lead the way. It is now commonly said that today's children are becoming alienated from Punjabi culture. They are forgetting their cultural values. Childhood is getting entangled in today's dazzling lifestyle. To some extent, this is also true. There are many reasons for this? Today, with the convenience of technology, human needs and desires have also changed with increasing growth. Today's childhood has shrunk in computer and mobile games. Parents are not giving their children full time. Parents themselves are also engrossed in TV serials and mobile screens. Grandmas and grandpas, aunts and uncles, grandfathers and grandfathers, uncles and uncles, who recite folk songs and music, stories, stories, idioms, all human

relationships have been reduced to the English word uncle and aunty. Today, there is no one to recite stories to children.

Parents should lead.

Parents have an important role in connecting children with Punjabi culture. The way parents behave, children will also learn it. The first school of a child's learning process is home. Parents are the teachers of children at home. Parents have to keep the children's attention while playing games on mobile. Instead of beating the child, he should be made aware of the good and bad effects of mobile by explaining it psychologically. Information about folk tales and literature should be given. The big role of schools

Schools have a very big role in the cultural development of children. Schools should become carriers of culture. The cultural art of children can be improved in the morning assembly. The Punjabi folk songs and music and sports competitions organized in the educational competitions of schools are undoubtedly connecting children with culture. There is still a need to make more efforts to connect primary level students with sports. Teachers should motivate children to listen to old folk tales, stories, sayings and idioms from their elders and write them in their scrapbooks. These should also be published in the children's magazine published by the school.

Mobile is making noise Academic and cultural competitions held every year in schools can make a significant contribution in developing the artistic talent of children. Children's poetry writing and poetry recitation competitions, Bhangra-Giddha competitions and the recently added Gatka competitions to the martial arts are good examples of this. The 'Khedan Watan Punjab Diyan' campaign launched by the Punjab Education Department has done a commendable job of reviving the heritage games of Punjab. Mobile has become a toy for children, which is making them irritable. The main reason for this is the disconnection from heritage games and literature. Villages of heritage

games of children

There should be competitions from the district level to the state level. Punjab's heritage games should be included in the school curriculum and held regularly.

Let's respect our mother tongue. Language is the mother of culture. If language lives, culture also lives. World-famous Russian author Rasul Hamzatov writes in his book My Dagestan that if you want to curse someone, tell him, 'Go, you will forget your mother tongue.' Only people who are ignorant of their mother tongue are ignorant of their culture. Children should be passionate about their mother tongue. Of course, learn other languages, but they should be proud of speaking, reading and writing Punjabi. Parents should speak Punjabi at home. They should also have a Punjabi newspaper or children's magazine in their homes. With this, children will definitely be interested in reading the newspaper or magazine at home instead of mobile games.

Be a friend to children.

Children are our wealth. Their smiling faces warm the hearts. Every parent wants their child to grow up to be a successful human being. They should become a good human being by fitting into the mold of a proper life path. This can happen only if we try to preserve the childhood of our children. Let us spend as much time as possible with innocent children. Let us laugh, play and talk with them. Let us protect them from bad company. Let us keep information about their friends. Let us parents ourselves become friends of our children. Let us become their ideal role models. Then the soul of the child will blossom, the childhood will blossom. Our domestic and sociocultural fabric will automatically connect the color of his life with culture.

(Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational **Columnist Malout** Punjab)

Awareness Programme for 6th Semester students held at GDC Billawar











Top News Report

BILLAWAR, Apr 5: An awareness programme was organized at Government Degree College (GDC) Billawar on Saturday under the patronage of the Principal, GDC Billawar.

The event was held under the aegis of the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of the college, with a focus on enlightening the outgoing 6th semester students about their future academic and career opportunities after completion of the three-year undergraduate course.

The programme featured informative sessions by distinguished faculty members including Prof. Raj Kiran, Dr. Naresh Sharma, and Prof. Som Raj, who provided comprehensive guidance on the academic pathways available under the New

Education Policy (NEP)

The speakers informed students that they have the opportunity to continue their fourth year of study in the same institution with two distinct options: one with a focus on research and another without research, catering to varied academic interests and goals.

Additionally, students were apprised of the flexibility offered by NEP 2025, wherein they may also choose to exit the college after the third year and pursue a twoyear master's degree from any recognized university, provided they meet the respective admission criteria.

A special session was conducted by Dr. Sanjeev Kumar, who briefed students about the recently launched Prime Minister's Internship Scheme by the Government of India. He

2025. benefits of the scheme and encouraged students to register and actively participate in it,

to enhance their skills and improve employability. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and

the presence of several faculty members, including Dr. Rajesh Sharma, Prof. Rajesh Kumar, Prof. Parveen Kumar, Prof. Bansi Lal (NSS Programme Officer), Dr. Manu Sharma, Dr. Kiran, Prof. Sunita, Dr. Raj Kumar, and Dr. Sartaj Aziz who contributed to the success of the programme with their support and guidance.

The session concluded with a vote of thanks and an interactive Q&A, ensuring clarity and motivation among students as they embark on the next phase of their academic journey.

Three-day course on "Developing **Effective Communication Skills, Responsibility towards General** Public" concludes at SKPA



Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Apr 5: A three-day course on "Developing Effective Communication Skills, Behavior, Attitude, and Responsibility towards the General Public" concluded on Saturday at SKPA.

Twenty four officers/ officials of the J&K Police actively participated in this training program. The course aimed to equip participants with knowledge in emotional intelligence, self-awareness, emotional self-control, expression, soft skills, and emotional intelligence relevance to the police profession.

Topics also included stress and time management, behavior and attitude in managing change within police organizations, selfimprovement, effective communication, core communication skills, the role of media in enhancing policepublic relations, and professional ethics and human values.

A valedictory function was organized at the Academy on this occasion, with Rajinder Kumar Gupta, SSP, Dy. Director (Indoor Trg) as the chief guest.

During his address, Gupta emphasized the critical aspects covered in the course, including effective communication, positive behavior, the right attitude, and responsibility towards the general public.

He encouraged participants to recognize that the skills acquired extend beyond the training room, serving as tools for personal and professional enhancement and contributing positively to society.

Gupta urged the participants to be ambassadors of positive change, fostering understanding and empathy in their interactions.

He emphasized the responsibility that comes with effective communication, as it has the power to shape the world around us.

He encouraged continued practice and refinement of these skills, turning them into habits that become second nature.

Gupta acknowledged the ongoing journey towards becoming better communicators and responsible individuals, trusting that each participant would play a significant role in creating a more connected and harmonious community.

Eminent speakers from various academia, including Swati Basotra (Visiting Faculty, IIT Jammu), Dr. Rashi Taggar (Asstt. Prof., SMVDU Katra), Dr. Karan Nathwani (Asst Professor, IIT Jammu), diatrics, University of Jammu) and Dr. Shazia Bhukhari, Asstt. Prof.. SMVDU Katra shared their valuable experience and knowledge with the participants.

The coordination of the course was led by Chander Lekha, Sr. PO, with assistance from ASI Rajinder Singh.

Jodhamal conducts an orientation program for parents



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 5: Jodhamal Public School's preprimary wing conducted an orientation program for parents. This event provided an opportunity for parents to familiarize themselves with the school's activities and build a connection with teachers.

The program commenced with a welcome address by Deepali Puri, CCA Coordinator (Junior School), followed by a welcome poem recited by Kanishtha Puri. Nandan Kuthiala, Trustee of the school, emphasized the importance of quality speech.

Girish Kumar, Principal, outlined the school's goals for holistic development through exceptional education. Amita Arora, Vice Principal, welcomed attendees and shared updates on collaborative learning initiatives.

The Headmistress, Neetu Johri provided a comprehensive overview of the school's activities, facilities, academic programs, and rules and regulations. Akhil Kohli, Administrative Officer, conducted a precise transport brief-

The event concluded

with the introduction of class teachers. Our LKG students dazzled everyone with their outstanding performance, showcasing confidence and charisma

Parents were taken on a guided tour of the vibrant pre-primary wing. They also received diaries, ID cards, portal IDs, and necessary stationery. The children's adorable welcome activity in their respective classes left everyone in awe.

This event was a resounding success, with parents expressing their excitement and happiness about joining the Jodhamal family.

Vilakshan condemns NC Govt for inadequate pension increase for old aged, widows, divyanags

Top News Report

JAMMU Apr 5: Vilakshan Singh, President of the Jammu & Kashmir National Panthers Party (Bhim), has strongly condemned the National Conference (NC) government for what he describes as a "meager and inadequate" increase in the pensions payable to senior citizens, widows, and Divyangs (persons with disabilities).

In a statement issued today, Singh criticized the NC government's recent decision whereby the pension amounts

have been nominally increased, calling it a "cruel joke" on the marginalized sections of society who are already struggling to make ends meet amid rising inflation and economic challenges.

"The paltry increment announced by the NC government reflects their insensitivity and apathy towards the most vulnerable members of our society. It is unacceptable that those, who are unable to maintain themselves, are being neglected in their time of need," Singh stated. He further demanded

that the government should urgently revisit its decision and ensure a substantial and meaningful increase in pension amounts to provide genuine relief and dignity to the elderly, widows, and Divyangs.

He demanded that the amount of pension must be increased to at least Rs. 5000/-per month.

The Jammu & Kashmir National Panthers Party (Bhim) vows to continue its fight for social justice and will not rest until the grievances of these marginalized groups are adequately addressed.

GDC Ramgarh students participate in Global-Level Career Dr. Ankita Choudhary Growth webinar by GRAD GURU and WIPRO DICE Administrative Secretary, RDD Shashanka (Child Psychologist, Department of Pae-Top News Report Bhagwati Nagar and verified and powered by sion served as a great

RAMGARH, Apr 5: The students of Government Degree College Ramgarh actively participated in a Global Level Career Growth Session organized by GRAD GURU E-Cell, IIT Hyderabad, in collaboration with Government College for Women WIPRO DICE I'D.

The webinar aimed to equip students with essential industry-relevant skills and offer valuable insights into career development. It was conducted free of cost and concluded with the distribution of certified participation certificates,

WIPRO DICE I'D.

The participation of GDC Ramgarh students took place under the directions and encouragement of Prof. (Dr.) Meeru Abrol, Principal of the college.

The event organized by the HOD Punjabi, Dr. Snobar. The ses-

platform for students

to interact, learn from industry experts, and gain exposure to global career opportunities.

The students of GDC Ramgarh showed enthusiastic participation, reflecting their keen interest in building a future-ready skill set.

Ala visits SRMC at Chuchot Yokma **Top News Report**

LEH, Apr 5: The Administrative Secretary of the Rural Development Department, Shashanka Ala, IAS, visited the Solid Resource Management Centre (SRMC) at Chuchot Yokma to review the ongoing developmental works under the Rural Development initiatives.

During the visit, the Block Development Officer (BDO) of Chuchot, along with concerned staff members and onsite personnel, briefed the Secretary about the current progress and implementation status



of the project. The team provided detailed insights into the operational aspects and objectives of the SRMC.

The Secretary also inspected other key facilities in the area, including the Panchayat Ghar and the Common Facility Centre (CFC) of Chuchot Yokma. The visit concluded with an inspection of the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) outlets, which have been recently constructed within the same compound.

