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**Singapore, which has FTA with US, says Trump's tariffs are not what 'one does to a friend'**



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## BRIEFLY

### Missing Bandipora woman found dead in nallah

BANDIPORA, Apr 8 (Agencies): In a tragic incident, the dead body of a woman was recovered from Nallah Modo Mati in Sonarwani area in North Kashmir's Bandipora district on Tuesday morning.

The deceased has been identified as Mst. Jani Begum (30), wife of Nawab Chowan, a resident of Nigeenpora Athwotoo who had been missing from her home since yesterday.

Following her disappearance, a missing report had been filed at the concerned police station.

Officials said that after the recovery of the body, the necessary legal formalities have been initiated by the police.

The cause of death is yet to be confirmed and further investigation is underway, he said. (JKNS)

More details are awaited.

### Two bodies found in separate incidents in Jammu

SRINAGAR, Apr 8 (Agencies): Two bodies were recovered under suspicious circumstances on Wednesday morning in Kishtwar and Rajouri districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

A body was found in the Danguro area of Kishtwar. A police team soon arrived at the scene and took the body into its possession.

In a separate incident, the body of an 18-year-old youth, identified as Riyaz Ahmed, a resident of Samote Budhal, was found in the Nowshera sector.

The body has been shifted from the site for necessary medico-legal formalities.

Officials confirmed the recovery of both bodies and said that they are currently ascertaining the causes of death.

### "Light Rain, Snow & Thunderstorms expected in J&K's higher reaches Today": MeT

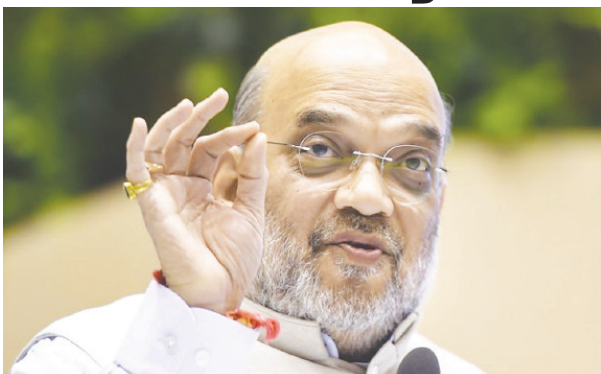
SRINAGAR, Apr 8 (Agencies): The Met Centre Srinagar has issued a weather forecast for Jammu and Kashmir, covering the period from April 8 to April 20, 2025.

According to the forecast, the region can expect a mix of cloudy

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## "Three more organizations disassociate themselves from Hurriyat" : Amit Shah

SRINAGAR, Apr 8 (Agencies): The Jammu Kashmir Islamic Political Party, Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Democratic League and Kashmir Freedom Front have disassociated themselves from separatists conglomerate Hurriyat Conference, Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced on Tuesday. He asserted that the move demonstrated people's trust in the Con-



stitution.

The announcement came in the midst of

Shah's three-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir.

"Three more organisa-

tions, namely Jammu Kashmir Islamic Political Party, Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Democratic League, and Kashmir Freedom Front, disassociate themselves from the Hurriyat. It is a prominent demonstration of the people's trust in the Constitution of India within the valley," he wrote on 'X'.

The home minister said Prime Minister Narendra

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## Over 4 lakh kanals state land under illegal occupation in J&K: Govt

JAMMU, Apr 8 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday said that a staggering 4,28,204 Kanals and 13 Marlas state lands are under illegal occupation across the Union Territory.

Replying to a query by MLA Farooq Ahmad Shah, the minister incharge, said that they have taken concrete measures to evict ille-

gal occupants, with all entries in the name of such occupants being expunged.

"Special eviction drives are being continuously undertaken to reclaim encroached land. A total of 3,555 cases have been approved for land use change in Jammu and Kashmir. These permissions were granted for a variety of purposes including commercial, industrial, and residen-

tial developments," he said.

He also said that land measuring 40,151 Kanals and 17.5 Marlas has been transferred to the Industries and Commerce Department across Jammu and Kashmir.

The minister said that 94 Kanals have been transferred in Gulmarg only, with 50 Kanals in Hardubani village and 44 Kanals in Lalpora village.

## Old town Baramulla residents protest against poor road condition

BARAMULLA, Apr 8 (Agencies): The residents of Old Town Baramulla staged a protest on Monday against the poor condition of roads in the area, particularly the stretch along the Jhelum River from Azad Gunj to Khadniyar.

The protesters gathered near Kakar Hamam, raising slogans against the administration for their failure to address the longstanding issue.

The protesters, including local shopkeepers and residents, expressed their anguish over the road's deteriorated condition, which has remained neglected for several years.

The road is riddled with potholes, causing immense inconvenience to commuters and posing serious risks to public safety.

"The entire Old Town area has been ignored by the administration for years," said Muhammad Amin, a local resident.

"Despite our repeated protests, no significant action has been taken. Today, we closed our shops in protest because the business community is suffering the most. The young and the elderly are fed up with these worsening conditions."

Amin added that the protest was a last resort after their demands were continuously overlooked.

The road blockade caused traffic disruption in the area as the locals refused to relent until authorities gave them a concrete assurance.

In response, senior police officials rushed to the spot and tried to pacify the agitated crowd, urging them to end the protest.

The residents have warned of intensifying the agitation if their

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## PDP MLA marshalled out of J&K Assembly during protest over Waqf Act



JAMMU, Apr 8 (Agencies): PDP MLA Waheed Ur Rehman Para was marshalled out of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly after he pressed for a fresh resolution against the Waqf (Amendment) Act on Tuesday.

The Assembly witnessed pandemonium for the second straight day on the issue, prompting Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather to initially adjourn the House for 30 minutes shortly after the start of the day's business and later extend it till 1 pm.

On Monday, when the House assembled after a 12-day recess, it descended into chaos with religious and jingoistic sloganeering after the Speaker rejected an adjournment motion, moved by the ruling National Conference members, to discuss the Waqf (Amendment) Act,

saying the matter was sub-judice.

When the House assembled again on Tuesday morning, Para moved close to the well holding a copy of his resolution against the Waqf Act and started arguing with the Speaker, seeking its adoption to convey a message to the central government.

While the Speaker was asking Para to go back to his seat, National conference MLA Abdul Majeed Larmi tried to push Para back, leading to intervention by People's Conference legislator Sajad Lone.

In the meantime, the Speaker directed marshals to move Para out of the House. But pandemonium continued even after this with several NC legislators and independent MLAs moving to the well and continuing their protest, seeking discussion on

the Waqf amendment law. The House also witnessed verbal duel between Lone and NC's Salman Sagar.

"I have moved a fresh resolution against the Waqf Amendment Act but the Speaker neither accepted nor rejected it," Para told PTI outside the House.

He accused the NC of enacting a "drama" at the behest of the BJP as part of efforts to normalise the Act.

"Jammu and Kashmir is the only Muslim majority region in the country with the National Conference having more than 50 MLAs. When Karnataka and Tamil Nadu can pass a resolution against the Act, what is stopping the NC? They are enacting a drama," he said.

He questioned the absence of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah from the House for the second day and said, "He should have been here because this issue concerns Muslim properties like mosques, shrines and graveyards."

"He is giving a red carpet welcome to Union Minister Kiren Rijju in the Tulip Garden. The fact is the National Conference is supporting the BJP. The Bill has caused resentment among the

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## 928 SRO-43 cases pending across Jammu Kashmir: Govt

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Monday said there are 928 cases of SRO-43 of 1994 pending in Jammu and Kashmir.

Responding to a query by MLA Pulwama, Waheed Ur Rehman Para, the government in a written reply said there are 928 pending cases under SRO-43 of 1994, while 1,279 applications received under the Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme are also

pending.

It is pertinent to mention here that during the year 2024, a total of 1,116 SRO-43 cases were approved by the government. "The process for finalisation of all pending cases under SRO-43 is underway. Besides, all 1,279 applications received under the Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme have been forwarded to the concerned departments for their expeditious disposal," the concerned

minister said.

He mentioned the key measures implemented for speedy disposal of pending cases.

Administrative departments have been empowered to handle compassionate appointment cases internally, provided no relaxation in age or educational qualifications is required and suitable posts are available, the minister informed.

He said the

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## Fraudulent Job Scam Lands Sopore Youth in Trouble Overseas

SRINAGAR, Apr 8 (Agencies): A disturbing case of passport misuse and exploitation has emerged from Wagub Sopore, where 21-year-old Momin Majeed Shah became a victim of a fraudulent job consultancy racket and is now facing serious consequences in China.

Meanwhile, Advisor to Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Wagoor Kreeer Irfan Hafeez Lone and Jammu and Kashmir Students Association National Convenor Nasir Khumani assured news agency JKNS about the safer return of Momin and his colleague from abroad.

Advisor to CM Nasir Aslam said, "I will take up the matter, will ensure a safer return of Momin."

Momin, son of Abdul Majeed Shah, had travelled to China through agents who promised him a legal job in the crypto sector. However, he ended up in Laos, where his salary was withheld, his passport and phone were seized, and a ransom of Rs 60,000 was demanded for his release.

Although Momin and a colleague have now managed to reach the Indian Embassy in Vientiane, Laos, the situation remains grim. Their passports have been defaced by the employer with false accusations such as "stealing company resources" and "blacklisted," potentially affecting their legal status, safety, and future travel.

The case has sparked fresh outrage in Sopore and other parts of north Kashmir, with families and citizens demanding a crackdown on fraudulent agents who lure youth abroad with fake job offers. The victim's family has appealed to the CM of Jammu and Kashmir Omar Abdullah, Inspector General of Police, SSP Baramulla, MLA Wagoor and other authorities to take up the matter and ensure action against those responsible.

"We request verification and clearance of Momin's record by CID upon his return. These false blacklists can ruin lives," said a relative of Momin.

The Indian Embassy in

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## CHOUBARSI



### SMT. SUMITA SARAF

"YOU MAY BE GONE FROM OUR SIGHT, BUT NEVER FROM OUR HEARTS"

YOUR TEACHINGS AND VALUES STILL RUN IN OUR DNA. FOUR YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE YOU LEFT US FOR THE HEAVENLY ABODE, BUT YOUR MEMORIES ARE STILL FRESH IN OUR HEARTS.

MAY THE ALMIGHTY GRANT ETERNAL PEACE TO YOUR NOBLE SOUL. WE ALL SEEK YOUR KIND BLESSINGS IN OUR DAY-TO-DAY LIFE..