The visit emphasized the department's commitment to strengthening rural infrastructure, promoting sustainable waste management practices, and empowering local communities through livelihood initia-

Kaith Music Factory felicitates K.K.Malhotra

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 5: Kaith Music Factory on Saturday felicitated Renowned Video Director K.K.Malhotra for promoting Dogri bhajans.

Speaking on the occasion, R L.Kaith said, "His video is absolutely stunning!

He had such a great eye for detail, and the way he captures the songs is truly magical."



On being felicitated, K.K.Khanna said,, "I am deeply grateful for this honour and the recogni-

tion it represents. I thank Kaith Music Factory for believing in me and my

Chamba residents unite to honour Shaheed Tariq Ahmad's sacrifice



Top News Report

KATRA, Apr 5: A large gathering of religious scholars, citizens, and senior officials from the police and civil administration participated in the recitation of the Holy Quran and Fateha for the forgiveness of Shaheed Tariq

Ahmad, who sacrificed his life for the nation. Thousands of residents of Chamba, Katra, and beyond have continued to visit the home of the martyr to offer their heartfelt condolences.

The tragic loss has deeply affected the community. Shaheed Tariq Ahmad's martyrdom has left a vacuum that words cannot fill. Despite the overwhelming grief, there remains a profound sense of pride among his family and the people who mourn his loss, knowing that he gave everything for the nation he loved.

Social activist and Urdu-Dogri writer Abdul Quddir Kundria, who was present during the final salute to the martyrs on the evening of March 28, 2025, described the sorrowful moment at Kathua, where tears flowed endlessly from the eyes of family members and onlookers alike. At around 9 PM, after the official honors were paid, the bodies of the martyrs were handed over to their respective

families. Shaheed Tariq

Ahmad's body was returned to his home in Chamba, Katra, in a solemn procession, accompanied by police and administrative offi-

The emotional weight

of the moment was felt deeply by the martyr's family, particularly his wife, three-yearold daughter, parents, and siblings, who are struggling to come to terms with the loss of their beloved husband, father, and son. The family, known for its simplicity and dignity, continues to endure a sorrow that words cannot fully express. While their pain is immeasurable, there is also a deep pride that their loved one made the ultimate sacrifice for

his country.

In light of this loss, Abdul Quddir Kundria has appealed to the public to extend their support to the grieving families, ensuring they do not face financial hardship during this difficult period.

He emphasized the importance of community support to help the family through the ongoing official formalities and to provide comfort during this tragic

The memory of Shaheed Tariq Ahmad will forever live on in the hearts of his family, friends, and the nation. His selflessness and courage will be remembered as a testament to the valor and sacrifice of those who serve their country with unwavering devotion.

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Perception has been built that only comedy films are made in Punjabi cinema: Gippy Grewal

Actor-director Gippy Grewal says he has often tried to push the boundaries of Punjabi cinema by attempting different kinds of genre and his upcoming film "Akaal" is yet another step towards that.

Grewal said the success of his 2011 film, "Jinhe Mera Dil Luteya" paved the way for an influx of comedy films such as "Carry on Jatta", and "Jaat & Juilet" in the industry. The actor soon recognised the need to create diverse content and made "Ardaas", a drama, which was followed by action film "Warning"

"The perception has been built that only comedy films are made in Punjabi cinema. People back then felt this was a safe genre, and about 15 to 16 comedy films were made back-to-back. When we made 'Ardaas' a lot of people said 'This film will not do well', but it did well.

"Later, we made 'Warning'. We also made 'Saukan Saunkane', which is a story of two women, and that film did well too. Later, different genres of films were released (and broke the stereotype) and did well commercially. So, a good film definitely works well commercially," the actor told PTI in an interview.

Grewal has also written and directed "Akaal" besides acting

The film follows the story of Sardar Akaal Singh (Grewal)



and his village as they face a vengeful assault by Jangi Jahan (Nikitin Dheer) and his forces after the death of Maharaja Ranjeet Singh.

Known for films like "Carry On Jatta", "Singh vs Kaur", "Jatt James Bond", and "Manje Bistre", the actor-director said stories of courage deserve cinematic exploration.

"I thought this is the right time to bring this story today because they motivate us... This film portrays the warriors and what the environment was like then. We believe people will like this film. The story is of Sikhs (people), but that doesn't mean we have said anything wrong about other people or religions.'

With "Akaal", Grewal said the biggest challenge was to nail the screenplay. He said he had originally drafted the screenplay differently but realised it needed correction to resonate with Pun-

"It was initially VFX-heavy, so I had to strip it down and redo both the story and the screenplay," the 42-year-old actor

iabi audiences.

The filmmaker, who has previously helmed "Ardaas", "Ardaas Karaan", and "Shava Ni Girdhari Lal", expressed gratitude to Karan Johar for backing the period-drama, which is set for release on April 10.

"We didn't make this film before because we didn't have the budget, but today we've it and felt, 'The time is right'. Puniabi cinema has grown, people recognise us and appreciate our work, so the reach of the film will be big. But with Dharma (Productions) coming into picture, our film got bigger," he said.

"Akaal" marks Grewal's maiden collaboration as a filmmaker in Bollywood but he had previously acted in films like "Second Hand Husband" (2015) and "Lucknow Central" (2017). He didn't attain success as an actor in Hindi cinema.

"Today, more than how you've performed or worked, the choices vou make are often talked about, and the actor is given a ranking based on the box office collection (of their films). We are doing good work in Punjabi films, and our box office is also

"But this film ('Akaal') has become bigger because we are doing it in Hindi with our Punjabi film, and it will be dubbed and later be seen by many people, and it's a proud thing for us," he

Actor-singer Nimrat Khaira, who portrays the female lead the movie, said she underwent rigorous training in sword fighting and horse riding.

"When I first started training, I was unable to pick up the sword, I was like, 'How will I do this?' But thanks to the action team, they helped me and things became easy for me. There were precautions taken (by makers) so that no one sustains injury," the actor, known for movies like "Lahoriye", and "Saunkan Saunkne", said.

Sonali Bendre's Book of Books to hit the stands on April 23



Actress Sonali Bendre Behl will share her long-standing passion for books in her latest publication, A Book of Books, which will hit the stands on April 23, HarperCollins India announced.

The book, which has '13 reasons why everyone should read', is aimed at everyone who loves books.

Bendre's second nonfiction also suggests what to read, with recommendations for children, young adults and adults, across genres and for varied reading interests. "Reading has been my constant companion, shaping my perspectives and enriching my life in countless

With A Book of Books, I hope to share this joy and help readers—both young and old-cultivate a lifelong love for

This book is more than just about books; it's a guide, a journal, and a friend in every reader's journey. I believe the stories have power to connect, heal and inspire, and I wanted to create something that encourages that connection," the Sarfarosh actress said in a statement.

The award-winning actress turned author with The Modern Gurukul: My Experiment with Parenting in 2015 in which she shared her experiences as a mother navigating modern parenting. Bendre's love for books inspired her to create 'Sonali's Book Club', a digital community celebrating literature and meaningful conversa-

The book, priced at Rs 599, is available on preorder.

For actress Vibhuti Thakur, learning never ends

For actress Vibhuti Thakur, her journey in the entertainment industry has been one of continuous growth and self-improvement. Without any formal training in acting, she has learned everything through real-world experiences. Reflecting on her journey, she says, "I have evolved a lot since I first started acting. Over time, I discovered my strengths and weaknesses, learned voice modulation and understood camera angles. These experiences have helped me become a better actor."

Vibhuti believes that acting for different mediums requires different skill sets. "In TV, one needs to hold emotions for a longer time, while advertisements require subtle expressions. Web series demand natural dialogue delivery. Understanding these nuances has been an important part of my



evolution as an actor," she explains. She credits observation as one of her biggest learning tools. "Since I didn't go to an acting school, I observe people—their mannerisms, reactions and emotions. I also

learn a lot from my costars, watching how they prepare and bring their characters to life.' Vibhuti acknowledges that she still has a long way to go. "Acting is like an ocean; the learning never ends.

Palak Tiwari on criticism of new-gen actors

Actor Palak Tiwari, who stars alongside Sanjay Dutt and Mouni Roy in the upcoming horror-comedy 'The Bhootnii', is refreshingly candid about the uncertainty and pressure that come with being part of Bollywood's new generation. In a conversation with agency, Palak opened up about what it means to be a young actor today-and why she still believes the best is yet to come.

"Yeah, it scared me a bit," she admits about the uncertainty looming over Bollywood, adding, 'But also, I feel like I believe in my generation. I really do believe in us, and I feel like we will get our audiences to love us at some point. It might take us longer than it did for previous generations, but I just truly believe in my heart that... us actors and us filmmakers right now love cinema as much as you do."

Tiwari accepts that everyone right now is confused. However, "We



want the same things, and it might take us longer than our predecessors, because they were brilliant. But hopefully we'll get there."

Palak's reflections come amid a wave of criticism directed at new-age performers, often seen as disconnected or lacking staying power. "The feedback or the criticism is harsher than ever. I get that audiences are frustrated. I think we, as actors, are frustrated as well."

When it comes to choosing projects, Palak says her instincts have evolved. "With my first film, I didn't know what I wanted. I just wanted to be out there. And I'm so grateful for Salman sir. People can say whatever they want, I would have done it no other way. I learned what it means to truly be an actor, and a successful one."

She speaks of Salman Khan with deep admiration, "He's just so hardworking, and I've learned so much from him. These are values I'll carry with me till the day I die. It was literally invaluable to me that I was with him for my first film."

Her second film, she explains, was about growth. "I wanted to show my prowess a little bit more—how much I've developed so far—and I got that with 'The Bhootnii' and Sidhaant Sachdev. I wanted somebody to really see me and say, 'Hey, I'm looking at you."

She mentions, "It's a frustrating time in the world. But I think 2025 will be a great year for cinema-and for all of us in general. There's a lot to Bollywood that still hasn't been explored. We have a deep legacy behind us, but I think a new Bollywood will find its place as well."

"At this point, as a new artist, I know I want to do everything. All kinds of work. I'm there. Call me." she concludes.

'The Bhootnii' is set to hit screens on April 18,

Fatima Sana Shaikh: Fashion is an expression of who you want to be

Actor Fatima Sana Shaikh has never succumbed to the fashion norms set by the industry and paved a path of her own.

Ask her how and she says, "I realised fashion is an expression of who you want to be, and that means you don't have to fit in the brackets and the norms created. The moment you wear something that makes you feel comfortable and good about yourself, it doesn't matter what it

Explaining her understanding of fashion, the actor says, "My fashion language is comfortable and easy. I do not have a defined but a very fluid

The only thing that I'm

very particular about is the tailoring. If the tailoring is not good, that really irks me. It's a pet peeve of mine.'

But does her profession influence her style? "I am an actor, but I also have a personally of my

So, the game is to merge both my vision and my personality and not to make me somebody else but to make me a better version or an interesting version of myself."

Fatima also has an undying love for colours in her wardrobe. "I have understood that there are certain colours that compliment your skin tone and it's so interesting that a particular palette would make you



feel like as if your skin is glowing.

The science of colour and the mood is so interesting. I always have a little colour here and there."