PLEASE JOIN US IN REMEMBERING AND PRAYING FOR THE SOUL OF OUR BELOVED SMT. SUMITA SARAF W/O MR ANIL SARAF ON HER CHOUBARSI ON WEDNESDAY, 9TH APRIL 2025 AT 11:00 AM AT H.NO 391 SECTOR 1 CHANNI HIMMAT JAMMU . OM SHANTI

WITH LOVE AND REMEMBRANCE

FONDLY REMEMBERED BY :

MR. ANIL SARAF - HUSBAND

MRS. BIMLA SARAF - MOTHER IN LAW

MR. VARUN SARAF - SON

MR. NIKHIL SARAF - SON

AND ENTIRE SARAF FAMILY

MOB : 9419186761, 9796011111



**TENTH DAY/KRIYA**

With Profound grief and Sorrow, we regret to inform the Sad demise of our beloved **SH. HIRDAY NATH HANDOO (GASHA Ji)** S/o. Lt. Sh. Maheshwar Nath Handoo originally resident of Bagh Jogi Lanker, Rainawari, Srinagar, Kashmir, at present Block No-161, Flat No-13, Lane-25, Jagti Township, Jammu. The **TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed at Akhnoor ghat on 11th April 2025 at 7 AM and **Assembly** will be held at our residence at Jagti at 10:30 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

Smt. Pushpa Handoo (Wife)  
Smt. Dulari Ji W/o Lt. Sh. Janki Nath Handoo (Bhabhi)  
Smt. Santosh Ji W/o. Lt. Sh. Lok Nath Handoo (Bhabhi)

**Son & Daughter - in - law**

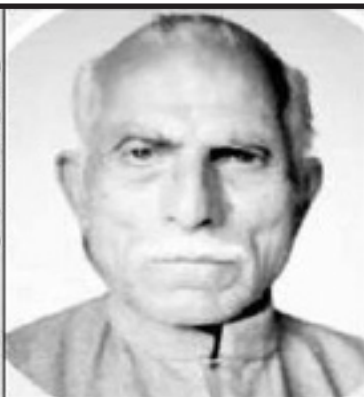
Rajesh and Anita  
Sushil Krishan and Sushma  
Vimal and Anju  
Vishal and Priya

**Daughters and Sons - in - law**

Smt. Neelam and Sh. Seth ji Koul  
Smt. Lalita and Sh. O.N. Dhar  
Smt. Bimla and Sh. Ramesh Pandita  
Smt. Anita and Sh. Dheeraj Bhat

**Grand Children**

Anuraj, Bhoomi, Bhumiya, Shivani, Suraj, Sunil, Seema, Rohit, Kashish, Mysha  
Handoo's, Tikoo's, Raina's, Koul's, Mattoo's, Pandita's



**SH. HIRDAY NATH  
HANDOO (GASHA Ji)**

**10TH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother **Smt. Sham Rani W/o Late Sh. Soom Nath R/o Sagam Anantnag** Present Address Roop Nagar, Muthi. **10th Day** will be performed at Muthi Ghat on Sunday (13/4/2025) 8.00 am.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Sh. Narinder Nath (Son)  
Smt. Kanta (Daughter-in-law)  
Sh. Rajinder Nath (Son)  
Smt. Bunty Kher (Daughter)  
Sh. Ravinder Kher (Son-in-law)  
Smt. Pushpa Pandita (Daughter)  
Sh. P. N. Pandita (Son-in-law)  
(Grand Children)

Amit, Ayoushman, Preeti, Anu, Rohit, Rishab & Navneet  
Sakshi (Grand Daughter-in-law)

Contact No. : 6005374003, 8713099969



**Smt. Sham Rani**

**10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Sohan Lal Mantoo S/o Lt. Sri Kanth Mantoo R/o Sopore** Kashmir at present H.No. 372, Lakkar Mandi Janipur, Jammu.

**10th Day Kriya** will be performed at Muthi Ghat near Director of School Education on Thursday (10-04-2025) at 10 am.

**Grief Stricken**

Reeta Ji Mantoo- Wife  
Smt. Phoola Ji & Sh. Bushan Lal Mantoo  
Smt. Suman Ji Mantoo W/o Lt. Shuban Lal Mantoo  
Smt. Baby & Sh. Kumar Ji Mantoo  
Smt. Sheetal Mantoo W/o Lt. Pawan Ji Mantoo  
Smt. Kanchan Mantoo & Sh. Deepak Mantoo  
Smt. Meenakshi Suri & Sh. Deepak Suri

Mantoo Parivar, Thotha Parivar

Mob. No.: 7889553379, 9419124265, 7006201191



**Sh. Sohan Lal Mantoo**

**FIFTH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of **Sh. Romesh Singh Jasrotia H/o Smt. Kunti Jasrotia R/o H.No. 745, Subash Nagar Jammu**, who left us for heavenly abode on 05.04.2025.

**FIFTH DAY** will be held on 09.04.2025 (Wednesday) at 11 AM at our residence H.No. 57, Shankar Vihar, Talab Tillo, Jammu.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-****Brother-in-Laws**

Smt. Veena & Sh. Balbir Singh Jamwal  
Smt. Babita & Sh. Kamal Singh Jamwal

**Sister-in-Law**

Smt. Chander Kala W/o Lt. Sh. Pritam Singh Wazir  
Smt. Janak Rani W/o Sh. Krishan Lal  
Smt. Anupurana Wazir W/o Sh. Arjun Singh Wazir  
Smt. Kusam Kumari W/o Lt. Sh. Lalit Kumar  
Smt. Neelam Rajput W/o Sh. Dalbir Singh Rajput

Contact. 9419206266, 9419106469



**SH. ROMESH SINGH  
JASROTIA**

**Tenth Day Kriya**

The 10th Day Kriya of our beloved **Late Jawahar Lal Raina Boni @ Pappa Ji**, R/o Malayar Srinagar/ Peemitha, Jammu A/P 411, Phase 2, Model Town Batindha Punjab who left for his heavenly abode on 31st of March at Batindha shall be performed at Haridwar on 09-04-2025.

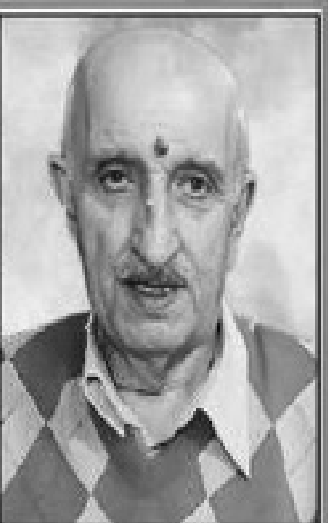
The rest of the rituals shall be performed at his residence at Bathinda.

**Grief Stricken:**

Rainas (Bonis), Kaks, Lalas, Kouls, Tickoos

Celi Nos.: 9781129302, 9906382637,

9833599330, 8283817764, 98220 30577



**Sh. Jawahar Lal  
Raina Boni**

**BARKHI**

**BARKHI** of our beloved **Lt. Smt. Geeta Slathia W/o Himat Singh Slathia** will be performed on 11th April at 11:30AM, Friday 2025 at Kabir Mandir, Uttarbheni.

Deeply missed and remembered by :  
**Sh Himat Singh Slathia (Husband)**

**Dinesh Singh Slathia (Son)**  
**Rekha Slathia (Daughter In Law)**  
**Priyanka Slathia (Daughter)**  
**Rajesh Manhas (Son In Law)**

Ph. 9811512303, 9419641241

**Slathia Family (Ramnagar) & Jamwal Family ( Kot Bhalwal)**



**Lt. Smt. Geeta  
Slathia**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and with great heart-felt 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 Lal Pandita, Devvar  
Smt. Shama G w/o Late Sh. Kashinath Pandita, Devrani  
Sh. Mohan Lal Pandita & Smt. Bita Pandita, Son & Daughter in law-- 9149434475  
Sh. Aulaz Krishan Pandita & Smt. Kiran Pandita, Son & Daughter in law-- 7051132897  
Sh. D. N. Pandita & Smt. Reeta Pandita, Son & Daughter in law -- 8825016855  
Smt. Nancy Kumar & Sh. Ashwani Kumar, Daughter & Son in law-- 7006042069  
Sh. Dalip Pandita & Bunty Pandita, Grand Son & Grand Daughter in law-- 9015409584  
AND SAMAST SHANKER PANDIT PARIWAR.



**Karamyogin Smt. Ram  
Rani**

**10th DAY KRIYA**

We regret to inform you of the **10th-day Kriya** and remembrance gathering for our beloved **Veera Moza**.

The **Kriya ceremony** will be held on Wednesday, April 9th, 2025, at 8am in Muradnagar (Chota Haridwar), Uttar Pradesh, followed by a prayer meeting at Club 27, Sector 27, Noida, from 11:30 AM to 4:00 PM. We respectfully request your presence as we pay our respects and share memories.

**IN GRIEF**

**MOZA 's AND KAUL'S**

9419185139, 9650550051



**Veera Moza**

**TENTH DAY**

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Shanta Tickoo W/o Sh. Sham Lal Tickoo** originally R/o Lal Chowk Anantnag at present House No. 21, Lane No. 2 Extn. opp Red Cross Udheywala Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 03.04.2025.

**10th Day** will be held on 11-04-25 (Friday) at Muthi Ghat near Director Education office at 9 AM.

**Grief Stricken**

Sham Lal Tickoo (Husband)  
Munish Tickoo & Smt. Monika (Son & D.I.L)  
Anjali Tickoo (Daughter)  
Renu Koul & Ramesh Koul (Daughter & S.I.L)  
Babita Bhat & Vijay Bhat (-do-)

**Grand Children**

Kartik, Sanchit, Rakshak, Deepanshi, Riya  
Tickoo's, Koul's, Bhat, Dhar, Raina, Pandita, Mattoo's, Hakhu's, Bhan

**M Nos : 9419278189, 9055287624**



**Smt. Shanta Tickoo**

**10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother **Smt. Sham Rani W/o Late Sh. Soom Nath R/o Sagam Anantnag** at Present H.No. 110, Lane 1-A, Roop Nagar Enclave, Near HDFC Bank, Jammu.

**10th Day Kriya** will be performed at Muthi Ghat, Near Director of School Education on Sunday (13/4/2025) at 8.00 am.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Sh. Narinder Nath (Son) # 6005374003  
Smt. Kanta (Daughter-in-law)  
Sh. Rajinder Nath (Son)  
Sh. P. N. Pandita (Son-in-law) # 7780861992  
Smt. Pushpa Pandita (Daughter)  
Sh. Ravinder Khar (Son-in-law) # 7006199566  
Smt. Bunty Khar (Daughter)  
Amit & Ayoushman (Grand Sons)  
Smt. Sakshi Pandita (Grand Daughter-in-law)  
Rahul Pandita & Preeti Pandita (Grand Son-in-law & Grand Daughter)  
Sh. Parth Ji & Anu (Grand Son-in-law & Grand Daughter)  
Sh. Rahul Pandita & Simran Pandita (Grand Son & Grand Daughter-in-law)  
Rishab & Navneet (Grand Sons)



**Smt. Sham Rani**

**10TH DAY KRIYAKARAM**

We are profoundly anguished by the untimely demise of our beloved **Lt. Sh. Awatar Krishan Bhat (Billu ji)**, Son of Lt. Sh. Veshamber Nath Bhat, originally a resident of Bonagund, Verinag, Kashmir, and presently residing at H.No. 120/D, Vitasta Lane, Durga Nagar, Jammu. He departed for his heavenly abode to be one with Sadashiv on 04-04-2025.