Living in the modern world, the actor who will next be seen in Aap Jaisa Koi, is a fan of the sarees. "I love wearing sarees. I am the most comfortable when I'm in a saree.

There was a phase in between where I used to wear sarees casually too like while going to movies.

Women is sarees look so stunning. The best thing is that it covers all the uncomfortable areas, yet it shows the curves and is still sexy," she ends.

Dipika Chikhlia joins Badi Haveli Ki Chhoti Thakurain



Shemaroo Umang's popular show Badi Haveli Ki Chhoti Thakurain is set for a major turning point as an unexpected twist is about to change the course of the story — the arrival of a divine force in the form of Guru Maa, played by the actress Dipika Chikhlia.

A name synonymous with devotion and grace, Dipika, fondly remembered by millions as Sita from Ramanand Sagar's Ramayan, now steps into the pivotal role of Guru Maa. Her character will act as a spiritual mentor, revealing to Chaina that she is Jaiveer's (Sheel Verma) Rakshini, and will serve as a catalyst for dramatic shifts in the haveli.

Railway projects to improve connectivity infrastructure: PM Modi

PM Modi said the Cabinet's nod to Vibrant Villages Programme-II is an "exceptional news" for ensuring a better quality of life in border villages.

NEW DELHI, Apr 5 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday that his government's nod to four multi-tracking railway projects will improve connectivity infrastructure, boost convenience, reduce logistics costs and strengthen supply chains.

He was reacting to the Union Cabinet's approval for four projects of the Ministry of Railways involving a total cost of about Rs 18,658 crore, a government press note said.

The four projects covering 15 districts in three states of Maharashtra, Odisha and Chhattisgarh will increase the existing network of Indian Railways by about 1,247 km.



PM Modi said the Cabinet's nod to Vibrant Villages Programme-II is an "exceptional news" for ensuring a better quality of life in border villages. He said, "With this approval, we are also expanding the scope of the villages covered compared to Vibrant Villages Programme-I."

The objective of the programme is to create better living

conditions and adequate livelihood opportunities to ensure prosperous and safe borders, control trans-border crimes and assimilate the border population with the nation and inculcate them 'as eyes and ears of the border guarding forces', crucial for internal security.

With a total outlay of Rs 6,839 crore, the programme will be implemented in select strategic villages in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal till 2028-29, a statement said.

UP to emerge as prosperous state in next 3 years with eradication of poverty: Adityanath

MAHARAJGANJ, Apr 5 (Agencies): Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday said Uttar Pradesh will emerge as a prosperous state in the next three years by eradicating poverty and his government will make the state's economy number one in the country.

Addressing an event here, the chief minister also attacked previous governments, saying they encouraged "one district, one mafia" while the BJP government has replaced it with "one district, one medical college".

Adityanath is in Maharajganj for the inauguration of the Rohin Barrage.

He will also lay the foundation stones of and inaugurate 629 developmental projects worth Rs 654, according to the state government.

"In the next three years, Uttar Pradesh will be established as a prosperous state by eradicating poverty. We will make Uttar Pradesh the number one economy in the country by achieving the target of zero poverty," he said.

"Uttar Pradesh is no longer a BIMARU state. Maharajganj is no longer a backward district," he said.

The acronym 'BIMARU' (sick) was coined by demographer Ashish Bose in the mid-1980s, formed from the first letters of names of some of the country's



then poorest states — Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

"Earlier governments used to encourage 'one

district, one mafia'. We have replaced their mafia with 'one district, one medical college'," Adityanath told the gathering

AAP alleges 'education mafia' back in Delhi, slams BJP over fee hike in private schools

NEW DELHI, Apr 5 (Agencies): The Aam Aadmi Party on Saturday launched a sharp attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Delhi Government, accusing it of allowing private schools to arbitrarily hike fees.

Addressing a press conference, senior AAP leader and former Education Minister Manish Sisodia alleged that the BJP Government had handed over Delhi's education system to the "education mafia".

"Ever since the BJP Government came to power in Delhi, people have been suffering. Medicines are not avail-

able in hospitals, there are long power cuts, and now private schools are looting parents by increasing fees," Sisodia said.

Claiming that several private schools have hiked fees by 20 to 82 per cent, he accused the Government of inaction.

"Parents are worried. Children are being denied classes if their parents can't pay the increased fees, and the school administration isn't listening.

The BJP Government is a silent spectator," he said.

In a post on microblogging site X. AAP



minister Atishi reiterated the allegations and demanded a Central Bureau of Investigation

inquiry.
"Watch through this press conference how Arvind Kejriwal's Government, after coming to power in 2015, stopped

private schools from increasing fees arbi-

But as soon as the BJP Government came, these schools again got a free hand to loot," she said.

She questioned how private schools that

had not raised fees in a decade were now doing so within a month of BJP's takeover. "Is the BJP Government complicit in this?" she asked.

Earlier on Friday, AAP national convener and former chief minister Arvind Kejriwal also took to X to share a news clipping about fee hike at a private school in Dwarka.

"In 10 years, we didn't allow private schools in Delhi to hike their fees arbitrarily.

We ended the education mafia. Within just a month of their (BJP) Government taking over, the education mafia has returned," he said.

Lay down arms, be part of Bastar's development journey: Amit Shah to Naxals



DANTEWADA, Apr 5 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said Naxals would not be able to stop the development of tribals in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region and urged them to lay down arms while asserting that nobody is happy when they are killed.

Addressing the closing ceremony of the state government's 'Bastar Pandum' festival, Shah reiterated that the government is committed to eliminating the Naxal menace by March 2026, adding that those who surrender will become part of the mainstream while the rest will be taken on by security forces.

"The days when bullets were fired and bombs exploded in Bastar are over. I urge

Naxalite brothers to lay down arms and join the mainstream. You are our own. No one feels happy when any Naxalite is killed. Just surrender your weapons and join the mainstream. You cannot stop the development of your tribal brothers and sisters by taking up arms," he said offering an olive branch to the outlawed movement.

Shah said surrendered ultras who become part of the development process will get full protection from the Union and state governments.

"This region needs development. Prime Minister Narendra Modi wants to give everything to Bastar in five years. Bastar has not seen development in 50 years. However, this can only happen when children go to school,

tehsils have health facilities. Each one has Aadhaar card, ration card and health insurance," he said.

ance," he said.

Development can only happen when the people of Bastar decide they will make their homes and villages

Naxalite-free, he said.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai and Deputy CM Vijay Sharma have declared that villages which help in surrender of Naxalites and declare themselves Maoist free will be given Rs 1 crore (worth of construction works), Shah pointed out.

"A total of 521 Naxals have laid down arms so far in 2025, while 881 surrendered in 2024. Those Naxalites who have understood there is no need of arms, IEDs and grenades for development but computers and pens have surrendered," Shah said.

Hailing the 'Bastar Pandum' festival, Shah said it will organised at the national level next year, adding that he would request President Droupadi Murmu to grace the opening ceremony and to bless tribal brothers and sisters.

BJP leaders kept trying for Shiv Sena (UBT)'s support on Waqf bill till last minute, claims Raut

MUMBAI, Apr 5 (Agencies): Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Saturday claimed that top Central and Maharashtra BJP leaders were in touch with the Uddhav Thackeray-led party seeking its support for the passage of the Waqf Amendment Bill.

Raut alleged the legislation was brought by the government to bring corruption into the legal framework and grab Rs 2 lakh crore of land for "dear industrialists of the BJP".

He claimed that the BJP pressured the Naveen Patnaik-led Biju Janta Dal till the last minute to support the bill in Lok Sabha. Though the BJD opposed the bill, it didn't issue any whip to its members and asked them to vote



according to their conscience.

"They did the same with us but we didn't agree. Till the last minute, senior BJP leaders from Maharashtra and Delhi were in touch with Shiv Sena (UBT)," the Rajya Sabha member told reporters.

The bill has not been passed by a huge majority, and the government

did not even get 300 votes. "Our (Opposition's) figure would have swelled but some of our members were not present or ill," Raut added.

The Rajya Sabha passed the Bill Thursday night, a day after Lok Sabha had given the contentious draft law, which was strongly opposed by a united opposition.

15-year-old girl gang-raped in Bihar's Rohtas, accused held

PATNA, Apr 5 (Agencies): A 15-yearold girl was gang raped by two youth in Bihar's Rohtas district, police said on Saturday.

The incident took place when the victim, a native of Aurangabad district, had gone to her relative's house to attend a wedding ceremony in Rohtas district on Friday.

The youth, stated to be resident of a village under Amjhor police station limits in Rohtas district, lured the girl, took her to a secluded place and raped her.

The family members started searching for the victim when she went missing from the wedding function. Later they came to know that the girl was lying unconscious in a nearby field. She was rushed to a hospital at Sasaram,

the district headquarter town of Rohtas. Shyam Kumar, station house officer (SHO) of Amjhor police station, said that the girl has been sent to the hospital for medical examination. "The victim's statement will be recorded after she overcomes the trauma, she under-

went due to the incident," he added.

The SHO said that the accused-Shahzad Raen and Salman Raza--



have been arrested and produced before the chief judicial magistrate who sent them in judicial custody for 14 days. They are stated to be residents of the same village where the victim had come to attend the wedding ceremony.

An investigating officer said that the rape survivor is shocked over the incident and is not willing to talk to anybody. "Counselling is being done so that she overcomes the trauma as early as possible," the police officer said.

The SHO said that the case will be recommended for speedy trial under POCSO Act. The victim is undergoing treatment under police protection, he said. The medical report is still awaited.

13-year-old cancer patient undergoing chemo raped, impregnated; accused arrested

PUNE, Apr 5 (Agencies): A man has been arrested for allegedly raping and impregnating a 13-year-old cancer patient in Maharashtra's Thane district, the police said on Saturday.

The 29-year-old accused was apprehended from Bihar on Thursday, an official said.

According to the police, the accused, who was from the same village as the girl's family in Bihar, had arranged for a rented accommodation for them in Badlapur two months ago and assisted in her treatment.

Assistant Commissioner of Police Shailesh Kale said the man allegedly took advantage of the girl when she was alone at home, sexually assaulting her on three occasions.

The child was undergoing chemotherapy at a hospital in Mumbai, and during a routine examination, she was found to be pregnant, he said.

Following this, a case was registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the official said.

"The accused had arranged for the victim's family to stay in Badlapur and was helping with her treatment. During this time, he raped her and she got pregnant," senior inspector Kiran Balwadkar said.

During this time, he raped her and she got pregnant," mo senior inspector Kiran Balwadkar said.

The arrested accused has been remanded in judicial tim custody, and further investigations are underway.

Woman drags mother-in-law by hair, beats up husband in Gwalior



GWALIOR, Apr 5 (Agencies): An elderly woman and her son were brutally assaulted by the man's wife and her family in Madhya Prdaesh's Gwalior. The incident, which occurred on April 4, was captured on CCTV and has gone viral on social media.

According to complainant Vishal Batra, his wife Neelika had been pressuring him for over a year to evict his 70-year-old mother, Sarla Batra, and send her to an old-age home. Vishal, however, refused due to his mother's health. This led to frequent arguments between them.