The **10th Day Kriyakaram** will be performed at Muthi Ghat on 13-04-2025 at 9:00 AM.

**IRREPARABLY STRICKEN:**

Smt. Sujeta Bhat (Wife)  
Sh. R.K. Bhat & Smt. Sonia Bhat (Brother & Bhabhi)  
Smt. Rubi Tickoo (Sister)  
Sh. Roop K. Bhat & Smt. Lovely (Brother-in-law & Sister)  
Aakash Bhat, Shivam Bhat, Sagar Bhat, Rushank Bhat & Vikasta Bhat (Sons & Daughter)

CONTACT NUMBERS: 9697541881, 9149454098



**Lt. Sh. Awatar Krishan Bhat  
(Billu ji)**

**UTHALA**

**SAHEB 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.

**Uthala** will be performed on 8th of April 2025 (Wednesday) from 3 PM to 4 PM at Municipality Community Hall Near New Bus Stand Samba.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**

Smt. Kamla Devi (Mother in law)  
Er. Rajesh Kumar Gupta Reid, Xen (Husband)  
Tushar Gupta (Son)  
Daughter and Son in law  
Dr. Sonakshi Gupta & Sajan Mahajan  
Dr. Sonali Gupta & Sahil Sharma  
Varinder Gupta and Srigdha Gupta (Brother in law & Sister in law)

Sister in law & Brother in law  
Neelam Gupta and Suresh Gupta  
Kanchan Gupta and Jugal Kishore Gupta

Uncle and Aunty  
Yash Pal Gupta and Lalita Gupta

Baldev Raj Gupta & Umila Gupta

Grand Children's : Kabir, Arika  
Contact:- 9419233857, 7889911015, 9858501150



**Dr. Kiran Bala Gupta**

**CHOUBARSI**

Four years have passed since your noble soul departed to heavenly abode creating a vacuum in our lives. Your sweet memories are always in our hearts. We deeply remember you in every moment. May God give your noble soul the eternal peace.

**Choubarsi** of our beloved **Sh. Bharat Bhushan Gupta S/o Lt. Sh. Rattan Chand** will be performed on 9th of April (Wednesday) at 12 noon onwards at Trikuta Yatri Niwas, Ved Mandir Complex near Petrol Pump Amphalla Jammu.

**Deeply Missed & Remembered By:**

Smt. Sushma Gupta - Wife  
Vipul Lehra - Son  
Smt. Neeru & Sh. Arun - Daughter & Son-in-law  
Peehu - Grand Child

And All Family Members



**SH. BHARAT  
BHUSHAN GUPTA  
(Retd. Sr. Lecturer)**

**10TH DAY KRIYA**

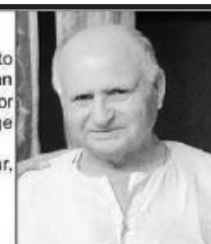
With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform that our beloved **Sh. Moti Lal Razdan** resident of E3-1504, Cleo County, Noida Sector 121, UP, passed away peacefully to merge with eternity on 03 April, 2025.

**10th Day Kriya** will be held at Haridwar, Uttarakhand on 12 April, 2025.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

Smt. Teja Razdan - Wife  
Son & Daughter In Law  
Mr. Manoj & Mrs. Archana Razdan - Daughter & Son In Law  
Mrs. Manju & Mr. Rajesh Dhar  
Mrs. Ruby & Mr. Anil Trakroo - Daughter & Son In Law  
Sh. Jawahar Lal Ji & Smt. Nirmala Razdan - Brother & Sister In Law  
Anisha, Rahul, Rishi, Isha & Ayush - Grand Children  
and the entire Razdan, Dhar & Trakroo Families, Relatives, Friends & Well-wishers

Contact No.-9873216805 | 9211886274 | 9958346505



**Sh. Moti Lal  
Razdan**

**10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **SMT VEENA BHAN W/o Sh. Bushan Lal Bhan** on 04-04-2025 R/o Trilokpur, Swarn colony Lane No 01 Near Shiv Temple.

**10TH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on 13-04-2025 (Sunday).

**ASSEMBLY** will be held at Muthi Ghat at 9.00 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN (BROTHER & SISTERS)**

B.L Bhan -Husband

Ashok Bhan

Kukoo Ji Bhan & Rajni Bhan

Ramesh Salman & Bharti Salman

Son & Daughter in Law

Sameer Bhan & Sheenu Bhan

Daughter & Son in Law

Shivani Bhan & Anni Razdan

Grand Children: Shivam, Pari, Kyan  
Mobile No: 7006137380, 70089200810,  
9419131650, 9716605726



**SMT VEENA BHAN**

**10TH DAY KRIYA KARAM**

We are profoundly anguished by untimely demise of **Sh. Pushker Nath Raina S/o Vishamber Nath Raina** on 02-04-2025 R/o Goja Mohalia Anantnag Kashmir at present, 287-A Kashmiri Gali near Rose Valley School Vipin Garden New Delhi 59.