The situation escalated when Neelika allegedly called her father and brother to their residence. Vishal was physically assaulted by Neelika's brother, while his mother Sarla was dragged by her hair, thrown to the ground, and beaten multiple times by Neelika. A CCTV footage of the incident confirmed the incident.

Sarla Batra said that her daughter-in-law had been abusing her for several days but she remained silent to avoid troubling her son. However, when Vishal was attacked, she intervened, only to be assaulted in front of him.

Fearing for their lives, Vishal and his mother approached the police station and filed a complaint. They alleged that Neelika's father and brother threatened to kill them even inside the police station. The mother and son have since left their home and are seeking help.

Speaking to the reporters outside police

Speaking to the reporters outside police station, Vishal said, "I was attacked inside my house. Around 10-15 people entered and assaulted me and my mother. My wife has been harassing me to throw my mother out of the house."

Sarla Batra added, "Neelika, her father and her brother beat us. My daughter-in-law wants me to leave the house. She has been abusing me daily. I came to the SP office to seek justice."

Chief Superintendent of Police (CSP) Robin Jain confirmed that a case has been registered based on Sarla Batra's complaint. "We have received a complaint from the mother-in-law against the daughter-in-law. An FIR has been registered, and action will be taken based on the findings," he said.

Sri Lanka will not permit its territory to be used against India: Sri Lanka Pres Dissanayake

COLOMBO, Apr 5 (Agencies): Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake on Saturday reaffirmed his government's commitment to India's security and regional stability, stating, "I reaffirmed Sri Lanka's stand that it will not permit its territory to be used in any manner inimical to the security of India as well as towards regional stability."

He was speaking in Colombo following delegation-level talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is on a State visit to the island nation.

The President also sought Prime Minister Modi's support on a key maritime issue. "I requested Prime Minister Modi's intervention in convening early bilateral technical discussions pertaining to Sri Lanka's claim to the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf for the Establishment of the Outer limits of the Continental Shelf beyond Exclusive Economic Zone," he

Dissanayake highlighted the potential for cooperation in technology and governance, adding, "Sri Lanka recognises the importance of developing a digital economy to drive growth, innovation and efficiency. Furthering this policy initiative, Prime Minister Modi and I discussed possible collaboration in digitali-



sation in multiple domains." Acknowledging India's role in Sri Lanka's digital transformation, he stated, "I thank the Government of India for the financial grant of Indian Rupees 300 crores to implement Sri Lanka's unique Digital Identity Project."

President Dissanayake also announced that Sri Lanka will honour Prime Minister Modi with its highest civilian award. "I am pleased to announce that the Government of Sri Lanka has decided to confer upon him the highest Sri Lanka honour -Sri Lanka Mitra Vibhushana... Prime Minister Modi highly deserves this honour; that is

what we firmly believe." Underscoring the long-stand-

ing bond between the two neighbours, the President said, "The friendship between India and Sri Lanka is very close... We are neighbours with deep historical, religious and cultural ties that go back over a long period of time and our time-tested relationship

is built on shared values, mutual

respect and common interests." The two leaders met for formal delegation-level talks earlier in the day. They warmly greeted each other before the discussions began. The Indian delegation included External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, and other senior officials. During the meeting, India, Sri Lanka, and the UAE also signed a trilateral

Memorandum of Understanding in the presence of both heads of state.

Prime Minister Modi is visiting Sri Lanka from April 4 to 6 at the invitation of President Dissanayake. According to India's Ministry of External Affairs, the visit is focused on reviewing progress in priority areas identified under the Joint Vision for "Fostering Partnerships for a Shared Future," which was adopted during the Sri Lankan President's visit to India.

Earlier on Saturday, Sri Lanka accorded PM Modi a ceremonial welcome at Independence Square--the first time a visiting leader has received such an honour. Modi's arrival on Friday marked his first visit to the country since 2019 and follows his participation in the BIMSTEC Summit in Thailand.

Despite heavy rain, six Sri Lankan ministers received PM Modi at the airport. "Landed in Colombo. Grateful to the ministers and dignitaries who welcomed me at the airport. Looking forward to the programs in Sri Lanka," he posted on X. Later, the Prime Minister interacted with the Indian diaspora and witnessed a traditional puppet performance. He is also scheduled to visit Anuradhapura to inaugurate India-funded development projects.

Russia's 'chessboard killer' ready to confess to 11 more murders, penal service says



MOSCOW, Apr 5 (Agencies): Alexander Pichushkin, a Russian serial killer jailed for life in 2007 for killing 48 people, has said he is ready to confess to 11 more murders, Russia's penal service said on Saturday.

Pichushkin, now 50 years old, targeted his victims, often homeless people, alcoholics and the elderly, around Bitsevsky Park, a large green place in southern Moscow. His killings lasted from 1992 to 2006.

He was nicknamed "the chessboard killer" by the Russian media because he told detectives in a confession that he had hoped to put a coin on every square of a 64-square chessboard for each of his victims.

Pichushkin has been held at the Polar Owl prison, in Russia's remote Arctic north,

since being sentenced. In a statement published on the Telegram messenger app on Saturday, Russia's penal service said that Pichushkin had told investigators he was ready to confess to 11 more murders of men and women.

Pichushkin has long been suspected of additional murders to those for which he was convicted.

He claimed during his trial to have killed 63 people, but prosecutors only charged him with 48 murders and three attempted murders.

If convicted of the additional murders, it would make Pichushkin Russia's second most prolific serial killer on record. behind Mikhail Popkov, a former policeman convicted of 78 murders.

Human rights activist raises voice against women atrocities, discrimination in Pakistan

GLASGOW, Apr 5 (Agencies): Anila Gulzar, a prominent human rights activist from Pakistan, has condemned gender discrimination and atrocities against women in Pakistan.

Anila, who belongs to the Christian minority group in Pakistan, "Pakistan stated, has long struggled with gender inequality and systemic violence against women. Despite legal frameworks designed to protect women's rights, the reality remains grim, spread discrimination, harassment, honour killings, forced marriages, and restricted access to education and employment. The plight of Pakistani women has drawn international attention, yet meaningful change remains elusive due to entrenched societal norms, weak law enforcement, and a lack of political will."

She highlighted that in Pakistan, discrimination against women starts at birth and persists throughout their lives. A strong preference for male children results in unequal access to healthcare, nutrition, and education for girls. In numerous households, girls are viewed as an economic burden, which perpetuates cycles of early marriage and restricts their career prospects.

She stated that Pakistan lags behind many developing countries in terms of education. "According to the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report, Pakistan ranks among the lowest in gender equality, particularly in access to education and economic participation. Rural areas, where patriarchal customs dominate, see a much higher rate of female school dropouts due to family restrictions, early marriages, or financial constraints,' expressed Anila.

She further con-



demned the situation of Pakistani women in the workplace. She lamented, "Women make up only 22 per cent of the workforce in Pakiharassment, wage gaps, and fewer opportunities for leadership positions. The corporate sector remains largely maledominated, and women in industries such as media, politics, and law enforcement often experience systemic bias, sexual and threats to their safety.'

One of the most severe forms of violence against women in Pakistan is honour killing, where women are killed by their own family members for supposedly bringing "shame" to the family, as cited by the human rights activist. These killings are frequently connected to actions such as marrying for love, rejecting arranged marriages, or even small accusations of misconduct.

The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) has reported that approximately 1,000 women are killed annually in honour-based crimes, although the real number is likely higher due to under-reporting.

A significant case of violence against women in Pakistan was the 2016 murder of social media personality Qandeel Baloch, who was strangled by her brother for defying societal norms and living an independent life. Although her case gained international attention, many other victims remain unnoticed and unpunished due to legal loopholes that allow family members to "forgive" the perpetrators, granting them impunity, Anila

Gulzar cited.

She further cited that rape cases in Pakistan have risen sharply, with many victims receiving little to no justice due to victim-blaming and societal stigma. A particularly shocking case in 2020 involved a woman being gangraped on a highway in Lahore in front of her children, which sparked national outrage. However, the response from law enforcement was appalling, as a senior police officer blamed the victim for traveling alone at night. Marital rape is still largely unrecognised as a crime, leaving many women vulnerable within their own homes. Victims of sexual violence often face enormous pressure to remain silent due to fear of retaliation, honour-based violence, or a lack of support from authorities.

Anila focused that despite Pakistan having laws meant to protect women, their enforcement remains weak. Laws such as the Anti-Rape Ordinance and the Protection of Women Act exist, but are ineffective in practice due to corruption, police negligence, and deeply rooted misogyny within the judicial system. In many instances, rapists and honour killers are able to escape justice through out-of-court settlements or "blood money" agreements, further deterring victims from seeking jus-

tice. Women who report

violence often face harassment, threats, or pressure to withdraw

She condemned the issue of early marriage and lamented that early and forced marriages continue to be a serious issue in Pakistan, particularly in rural areas. Although the legal minimum marriage age for girls is set at 16 (and 18 in some provinces), many underage girls are forced into marriage due to economic difficulties, cultural practices. or tribal customs. The practice of Vani, where girls are given in marriage to settle family disputes, persists despite being banned. Victims of forced marriages often suffer from domestic violence, lack of education, and complete dependence on their husbands.

Misinterpretations of religious teachings are often used to justify discriminatory practices against women. Women advocating for their rights frequently face backlash from conservative groups, who accuse them of promoting "Western values" or challenging religious norms.

Despite these challenges, Pakistani women continue to fight for their rights. Movements like Aurat March have gained momentum, with women across the country demanding justice, equality, and an end to gender-based violence. Social media has provided a platform for survivors to share their stories and expose injustices. Pakistani female activists, journalists, and lawyers are playing a vital role in challenging discriminatory laws and practices.

The situation of women in Pakistan remains a critical human rights issue. While there have been advancements in legal reforms and awareness, systemic gender discrimination and violence continue to hold women back.

China says 'market has spoken' after US tariffs spark selloff "The market has ing extra levies of 34%

BEIJING, Apr 5 (Agencies): China said on Saturday "the market has spoken" in rejecting **US President Donald** Trump's tariffs, and called on Washington for "equal-footed consultation" after global markets' dramatic reaction to the trade levies, which drew Chinese retaliation.

Several Chinese commerce associations in industries from healthcare and textiles to electronics also issued statements on Saturday calling for unity in exploring alternative markets and warning that the tariffs would worsen inflation in the

spoken," Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said in a post on Facebook on Saturday morning. He also posted a picture capturing Friday's falls on US markets.

Trump introduced additional 34% tariffs on Chinese goods as part of steep levies imposed on most US trade partners, bringing the total duties on China this year to 54%.

Trump also closed a trade loophole that had allowed low-value packages from China to enter the US duty-free.

This prompted sweeping retaliation from China on Friday, includon all US goods and export curbs on some rare earths, escalating the trade war between the world's two largest economies. Global stock markets

plummeted following China's retaliation and Trump's comments on Friday that he would not change course, extending sharp losses that followed Trump's initial tariff announcement earlier in the week and marking the biggest losses since the pandemic. For the week, the S&P 500 was down 9%.

"Now is the time for the US to stop doing the wrong things and resolve the differences with trading partners through equal-footed consultation," Guo wrote in English.

China's chamber of commerce representing traders in food products called on "China's food and agricultural products import and export industry to unite and strengthen cooperation to jointly explore domestic and foreign markets.'

The metals and chemicals traders' chamber said the tariffs "will push up the import cost for US importers and the consumption cost for consumers, exacerbate domestic inflation in the US, and increase the possibility of a US recession."

SAKIGAKE Japan emerges as global leader in disaster preparedness

TOKYO, Apr 5 (Agencies): As natural disasters become increasingly frequent and severe due to global climate change, Japanese defence disaster company SAKIGAKE Japan is emerging as a global leader in disaster risk reduction.

Specialising in disaster countermeasures, the company is committed to minimising casualties and damage around the world.

The name "SAKIGAKE," meaning "spearhead," reflects the company's pioneering spirit. Under the leadership of CEO Munetoshi Kondoh, SAKIGAKE Japan has developed a wide range of innovative products and services to address the escalating threats posed by natural disasters.

Working in close collaboration with the Institute of Industrial Science at Tokyo University, Kondoh and his team have engineered solutions that are drawing international attention.

SAKIGAKE Japan offers a comprehensive suite of advanced technologies designed to enhance disaster preparedness and response. Among its key innovations is a seismic-resistant wall coating material capable of reinforcing structures to withstand earthquakes of up to magnitude 7. The company also provides portable refrigerator-freezer systems, essential for preserving medical supplies and vaccines in emergency conditions. Its heliport illumination systems

ensure safe nighttime emergency landings, while early earthquake detection systems provide critical seconds of warning that can save lives. To address the increasing threat of climate-induced weather events, SAKIGAKE has also developed specialised flood alert systems.

Complementing these technologies is a comprehensive training program for certified Disaster Measurement Specialists--professionals trained in evacuation planning, damage assessment, and the continuity of essential production

Often referred to as a "department store of disaster countermeasures," SAKIGAKE Japan's holistic and forward-thinking approach is gaining international recognition and implementation.

Following major earthquakes in Myanmar and Thailand, SAKIGAKE received a surge of global inquiries. Its flagship wallstrengthening material has already been deployed in school buildings in the Philippines and adopted in public construction projects in Indonesia, with an expected protective lifespan of 20 to 30 years.

Thailand has also expressed interest, and SAKIGAKE is dispatching a team of investigators this April to assess building survivability and recommend solutions.

Meanwhile, in India, the Bengal State Administration has initiated consultations with the company to develop a comprehensive solution for severe drought conditions, further expanding SAKIGAKE's global footprint.

One of SAKIGAKE Japan's most impactful contributions is the development of the Disaster Measurement Specialist certification program. Recognised as a formal qualification by cooperative organisations, these specialists are equipped to lead disaster response operations, conduct damage assessments, and implement continuity plans for vital services and industries.

This initiative reflects SAKIGAKE's vision of building a global network of experts capable of managing and mitigating disaster impacts.

Currently, SAKIGAKE Japan is also advising on advanced flood alert systems, tailored to meet the challenges brought by global climate change. With its cuttingedge technology and robust training infrastructure, the company is expected to play an increasingly vital role in enhancing international disaster resilience.

"Our hope is that the need for our services will decrease," says CEO Munetoshi Kondoh. "But in this era of climate change, our mission has never been more important--or more global."

Shiv Sena strengthens its roots in Kashmir through joining program

under the dynamic



Top News Report

PULWAMA, Apr 5: In a significant step towards expanding its grassroots presence in Jammu and Kashmir, the Shiv Sena held a Joining Program at Dogri Pora in District Pulwama, organized by Javid Ahmad Dar. The event witnessed the enthusiastic participation of scores of local youth who formally joined the party. The joining ceremony took place in the esteemed presence of Shabir Ahmad Beigh, Secretary Kashmir Division; Shahid Wani, Zila Pramukh Pulwama; Fayaz Malik, Zila Pramukh Anantnag; and Aamir Ahmad, Zila Vice President Ganderbal.

Senior party leaders including Rajya Pramukh Shri Ashwani Gupta, State Secretary (Organisation) & Prabhari Kashmir Division Sanjay Bhat, Ajay Dhar, Rajya Pramukh Yuva Sena, and Ramesh Koul, State Secretary, also addressed the event via video conference, marking their support and encouragement for the newly inducted members.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Ashwani Gupta expressed that

leadership of Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra and Shiv Sena National President Shri Eknath Shinde Ji, the party envisions a strong and progressive future for the country. He emphasized that the legacy and ideology of Balasaheb Thackeray Ji must be carried to every corner of Kashmir. Gupta called upon party workers to identify public issues and ensure they are brought to the attention of the

administration, urging

all karyakartas to begin

preparing in earnest for

the upcoming municipal

and panchayat elec-

Sanjay Bhat, in his speech, highlighted the pivotal role of youth in nation-building and urged the young members to become aware of various self-employment schemes rolled out by the Central Gov-

ernment. He stressed that proper awareness and engagement with such schemes could empower youth economically and socially.

Ramesh Koul, while welcoming the new entrants, assured them of full support from the party leadership. He reiterated the party's commitment to resolving public issues and being the voice of the people at all levels of governance.

Ajay Dhar, Rajya

Pramukh Yuva Sena, emphasized the importance of engaging youth actively in politics and policy. He assured the new members that their issues would be addressed on priority and encouraged them to take a proactive role in shaping the region's future.

Speaking at the function, Shabir Ahmad Beigh praised the youth for joining the party with a vision for change. He reiterated that the Jammu and Kashmir unit of Shiv Sena is

committed to carrying forward the ideology of Balasaheb Thackeray, and that Shri Eknath Shinde Ji is personally invested in seeing Shiv Sena flourish in the Union Territory.

Shahid Wani, while welcoming the new members, stressed the importance of fighting the drug menace, especially among the youth. He urged the new karyakartas to spread the ideals of Balasaheb Thackeray Ji and become pillars of positive change in their communities.

Fayaz Malik, Zila Pramukh Anantnag, also extended his support to the youth, reiterating the need to empower them and promote their active participation in social and political spheres. The newly joined members expressed their gratitude to the Shiv Sena leadership for welcoming them into the party and pledged to serve the people with honesty, integrity, and dedication.

Jammu's Masters swimmers make a splash at nationals

First-ever team heads to Mohali for 7th Masters National Games



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 5: A historic milestone was achieved today as the first-ever group of Masters Swimmers from Jammu set off for the 7th Masters National Games in Mohali. Led by the experienced David Sandhu, the team is eager to compete and represent Jammu on the national stage.

The team consists of five distinguished swimmers: David Sandhu (46+), Rudraksh Gupta (30+), Rajesh Singh (36+), Kulbhushan Jamwal (72+), and Pragun Bhalwal (30+). These athletes, hailing from different age groups, are poised to display their expertise and passion for the sport.

To support and encour-

age the swimmers before their departure, the Jammu & Kashmir Masters Games Association (JKMGA) hosted a small tea gathering today. During the event, the association extended its warmest wishes to the athletes for the competition ahead. The occasion was a testament to the growing recognition of Masters athletes in the region.

athletes in the region.
Ranjeet Singh Chib,
President of JKMGA
and a veteran international handball player,
spoke at the event,
underscoring the importance of sports participation among veterans
and Masters athletes.
He said, "Sports not only
contribute to physical
well-being but also instill
values of teamwork, discipline, and resilience.

to expand opportunities for athletes of all ages, and we are proud to support this journey."

In attendance were several notable figures, including Neete Kour Khlasa, Romesh Sharma, Vinay Saraf, Somraj Gupta, Mamta Bajaj, and Rameshwar Manhas, who all shared their encouragement and best wishes for the swimmers

The athletes are now on their way to Mohali, ready to make their mark at the prestigious Masters National Games. With the support of the Jammu & Kashmir Masters Games Association, this group of swimmers is not just competing in a sporting event, but also breaking barriers, proving that age is no obstacle when it comes to excelling in sports.

GDC Bani celebrates Birth Anniversary of Dr B R Ambedkar



Top News Report

BANI, Apr 5: NSS Unit of Government Degree College (GDC) Bani celebrated 134 Birth Anniversary of the Architect of Indian Constitution, Dr Bhim Roa Ambedkar.

It was organized by Dr. Resham Singh, the Organizing Secretary and NSS Programme Officer under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Manohar Lal, Principal of the College.

As a sequel to this Birthday Anniversary, a series of events has been planned.

As a major part of weeklong celebrations, an invited lecture was organized on the topic "Life, Work and Constitutional Contribution of Dr B. R. Ambedkar".

Lecture was delivered by Predhyun Attri, Tehsildar Bani as Resource Person. He has enthralled the students and staff on the values, efforts and contribution of Dr B. R. Ambedkar for the poorest and the poorest sections of the society and the Nation as a whole.

He has fetched each and every contribution of Dr B R Ambedkar not for deprived sections of the society but, in every field like Economic reforms, Women Empowerment, Social Equality, Education for All etc.

A formal vote of thanks was presented by Dr J S Soodan, Physical Director/PTI of the college.

Poetic nectar was

also showered by the HOD Dogri, Dr Narinder Kumar. In his poem, he has envisioned the works and contribution of Dr B R Ambedkar. The principal of the College, Dr Manohar Lal in his address, showcased the essence of Dr B R Ambedkar's works in the history of the Nation.

He has elaborated the contribution of Dr B R Ambedkar for the upliftment of under privileged people especially the field of Education. He has stressed that Education is the only weapon for any revolu-

tion in the society.

The main motto of the

Programme was to raise awareness about the importance of Constitution because it establishes the country's core values and ideals. It also defines the purpose and direction of the Constitution.

The preamble is often called the "Soul of the Constitution.

The formal vote of thanks was presented by Dr Resham Singh, the organizing Secretary and NSS PO of the College.

The entire programme was conducted by Prof. Komal Mehta from Department of Education. Among the faculty members who graced the occasion were Dr Naseeb Kumar Bhagat, HOD EVS. Prof. Akash Zutshi, Dr Nisha Devi, Dr. Sunil Kumar Prof. Neezrateel Islam, Naseem Ah Bhat, Sajad Hussain, Prof. Anil Singh, Dr Janu Kumar, Prof. Komal Mehta, Prof. Seema Kotwal, Prof. Vishal Sharma, Prof. Faroog Ahmad Kumar, Neena Sondhi and Racchpal Sharma.

Army organizes awareness lecture on Road Safety at Samote



Top News Report

RAJOURI, Apr 5: In order to strengthen the bond between Indian Army and Awam and to generate awareness about Road Safety and prevention of road accidents among youth, an awareness programme on Road Safety and Preventive measures was organised by Indian Army at Samote.

A total number of around 20 locals witnessed the said awareness programme. The aim of the lecture was to urge citizens to follow traffic rules.

The lecture aimed to educate citizens on the importance of following traffic rules and encourage safe driving habits. Youths were sensitised about the dangers of reckless driving, overloading, riding without

helmets and ignoring traffic rules, which often lead to serious injuries and fatalities.

Emphasis was laid on basic road safety measures, such as the significance of wearing seat belts and helmets, avoiding distractions while driving and obeying speed limits. Real life example and interactive discussions helped youths understand the risks associated with negligence on the road, making the session both engaging and informative.