The **10th Day** will be performed at Shree Gaur Shanker Mandir (Kashmiri temple) New Palam Vihar Gurugram and Assembly will be at our residence at 11.00 AM on 11-04-2025.

**GRIEF STRICKEN :**

Kishni Jee - Wife  
(Son & Daughter in law)  
Roop Krishan Raina & Reena Tickoo  
(Son-in-law & Daughter)  
Vijay Jee Pandita & Sujata Pandita  
Anmol, Astha, Bhudul & Naina (Grand Children)  
& SAMAST RAINA/PANDITA/TICKOO PARIVAR  
MOB : 9540339361/ 956089361/ 9811236299



**Sh. Pushker Nath Raina**

**TENTH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Smt. Laxmishori Pandita (Chuni Ji)** W/o Late Madhav Lal Pandita original resident of Bonpora Akingam Anantnag at present Durga Vihar Toll Post Kandoli Nagrota on 04-04-2025 (Friday).

**Tenth Day Kriya** will be held on 13-04-2025 (Saturday) at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education at 9 am.

**Grief Stricken**

Smt. & Sh. Maharaj Krishan Pandita  
Sh. Ramesh Pandita  
Smt. & Sh. Sudesh Krishan Pandita  
Sh. Vinod Kumar Pandita  
Smt. & Sh. Sanjay Pandita  
Smt. & Sh. Dilip Kumar Pandita  
Smt. & Sh. Opinder Krishan Pandita  
Grand Children  
Bhavik Pandita, Bhavini Pandita, Rupin Pandita, Medhasvi Pandita  
Mob. No: 9858294736, 8491950038



**Smt. Laxmishori  
Pandita (Chuni Ji)**

**DISCLAIMER**

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# Dogri Sanstha Jammu organizes Special Dogri Mushaira



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 8: Dogri Sanstha Jammu organized a special Dogri Mushaira at Kunwar Viyogi Auditorium, Dogri Bhawan, Karan Nagar, Jammu. Padmashri Dr. Jitender Udhampuri was the Chief Guest on the occasion, veteran litterateur Prakash Premi was special guest whereas Padmashri Prof. Lalit Magotra, president Dogri Sanstha Jammu presided over the function.

The poets who recited their poems included Padmashri Dr Jitendra Udhampuri, Padmashree Prof. Lalit Magotra, Prakash Premi, Indrajit Kesar, Ashok Angurana, Purna Chandra Sharma, Deepak Arsi, Bishan Singh 'Dardi', Brijmohan, Promila Manhas, Ashok Khajuria, Randhir Singh Raipuria, Pawan Verma, Abdul Qudir Kundria, Ashutosh Parashar, Dr Tarsem Kumar, Jagmohan Sharma, Dr Narendra Bharti, Pankaj

Sharma, Rajni Thapa, Neha Sharma, Meenakshi Kesar, and Abhinandan Sharma. The chief guest Dr. Jitender Udhampuri while complementing Dogri Sanstha Jammu for organizing such a mushaira said that poetic meets help in promoting the literature and help the new entrants to learn the basics from the veterans of the field. These literary get-togethers are necessary for the movement and hoped that it will continue at regular intervals in future also.

Prakash Premi, the special guest on the occasion said that Dogri Sanstha is a pioneer literary organization and has been actively involved in promoting mother tongue Dogri and cultural heritage of Duggar Pradesh since its formation in 1944.

He further added that it's always a pleasure to be part of such mushairas wherein established poets take part and the atmosphere is electrifying with the blend of veterans and youths.

Prof. Lalit Magotra while welcoming all on behalf of Dogri Sanstha Jammu said that Sanstha is committed to preserve and promote mother tongue Dogri and poetic get-togethers help a lot in this mission.

He recalled that Mushairas organized by Sanstha in different

parts of the region and even the remotest part on regular intervals in the past have helped immensely in promoting the language.

He said that although dogri literature is very rich in all genres of literature, poetry has always been successful in pulling the crowds not in hundreds but in thousands in the past. He hoped that the glorious past will get revived in the present time also.

He congratulated all the participants for giving new heights to the Mushaira with their unique presentations and assured that Sanstha in addition to fortnightly online Kavi Goshthis will make it a regular feature off line also. Pawan Verma, conducted the proceedings. A number of litterateurs, literature and dogri lovers attended the mushaira.

# Dr. Ambedkar's life was full of struggles: Balbir

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 8: As the nation remembers the legacy of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, we are reminded of his lifelong struggle for equality, justice, and dignity for all. Revered as the architect of the Indian Constitution and a staunch advocate for human rights, Dr. Ambedkar's vision continues to inspire movements for social reform and inclusivity today.

This was stated by Jammu & Kashmir BJP spokesperson and former Vice Chairman Balbir Ram Rattan while speaking to his party colleagues during a discussion on Dr. Ambedkar's struggle life.

He said that Dr. Ambedkar overcame immense social and economic challenges to emerge as a great intellectual, economist, and legal reformer. His unwavering fight against caste-based discrimination laid the foundation for a more just and equal India. Because of his efforts, the principles of liberty, equality, and fraternity were enshrined in the Indian Constitution — values that remain deeply rel-



evant in today's socio-political context.

Balbir further said that the ideology of "Ambedkar for Equality" calls upon society to strive toward a future where every individual is treated with respect and justice, irrespective of caste, gender, or economic status. The belief that education is a means of empowerment, as emphasized by Dr. Ambedkar, remains just as important today, since education is a powerful weapon against injustice and marginalization.