The interactive session received a positive response with youth showing great enthusiasm and eagerness to learn. Many expressed their interest in having more such awareness sessions in the future, reinforcing the importance of road safety in daily life.

FromPage No: 1

Army conducts friendly volleyball match

Our association seeks



Top News Report

DODA, Apr 5: On demand of locals of Doda, Indian Army organised a friendly volleyball match between Army and Government Degree College team at Government City Middle School, Doda in alignment with "Khelo India".

Both the teams participated enthusiastically and displayed very high degree of sportsmanship and healthy competitive spirit. It was a thrilling and exciting match till the end. 69 Students, 10 teachers, 30 participants and 7 Media persons participated in the event.

The Volleyball match was aimed at

developing a competitive spirit amongst the youth and also to provide them a platform to showcase their talent.

The match was witnessed with keen interest by one and all, thus generating bonhomie amongst the players as well as locals. Company Commander, Indian Army graced the event as chief guest.

He congratulated both the teams for the sterling performance and distributed prizes to both the teams.

Team members and locals expressed their heartfelt gratitude for organizing the event and requested for more such sporting events in the future.

Security heightened in Jammu's RS Pura sector after foiled infiltration bid

that the individual's identity and motive are currently under investigation, and a strong protest has been lodged with the counterpart authorities regarding the incident.

Earlier on Monday, the BSF troops stationed in Amritsar district detected suspicious movement near the international border, where an individual was seen crossing into Indian territory and approaching the border security fence.

In a swift response, the troops challenged him to stop and subsequently apprehended him. Upon preliminary questioning, the intruder revealed his identity as a Pakistani national.

This apprehension took place in an area adjacent to the village of Bharopal in the district of Amritsar,

the BSF said.

Jammu Kashmir Congress workers protest in Delhi, Demand removal of Karra. Mir

the Congress high command to take immediate corrective measures. "If the party leadership wants Congress to survive in Jammu and Kashmir, then the first step is removing Karra and Mir," said another protester. "Bring in someone who respects workers and rebuilds trust."

CM's Advisor counters LG: Says 'We know our Jurisdiction too'

held on Friday. The ruling alliance cautioned the Centre against undermining the authority of the democratically elected government.

"Our stand remains the same. Let's see what happens in future," Wani told reporters in Srinagar.

When asked about LG Sinha's remarks that his actions were in accordance with the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act passed by Parliament, CM's advisor responded that the elected government also wants governance to proceed strictly in line with the Act and the established Business Rules.

"We are not talking outside of that framework," he added. The standoff between the Chief

Minister's office and the LG escalated on April 1, when Sinha issued transfer orders for 48 officers of the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Services while the state administration was engaged in Eid celebrations.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah subsequently wrote to the Union Home Minister, alleging that the LG's move lacked legal backing and violated provisions of the Reorganisation Act.

Indian national

stabbed to death in Canada; Embassy offers support to kin

Provincial Police (OPP) has increased its presence in the area as part of their ongoing investigation into the killing.

The police have also issued a warning to Rockland residents, advising them to expect heightened law enforcement activity while authorities continue to investigate the circumstances surrounding the crime.

The Embassy in Canada assured the public that it is providing all necessary assistance to the victim's family during this difficult time.

The motives behind the stabbing remain unclear, and investigations are ongoing. The Embassy has pledged continued communication with local authorities to ensure the family receives the support they need, and to facilitate any further actions related to the case.

Financial Assistance Schemes for WPRs, PoJK and Chhamb Refugees extended till Mar 2026

ith no extension beyond the sunset date.

Similarly, the scheme of Central Assistance for one-time settlement of displaced families from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) of 1947 and Chhamb of 1965 and 1971, launched under the Prime Minister's Development Package-2015, has also been extended for the same period within an approved outlay of Rs. 2,000 crore.

No plans to reconsider ban on Pakistani medical degrees: Health

Ministry

acquired Indian citizenship and hold degrees from Pakistan and have been given the required security clearance.

Man booked after uploading irresponsible content on social media in Doda

Doda district of Jammu Kashmir. An official said that an FIR has been registered against the person responsible for uploading irresponsible content on a social media site. Action, as warranted under law, shall take its due course.

He further said that they appeal to people to remain cautious and not to share or forward messages/videos spreading communal hatred.

Pertinently, internet services were suspended as a precautionary measure in Bhaderwah after an objectionable social media post was uploaded by a person.



Impressive Shobha Yatra being taken out in Jammu on the eve of Ram Navami, celebrating divine birth of Maryada Purushottam Bhagwan Shri Ram. ---Pic By Aman Sharma

DDC Member, President AJKPC inaugurate renovated classroom at Girls Middle School Panthal



Top News Report

REASI, Apr 5: In a significant stride toward strengthening the education infrastructure in Reasi district, District Development Council (DDC) Member Rajendra Mahangi today inaugurated a newly

renovated classroom at Girls Middle School, Panthal. The renovation was completed with an allocation of $\Box 4,00,000$, aimed at providing a better and more conducive learning environment for students.

Demonstrating his continued commitment

to educational development, DDC Mahangi also announced the construction of two additional classrooms, with a sanctioned budget of 16 lakh. The project is currently underway and is expected to further enhance academic facilities for the region's

youth.

The inauguration event was graced by Anil Sharma, President of the All Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference, who lauded the initiative and emphasized the pressing need for development in the education sector. "Education is the foundation of progress. and it's encouraging to see leaders like Rajendra Mahangi taking such proactive steps. His dedication to improving rural education is commendable," Sharma stated.

Prominent local leaders and community members were also present at the ceremony, including Sarpanch Neha Sharma, Rajendra Thapa, Suresh Mangi, Ashu Ji, and the entire school staff. Their pres-

ence underscored the strong community support behind these developmental efforts.

Expressing his appreciation, DDC Mahangi thanked Anil Sharma for his steadfast support and consistent advocacy for grassroots governance.

"It is through the persistent efforts of leaders like Anil Sharma that Panchayati Rajinstitutions have gained strength and recognition across Jammu and Kashmir," Mahangi remarked.

This initiative stands as a shining example of collaborative governance and leadership dedicated to uplifting rural education and ensuring a brighter future for the next generation.

Army conducts awareness lecture for local youth at Parori Gujjaran

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Apr 5: The Indian Army conducted a lecture on awareness and guidance on government schemes at Parori Gujjaran, District Rajouri. The event aimed to educate local residents about various government initiatives and their benefits.

The lecture informed attendees about schemes such as: Apki Beti Hamari Beti. A program focused on the welfare and development of girl children Providing nutrition, healthcare, and education to children and pregnant women.

Harihar Scheme: Promoting agricultural development and farmer welfare.

The discussion emphasized factors crucial for successful implementa-



tion, including evaluation, acceptability and last-mile implementation.

The benefits of these schemes, such as improved healthcare and financial support, were also highlighted. The event saw active participation from locals, who appreciated the Indian Army's efforts to promote awareness about

This initiative aligns with the government's commitment to disseminating information about its programs and policies, as seen in recent announcements from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

government schemes.

BJP backstabbed people's mandate, restore Statehood to J&K immediately: Tony



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 5: Senior Congress leader and DDC Member Suchetgarh, Taranjit Singh Tony has slammed the BJP-led Central Government for disrespecting the democratically elected government in Jammu and Kashmir and demanded the immediate restoration of full statehood.

He said that despite J&K having a democratically elected government in place, key decisions continue to be influenced by an unelected bureaucratic setup, undermining the authority of the elected representatives.

In a press release issued here today, the senior Congress leader stated that the dual power structure, where

bureaucrats function parallel to the elected government, is an insult to democracy and a betrayal of the people's mandate.

"A government elected by the people should have the sole authority to make decisions in their interest. However, the BJP has ensured that bureaucratic interference continues, rendering the elected government ineffective in key policy matters," he said

Expressing deep concern over the deteriorating law and order situation, Tony said

that crime, corruption, and administrative inefficiency are on the rise due to the absence of strong political leadership. "There is an urgent need to streamline governance by ensuring competent officials are posted in key positions to handle security and developmental issues effectively," he added.

Tony further accused the BJP of backstabbing the people of J&K with false promises of full statehood. "For years, BJP has used the issue of statehood as an election gimmick. The people of J&K voted with

the hope of regaining their rightful status, but the BJP has deceived them at every step," he stated.

The senior Congress leader demanded that the Central Government should respect the democratic mandate and immediately restore J&K's full statehood, ensuring that the elected government functions without bureaucratic dominance. "The people of J&K deserve a governance system that is accountable, transparent, and free from external interference," he added.

Army conducts of Medical Patrol at Gulair, Sarsoti

Top News Report
RAJOURI, Apr 5: The
Indian Army has always
been known for its ethos,
values and traditions of
highest order. The professional and humane
face of the Indian Army
is well known and is
always praised and

Following its ethos and traditions, Indian Army has been at the forefront and working alongwith the Awam in their fight against the

commended.

medical related issues. Indian Army organised medical patrol in far flung areas of Gulair, Chanta and Sarsoti

Chapta and Sarsoti.

A total of 87 locals including 39 men, 29 women and 19 children from the village of Gulair availed the benefit of free medical treatment & free distribution of medicines.

Doctors and medical representatives from the Indian Army provided treatment to all patients during medical patrol which was organised with the objective of providing medical aid to people.

The local populace appreciated selfless efforts of the Indian Army and said such events not only help in taking medical aid to the doorstep of the people but also help in the synergy between the Indian Army and the Awam towards development of the region.

Double blow for LSG, skipper Pant fined heavily for slow over rate; Digvesh handed second demerit point

LUCKNOW, Apr 5 (Agencies): Captain Rishabh Pant has been fined heavily for Lucknow Super Giants maintaining a slow over-rate in their electrifying encounter against Mumbai Indians in the ongoing Indian Premier League. Apart from Pant, leg spinner Digvesh Rathi was fined 50 per cent of his match fees for breaching the IPL Code of Conduct in the same encounter.

The recent sanctions on LSG come following their narrow 12-run victory over Mumbai Indians on Friday. IPL released a statement on Saturday to announce that the Super Giants' skipper was penalised for breaching the Code of Conduct and was fined Rs 12 lakh as a result.

"Rishabh Pant, Captain, Lucknow Super Giants, has been fined after his team maintained a slow over-rate during Match 16 of the TATA Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 against Mumbai Indians at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium, Lucknow, on Friday," IPL said in a statement.



"As this was his team's first offence of the season under Article 2.22 of the IPL Code of Conduct, which pertains to minimum over-rate offences. Rishabh Pant was fined INR 12

Lakh," the statement added. Pant became the third skipper after Rajasthan Royals' Riyan Parag and Mumbai Indians' skipper Hardik Pandya. The duo incurred a similar penalty for maintaining a slow overrate against the Chennai Super Kings and the Gujarat Titans,

Meanwhile, Digvesh, who has grabbed the headlines with his game-changing spells and fiery celebration, has been handed a second demerit point by the IPL. He replicated the notebook celebration that got him in trouble for the first time against Punjab Kings after dismissing Naman Dhir in the ninth over of the second innings.

As a result, he received another demerit point and has been fined 50 per cent of his match

fees for breaching the IPL Code of Conduct. It was his second Level 1 offence under Article 2.5 in the ongoing season.

In the first instance, Digvesh was fined 25 per cent of his match fees for pulling off his notebook celebration after dismissing Priyansh Arya during LSG's clash against Punjab Kings.

"Digvesh Singh, Bowler, Lucknow Super Giants, has been fined 50 per cent of his match fees for breaching the IPL Code of Conduct during his team's match against Mumbai Indians at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium, Lucknow on Friday," IPL continued in the statement.

"This was his second Level 1 offence under Article 2.5 this season, and hence, he has accumulated Two Demerit Points, in addition to One Demerit Point, which he accumulated during LSG's match against Punjab Kings on April 01, 2025. For Level 1 breaches of the Code of Conduct, the Match Referee's decision is final and binding," the statement concluded.

Mom, it's 12:08 am: LSG head coach Langer receives reporter's mother's call



LUCKNOW, Apr 5 (Agencies): Lucknow Super Giants head coach Justin Langer created a hilarious moment when he picked up a reporter's phone call during the post-match press conference following their 12-run win over Mumbai Indians in an IPL game here.

While answering a question about injured pacer Mayank Yadav, Langer noticed the phone placed near him at the podium, which was ringing with "Mom" flashing on the screen.

"Who's Maa?" Langer asked, seeking the reporter's permission before promptly answering the call.

"Mom, it's 12:08 AM, I am at a press conference," he said, causing a burst of laughter among the reporters in the room.

Langer seemed in good spirits after LSG restricted MI to 191-5

in pursuit of a 204-run target, bouncing back from their previous loss with a 12-run win, their second victory in four games.

Following LSG's heavy defeat to Punjab Kings, team mentor Zaheer Khan had suggested that the conditions didn't suit his team's strengths. However, Langer downplayed any concerns about the pitch, saying, "The less we talk about the pitches, the better."

"To be completely honest, both pitches here have been excellent for the past two years. There was a little bit of emotion after the last game. My whole time as the head coach, I've really enjoyed playing here," he said.

"It's nice to have a little bit of variations on how they play. The less we talk about the pitches the better," Langer said.

"I take full ownership": Hardik Pandya after MI's defeat to LSG

LUCKNOW, Apr 5 (Agencies): Mumbai Indians (MI) captain Hardik Pandya admitted that his side fell short in key moments as they went down by 12 runs against Lucknow Super Giants in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) clash held in Lucknow.

Speaking after the game, Pandya pointed out lapses in the field and a few tactical errors that eventually cost them the match.

"Disappointing when you lose. If we had to be honest, in the field, 10-12 runs we gave too much. We fell short in the end," he said, acknowledging the fine margins that defined the outcome, as quoted from ESPNcricinfo.

Pandya, who rolled his arm over once again, reflected on his bowling contribution and his approach. As he had his first fifer, he ended with 5/36.

"Always enjoyed my bowling. I don't have many options but I read the wicket and use smarter options. I never go for wickets, but I try to make batters make mistakes. Today was one of those days," he explained.

The MI skipper also addressed the team's underwhelming performance

"As a batting unit, we fell short. We win as a team, we lose as a team. I take



full ownership," Pandya stated, taking responsibility for the collective effort.

One of the talking points from the match was the decision to retire out Tilak Varma during the chase.

Clarifying the move, Pandya said, "We needed some hits, he was not getting those. In cricket some of those days come, when you try but they don't

With the loss, Mumbai Indians continue to struggle for rhythm this season, but Pandya remains hopeful.

"Just play good cricket. I like to it simple. Take better calls, be smart in bowling, take chances in batting. It is a long tournament, you get a couple of wins and get into the rhythm," he added.

New Zealand sweep series against Pakistan as Sears, Bracewell set up 43-run triumph in 3rd ODI

MOUNT MAUNGANUI, Apr 5 (Agencies): Ben Sears's second five-wicket haul on the trot inspired New Zealand to whitewash Pakistan with a 3-0 ODI series triumph, following their 43-run success in the third and final clash of the series at Bay Oval on Saturday.

In a 42-over-reduced game due to a wet outfield, Pakistan's pursuit of a 265-run target began with Imam-ul-Haq retiring hurt after taking a bouncer from William O'Rourke on his helmet. He instantly removed his helmet, holding his jaw. After a brief halt, he was eventually taken off the field, and Pakistan's premier batter, Babar Azam, arrived at the crease to carry the fight for his side.

A 69-run partnership brewed between Babar and Abdullah Shafique as the duo flaunted their textbook strokeplay. Babar danced around the track to dispatch Michael Bracewell's flighted delivery past the boundary rope for a maximum.

Sears, who effectively used the short ball ploy, broke the threat-



ening partnership. Shafique (33) swivelled his hook without any timing straight down to Jacob Duffy. The floodgates opened, and Pakistan started losing scalps at regular intervals.

Babar's 50 kept Pakistan's hopes high, but Daryl Mitchell set him up perfectly to scythe his scalp. Skipper Mohammad Rizwan (37) and Tayyab Tahir (33) resisted but gave away their wickets to Duffy. Sears cleaned up the middle and tailend to force Pakistan to pack on 221, surrendering to a 43-run

In a truncated ODI encounter, New Zealand tested their depth to blaze their way to a competitive 264/8 on the board. After being put to bat by Pakistan, Nick Kelly was the first to fall. Naseem Shah's delivery stopped and took a bit more flight than Kelly (3) would have anticipated. He went through his shot and sent the ball straight to Abdullah Shafique.

Rhys Mariu, who made his

debut in the second ODI. upped the ante and provided a sound start to the Kiwis despite the early setback. He forged a 78-run partnership with Henry Nicholls to drag the game away from Pakistan.

With Pakistan on the cusp of conceding a 300-plus total, despite being a 42-over contest, Akif Javed forced the breakthrough against the run of play. Nicholls (32) holed out after giving away a top edge to Mohammad Wasim.

Rhys (58), who had notched up his maiden fifty moments before Nicholls' dismissal for the Blackcaps in the ODIs, jumped on the bandwagon and returned to the dressing room after being pinned in front of the stumps by Sufiyan Muqeem.

Daryl Mitchell (43) and Tim Seifert (26) kept the scoreboard ticking with their swift attacking displays. New Zealand's captain, Michael Bracewell, took the brunt on his shoulders and counterattacked with a fiery 59 from 40 deliveries to power the hosts to a 264/8.

'It will always remains the most memorable match of my life": Harmanpreet Singh on India's backs-to-the-wall win against Great **Britain at Paris 2024**

NEW DELHI, Apr 5 (Agencies): Harmanpreet Singh, Indian field hockey player and the captain of the Indian national hockey team, has reflected on the difficulty of playing 43 minutes with one less player against a strong Great Britain team.

While speaking on Backstage with Boria season 6, he highlighted the team's resilience, individual and collective effort, and trust in each other as key factors in securing a draw and ultimately winning the shootout. He considered this match the most memorable and best of his career.

"I agree with you 100 per cent. In today's hockey, surviving 43 minutes with one less player is tough. That, too, was against Great Britain, with such a good set of players, such body play, man-to-man marking, and toughness. But the way our team took initiative and stepped up to show our ability,

both individually and collectively, was the main winning factor. We knew that it was going to be tough after the red card, but we had that trust in each other. We knew we had practiced for these situations. Finishing in a draw, fighting till the last whistle, winning it in the shootout- it was a big thing for us. It will always remain as the most memorable and best match of my life." Harmanpreet Singh said on Backstage with Boria season 6.

Singh believes Indian hockey's recent success, including Olympic medals and the resumption of the Hockey India League, is a positive sign for the future. He emphasizes the league's role in developing young players and sees it as a platform for future success.

"Not just that, I would say everything is going great because of backto-back [Olympic] medals, and after that, the resumption of the



Hockey India League. And it is a good sign because for the younger generation, our Hockey India League is such a platform from where we have grown, we have learnt. So, I think this is the right time, for the team does well, and we have got to see all the youngsters in the Hockey India League who have gotten a chance to come to the camp. So, I think we can expect a good future for

Indian hockey . He also explained that the Indian team practices specific strategies for different card scenarios, including playing with a player down. While they had plans in place, they didn't anticipate having to play with one less player for such an extended period (43 minutes). "The practice happens

keeping such situations in mind. We know that whether you get a green card or a yellow card in a game, we have different plans and strategies for it, and that is what we have applied in that match. But yeah, to be honest, we never thought that we would have to survive for 43 minutes," he added.

Yashasvi Jaiswal credits Rajasthan Royals for nurturing his career

NEW DELHI, Apr 5 (Agencies): Struggling to get back to form, Rajasthan Royals young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal believes that he still has a lot to do with the

"I have a lot of faith in

myself-my game, my thoughts, and my abilities. Ultimately, it's my responsibility to take my career forward, and I know how hard I need to work. Cricket demands a lot of sacrifices, but people only notice them when you achieve something or perform well. For me, if I want to succeed, I need to work hard in every aspect—whether it's practice, training, diet, or mindset. When you put in the effort day and night, stay consistent, and keep pushing yourself, the results will eventually follow. My focus has always been on preparation, maintaining the right mindset, and believing in myself. Cricket takes time, but if you do the right things, success will come," said Jaiswal during the talk in the JioTv show.

Jaiswal also reflected



on his blitzkrieg performance against Mumbai Indians in 2023 where

he scored a century. "That day was special. I approached it with the same mindset I always have—trusting my preparation and believing that I could do it. And when I achieved it, I felt immense gratitude. I especially want to thank Rajasthan Royals for the way they have nurtured me over the years. I've been with them for six years, and they have always taken great care of me. Throughout my TATA IPL journey, I've learned a lot from my senior players. I've gained valuable insights into how to evolve my game, where I can improve, and what adjustments I need to make. I'm enjoying every moment, and I'm sure the journey ahead will be amazing. More than anything, I would love to keep entertain-

ing the fans." Reflecting on his recent experience with Team India before returning to the IPL this season, Jaiswal added, "I have learned a lot. Indian cricket and the IPL offer completely different experiences. Representing the country comes with its own unique challenges, while the IPL provides a distinct competitive environment. However,

both formats present valuable learning opportunities. Playing under pressure across various formats—Test cricket, One-Day cricket, and T20—has taught me the importance of adaptability. The key takeaway for me has been to remain flexible, stay aware, and adjust to different situations as they arise. I am thoroughly enjoying the journey and continuously striving to evolve as a player.'

He also spoke fondly about his camaraderie with Rajasthan Royals captain Sanju Samson. "We have known each

other for a long time, and I have been with him since I was a kid. I really appreciate our camaraderie—we enjoy spending time together, and it's always fun playing alongside him. The way he talks, his styleit's great to be around him. Of course, we are looking forward to this season, and I hope we will enjoy it just as much this year." Jaiswal concluded by crediting the Rajasthan Royals Academy for being a key part of his growth.