Balbir Ram Rattan noted that every year, on Dr. Ambedkar's birth anniversary, various political, social organizations, educational institutions, and community groups organize seminars, cultural events, and awareness campaigns to spread knowledge about his

contributions. The main goal of such programmes should be to familiarize youth with Ambedkar's life and values, and to rekindle a collective commitment to building an inclusive society.

Dr. Ambedkar once said, "We are Indians, firstly and lastly." Balbir remarked that this message of unity in diversity is a beacon of empathy, dialogue, and action in today's world.

As we pay tribute to his memory, let us renew our commitment to the ideals he stood for — a society based on equality, compassion, and justice.

Balbir was discussing this with BJP SC Morcha General Secretary Gulshan Bhagat, Morcha Office Secretary Hansraj Loria, and Mahila Morcha spokesperson Pooja Grover.

# APS Damana unveils 'Shimani Choudhary 10m Shooting Range' to foster precision, excellence

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 8: APS Damana proudly inaugurated the 'Shimani Choudhary 10M Shooting Range' within the school premises on 8 April 2025. The newly constructed Shooting Range envisions to honour the Star Shooter and alumna of the School Shimani Choudhary, a Gold Medalist in 24th All India Kumar Surendra Singh Shooting Championship 2022, West Bengal. It also aims to provide the young students with ample opportunities to prove their mettle through Shooting Sports.

Brig Vivek Puri SM, PhD Commander Chenab Brigade and Chairman APS Damana dignified the occasion as the Chief Guest. S.Surinder Singh Sodhi, President JKRA embellished the event as the Guest of Honour.



The other dignitaries who added glory to the event were Sharat Chander (Dy SP) Governing Body Member & CEO JKRA and Arun Mansotra, Treasurer JKRA.

The school also had the honour to have the benign presence of Kuldeep Singh Jamwal, Founder Member & Chairman JKRA. He is the son of Lieutenant Colonel SDS Jamwal.

During his interaction with the Chairman of the school, Kuldeep Singh Jamwal became quite nostalgic about his father and shared a memorable incident.

He recounted, "My father was DAA&QMG Chenab Brigade during the 1971 Operation against Pakistan. I was studying in college at the time and after the war ended, General Zoro Bakshi, GOC Tiger Division organized a lunch for all the officers and their families at a place 9 R Short of Head Marala in Pakistan. We had a wonderful time at the picnic and in the evening, we had a cup of tea and samosas before returning back to the brigade."

Kuldeep Singh Jamwal also highlighted the remarkable contribu-

tions of his father, who was a true hero of the Zojila Battle on 01 November 1948. He shared with pride that his father served as the Squadron Commander of Charlie Squadron of the 7th Cavalry, which played a pivotal role in the historic capture of the Zojila Pass.

Besides Shimani Choudhary of Batch 2022-23 added distinction to the event as the Special Guest. The school alumna, displayed her marksmanship skills at the Shooting Range exuberantly. It is pertinent to mention that the newly con-

structed Shooting Arena will cater to the robust and progressive holistic standards of the school.

In his address, the Chief Guest congratulated the school for providing the young aspirants with comprehensive training in Shooting Sports. He expressed his firm belief in the triumvirate of practice, consistency and dedication as the keys to unlock the success.

Pushpinder Kaur, Principal APS Damana signified to enhance safe, disciplined and responsible gun handling at the Shooting Range inside the School. She shared her ambitious vision for the school's future in sports. She stated, "Our goal is to ensure that students strive hard to represent our country at the Olympics and other prestigious global platforms in Shooting." The event culminated with the high tea for the guests.

# Save Tawi Campaign" Spreads Message of Environmental Protection on Ashtami and Ramnavmi : LFO-BHF

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 8: On the auspicious occasion of Ashtami and Ramnavmi, Live For Others Being Helpful Foundation, in collaboration with Jammu Municipal Corporation, Talla Jewellers, and with the NSS Volunteers from various colleges of Cluster University & GCW Parade, Climate Front & INARA successfully conducted the "Save Tawi Activity" on 5th and 6th April 2025 under the guidance of Mr. Vivek Parihar, CEO & Director of LFO-BHF.

NSS volunteers from GGM Science College, SPMR Commerce Col-

lege, MAM College, GCW Parade, Govt. College of Education Canal Road, and P.S.P.S Govt. PG College played a vital role in the success of the drive.

The activity focused on responsibly guiding devotees to immerse only the sacred saakh in the river while non-bio-degradable waste was collected separately for recycling. This approach respected religious sentiments while minimizing environmental harm.

A total of 1300 kg of waste was collected—less than last year—reflecting growing public awareness due to consistent sensitization efforts.

Dr. Amitpal Kour, NSS Coordinator, Cluster University of Jammu, extended full support, helping bring together volunteers from across institutions.

Samar, Secretary and Environment Domain Incharge, addressed devotees on the ecological importance of Tawi and the dangers of polluting it. He also emphasized, "Let every sacred ritual also be a pledge to protect nature."

The event showcased the strength of community participation, youth leadership, and collaborative action in promoting sustainable and eco-friendly religious practices.