Retired Police Pensioners protest discrimination in pay and welfare benefits



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 5: Under the leadership of Ajit Singh, the Non-Gazetted Police Pensioners Welfare Forum organized a protest at Hari Singh Park, Jammu, voicing deep concern and discontent over continued discrimination faced by retired police personnel and members of the Jammu & Kashmir Fire Services. The gathering drew attention to long-standing issues regarding pay anomalies, denial of essential benefits, and unequal treatment compared to their counterparts in other states and Union

One of the key grievances highlighted was related to Government Order No. 229-F of 2014 dated 17-10-2014, which addressed a historic pay anomaly affecting the police department. However, the benefits of this order were implemented prospectively, from the date of the order, rather than retrospectively from 1996, when the 5th Pay Commission was enforced across the state — excluding the police department. As a result, many affected personnel have either passed away or continue to suffer financial injustice. The Forum demanded that this anomaly be rectified with retrospective effect, honoring the struggles

of surviving pensioners who have waited decades for fairness.

The Forum also raised

concerns over healthcare inequality, noting that police retirees post-2019 are eligible for the ECHS card facility, while those who retired earlier are not. This distinction, they argued, is both unfair and arbitrary, and they urged the government to extend this vital medical benefit to all police retirees, regardless of their retirement year. Another significant issue pertained to the financial and legal burdens faced by retired police officials. Many retirees are called to court for cases, statements, or as witnesses, yet they receive no travel allowance (TA) or support, despite surviving solely on their pensions. The Forum appealed for a policy to cover such expenses, ensuring dignity in their continued service to the

legal system. Regarding SPOs (Special Police Officers). the Forum demanded wage parity with Punjab Police SPOs, alongside provision of uniforms, mess facilities, and a structured regularization policy. They also advocated for Village Defence Committee (VDC) members to receive benefits equal to those of SPOs, acknowledging their contributions in maintaining law and order in remote areas.

The protest also brought attention to the delay in disbursement of leave salary and gratuity. Many retirees have not received these essential post-retirement benefits for over a year, leading to financial hardships. The Forum urged the government to release these funds without further delay to alleviate the burden on affected families.

Furthermore, the Forum highlighted the disparity in medical allowance between Union Territories. While Leh UT has increased the allowance to Rs 1,000, J&K UT continues to provide only Rs 300, despite both attaining UT status at the same time. The Forum strongly condemned this disparity and demanded that medical allowances be raised to ensure parity and fairness.

Ajit Singh emphasized that retired police personnel, who have served with dedication and bravery, deserve justice and equal treatment. He urged the Lieutenant Governor and the J&K administration to take immediate action on these longpending demands. "We are not asking for favors; we are asking for what is rightfully ours," he said, warning that continued neglect would only intensify the dissatisfaction among thousands of police retirees.

Dimple leads protest rally in Jammu, demands restoration of Dogra state, special status

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 5: Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood Jammu and Kashmir, led a protest from Rehari Chungi to BC Road. The gathering, comprising hundreds of resolute citizens, was held to send a loud and unambiguous message to the visiting Union Home Minister Amit Shah — the people of Jammu and Kashmir demand the immediate restoration of their statehood, special status, and Dogra identity.

Addressing charged crowd, Dimple did not mince words. He warned the government that the patience of the people is wearing thin. "We will not wait for more delays in restoring our statehood. If the government continues to stall, we will intensify our agitation," he said, his voice echoing the urgency of a community that feels forgotten.

Dimple expressed his deep resentment over Amit Shah's recent statement, which failed to offer any specific timeline for the restoration of



Jammu and Kashmir's statehood. He urged the Home Minister to use his three-day visit to the region — beginning April 6 — to make a clear and definitive announcement about reinstating the Dogra state along with its special constitutional

status. Turning his appeal to the Assembly, Dimple called upon Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to take a bold and uncompromising stand. He implored Abdullah not to weaken the demand for statehood and to push hard for the resolutions already submitted to the

Government of India.

He also called for a focused debate during the final three days of the ongoing Assembly session, from April 7 to 9, emphasizing the need to revive Articles 370 and 35-A.

Dimple launched a scathing attack on the BJP-led central government, alleging that the promises made in Parliament and reiterated during election campaigns — particularly about restoring statehood post-elections - have now been discarded. He accused the ruling party of violating the spirit of parliamentary assurances and undermining the directives of the Supreme

Court.

Dimple alleged that Jammu and Kashmir is being ravaged by "liquor and mining mafias," and demanded an immediate ban on their operations. He further claimed that over 200 plots of state land have been allotted to outside investors for residential and commercial use, warning that such moves threaten the region's demographic balance and cultural identity. The protest leader also demanded that the government

initiate the traditional Darbar Move this April, a practice symbolizing unity between Jammu and Kashmir regions.

He pressed for tangible economic relief including 200 free units of electricity, twelve LPG cylinders, and double ration for every household across the Union Territory.

Dimple called upon the Home Minister to take decisive action toward the liberation of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), Gilgit, and Baltistan, and to formally integrate these regions into Jammu and Kashmir.

He concluded by announcing a series of upcoming all-party meetings in Jammu aimed at strategizing a united front for the restoration of statehood, protection of demographic integrity, and revival of constitutional rights.

The protest was marked by the presence of Rocky Kapoor, Shami Kumar, Ashok Sharma, Happy Kumar, Narender Chowdhury, Sanjev Kumar, Rajesh Kapoor, Suny, Raju, and several

Agri StartUp emerging as lucrative avenue of livelihood: Dr Jitendra

Top News Report

JAMMU/ HYDER-ABAD, Apr 5: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology; Earth Sciences and Minister of State for PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh has said that Agri StartUp is fast emerging as lucrative avenue of livelihood by intelligently blending traditional organic farming practices with cutting-edge

scientific technologies. Addressing the "Natural and Organic Farmers Summit 2025" at Shankarpalli near here, the Minister lauded the efforts of grassroots innovators and farmerentrepreneurs who are embracing science to scale up agriculture, enhance productivity, and ensure sustainable incomes.

"Startups in agriculture are not just about farming anymore," Dr. Jitendra Singh said.

"They are applying science, using innovations developed by institutions like CSIR, and adopting tools like drones and soil health cards to make

farming more productive and cost-effective. With this, they are cultivating more in less time while safeguarding health and the environment."

Dr. Singh emphasized that organic agriculture, once considered difficult and niche, is now poised to become mainstream—driven by increasing health concerns and awareness about the harmful effects of chemical pesticides.

Highlighting the growing relevance of organic food in the context of rising lifestyle diseases, the Minister said, "Every third person today is either diabetic or has fatty liver. Cancer cases are rising. The possible role of chemically-laden produce cannot be ignored. Organic farming is not just a healthier choice, but a necessary one." Dr. Jitendra also pointed to the broader impact of agri-startups on employment generation and rural development, citing the success of initiatives like the Purple Revolution and the Aroma Mission.

Lavender cultivation, once confined to Jammu and Kashmir. has spread across the country thanks to scientific inputs from CSIR's Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine and

IICT Hyderabad. "You don't need a PhD to be part of this movement. Many successful startups have been founded by those who haven't even completed graduation," he said, adding that agriculture, long neglected in the startup space, is finally getting its due.

The Minister shared how innovations like floriculture—especially tulip cultivation in Himachal Pradesh—are creating new sources of income.

"The tulips offered at the consecration ceremony of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya were grown at our Palam-

of Bhajan and Kirtan,

sung continuously by

enthusiastic women and

other devotees, adding

a devotional rhythm to

pur institute," he said, underlining the symbolic and economic potential of such initiatives.

Dr. Jitendra also spotlighted emerging technologies like the Pheromone Application Device (PAD) being developed by IIT Hyderabad to reduce pesticide usage through eco-friendly pest control methods.

The Minister urged the scientific community and agri-preneurs to participate in the upcoming National Startup Expo in Hyderabad on April 22 and 23.

"Let this be a platform to showcase your innovations to the nation. The Government is fully supportive, whether it is financial aid, technical help, or marketing support," he said. He acknowledged the work of the Eklavya Grameen Foundation whose initiatives in organic farming have made it simpler, economical, and more widely adopted in rural India.

The Minister concluded by reinforcing that India's march to become a developed nation by 2047 would be incomplete without uplifting the rural economy and tapping into the vast, underexplored potential of agriculture.

"The farmer of today is an agri-entrepreneur. And the field is no longer a place of hardship but a hub of opportunity," he

Amit Shah's visit will boost morale of BJP cadre in J&K: Kavinder



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 5: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta has said that the upcoming visit of Union Home Minister Amit Shah to Jammu and Kashmir from April 6 will immensely boost the morale of party workers and reaffirm the party's unwavering commitment to the development and integration of the Union Territory with the national mainstream. In a statement issued here on Saturday, Kavinder has welcomed the three-day visit of the Union Home Minister and said that Amit Shah's consistent engagement with the people of Jammu and Kashmir reflects the Modi Government's sincere approach towards ensuring lasting peace, prosperity, and progress in the region.

"Amit Shah is not only the architect of a new dawn in J&K post-

abrogation of Article 370, but also a source of inspiration for lakhs of BJP workers across the Union Territory. His presence and guidance will rejuvenate the cadre at the grassroots level and strengthen our resolve to work for a new and empowered Jammu and Kashmir," he said. The senior BJP leader said that the Home Minister's visit comes at a crucial juncture when the region is witnessing a surge in infrastructure development, employment generation initiatives, and growing faith in demo-

cratic processes. Kavinder expressed confidence that Amit Shah's interactions during the visit will send a clear message of accountability, development-centric governance, and a strong stance against terrorism and separatism. "The people of Jammu and Kashmir have full faith in

the leadership of Prime

Minister Narendra Modi and Amit Shah. This visit will reaffirm that their aspirations are at the core of BJP's governance model," he The former Deputy

CM urged party workers to wholeheartedly welcome the Union Home Minister and utilize this opportunity to convey the aspirations and concerns of the people from every corner of Jammu and Kashmir.

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 5: The sacred atmosphere of Ambphalla in Jammu resonated with chants and divine vibrations as the Kashmiri Pandita Sabha celebrated the Annual Hawan ceremony of Durga Ashtami, a significant part of the Navreh Samaroh, with deep religious fervor and traditional devotion.

The two-day spiritual observance commenced on April 4, 2025, and culminated with the auspicious Puran Ahuti on April 5, 2025. Devotees gathered in large num-

KPS celebrates Annual Durga Ashtami Hawan with religious fervour bers to participate in the sacred rituals and soak in the spiritual ambiance that marked this pious occasion.

The event was graced

by the entire executive body of the Sabha, led by its President K. K. Khosa, who along with his team, oversaw the proceedings with devotion and meticulous organization. Among the prominent personalities who honored the occasion with their presence were Prof. O. N. Koul, A. K. Braroo, Rajinder Raina, Susheel Aima, Susheel Koul, Kewal Sher, and several other members of the com-



munity. Life members of the Sabha and many devotees also joined the celebrations, contributing to the spirit of unity and devotion.

Throughout the



he soulful music served to elevate the collective spirit and connect the community in prayer and reverence.

Following the Puran Ahuti, Prasad was served to all devotees, symbolizing the grace and blessings of the Divine Mother Durga. The gathering reflected the strong cultural roots, communal harmony, and unwavering faith of the Kashmiri Pandit community.

The Sabha expressed its gratitude to all who participated and helped make the event a resounding spiritual success. Such ceremonies not only uphold time-honored traditions but also strengthen the bonds of community and faith.