# KPs appeal Home Minister to address genuine problems of migrants in exile

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 8: The forceful exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from their native places in Kashmir have crossed more than thirty six years and they are living still in deplorable and pathetic condition in various camps in Jammu and other parts of the country with this hope that one day their rehabilitation in Kashmir with honour and dignity will be made possible by the present Central Government for which they are eagerly waiting. In a Press statement

issued today jointly by notable social activists and community leaders M.K.Yogi and Vinod Pandita have appealed Union Home Minister and Lt. Governor union Territory of J&K to take a humanitarian review on the miserable plight of Kashmiri Pandits and their pertinent issues and address them in a time bound period. Yogi said the most important issue like the rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits back in Valley with Honour and dignity in a time bound period is the need of the honour that needs to be looked into on pri-

ority basis. Yogi also appealed for enhancement of meager monthly relief assistance from Rupees 13000/- to 25000/- month . Yogi also appealed for resolving the issues of PM Package employees working in valley like their permanent transfer policy, promotion issues, absorption in permanent employment provisions, accommodation issues etc. Pandita in his statement further has appealed for creation and advertisement of special permanent employment package for educated KP Youth to tackle their rising unemploy-

ment

Pandita pleaded for doling out of left out compensation to the gutted and damaged properties of Kashmiri Pandits in valley and construction of adequate residential quarters for migrants living on rents in Jammu .

Pandita also appealed Home Minister and Lt. Governor J&K to reactivate the migrant grievance portal forthwith with implementation of immovable migrant property act 1997 in letter and spirit by making the custodian as sole accountable under this law.

# Industrial Automation Specialist Course held at Jammu for Armed Forces

## Top News Report

JAMMU , Apr 8: A three-month certificate Course in "Industrial Automation Specialist" commenced for Armed Forces personnel at Jammu.

Instrumentation Automation Surveillance and Communication (IASC) SSC, Jammu is an autonomous Industry lead under ageis of Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneur-

ship (MSDE), Govt of India. The course which will continue till 11 Jul 2025 is designed to equip defence personnel with specialist Skills in Industrial Automation focusing on Job training in the Industrial Sector which is vital for India's Industry.

Directorate General Resettlement (DGR) under Ministry of Defence (MoD) have enrolled 40 participants



in the course from Army, Navy & Air Force. The collaboration between the IASC SSC under MSDE and DGR aims to

provide valuable training to the retiring personnel. The course was inaugurated by Director, Directorate of Resettlement

Zone (North), Udhampur and Mr. Nitin Kumar, Head of Strategic Partnership & Operations MSDE, Govt of India.

# GGs College of Management and Technology hosts workshop on "Mathematics and the Scientific Revolution"



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 8: Guru Gobind Singh College of Management and Technology, Gidderbaha, successfully organized a one-day workshop titled "Mathematics and the Scientific Revolution: How Math Changed the World." The event aimed to highlight the transformative power of mathematics in shaping modern society.

The workshop commenced with an inspiring inaugural address by Principal Dr. R.K. Uppal, who emphasized the pivotal role of mathematics in contemporary life and its relevance across disciplines.

Col. Sudhanshu Arya, Campus Director, also

addressed the gathering, encouraging students to view mathematics not as a monotonous subject but as an intellectually stimulating field when approached with curiosity and creativity.

The keynote address was delivered by renowned mathematics expert Dr. Mehar Chand, whose engaging presentation captivated the audience. He focused on the practical applications of mathematics in daily life, advocating for a deeper understanding of concepts rather than rote memorization.

Dr. Chand also introduced participants to various AI tools that can significantly enhance the learning experience, making mathematics

more interactive and accessible.

The workshop drew enthusiastic participation from faculty members and mathematics students, who actively engaged in discussions and shared their perspectives. The interactive sessions created a vibrant, collaborative environment that enriched the overall learning experience.

The event was meticulously coordinated by Prof. Lakhpreet Kaur and Prof. Gurjeet Kaur, who expressed sincere gratitude to all attendees, guest speakers, and the college administration for their invaluable support in making the event a resounding success.



## EDITORIAL

FUTURE OF  
ARTIFICIAL  
INTELLIGENCE

As we sail through the tides of the 21st century, one force stands tall at the helm of this transformative journey—Artificial Intelligence (AI). Once the muse of science fiction, AI now pulses through the arteries of our modern world, reshaping how we live, work, heal, learn, and dream. From voice assistants that understand our whispers to machines that interpret complex medical scans in moments, AI is no longer the future—it is the present evolving rapidly toward a more intelligent tomorrow.

But what does the future of AI look like? What rhythms will it dance to in the coming decades? Let's unfurl this narrative together—layer by layer, pulse by pulse—into the future of artificial intelligence.

Imagine waking up in 2035. Your smart home, guided by AI, adjusts the blinds to let in just the right amount of light. Your personalized AI assistant updates your schedule, tracks your health metrics in real-time, suggests your breakfast based on your nutritional needs, and books appointments with just a whisper. AI won't just assist us—it will understand us, learning our rhythms, habits, and emotional cues.

AI will continue to permeate industries—education, finance, entertainment, manufacturing. From AI tutors helping children learn in personalized ways, to algorithms managing your finances or planning retirement, AI will be a trusted advisor in every corner of life. It's not just automation—it's augmentation of human potential.

Perhaps the most profound impact of AI will bloom in healthcare. With machine learning models that can detect diseases like cancer, diabetes, and heart conditions early—sometimes even before symptoms arise—AI will usher in a new era of predictive and preventative care.

Robotic surgeons guided by AI will assist in delicate procedures with unmatched precision. Virtual health assistants will monitor patients remotely, reducing the need for hospital visits and freeing doctors to focus on complex cases. AI-driven drug discovery will drastically cut down the time and cost of developing life-saving medications.

Healthcare, once reactive, will become proactive—and lives will be saved in the thousands.

Contrary to the popular fear that AI will steal jobs, the future suggests a more nuanced story. Yes, certain repetitive, manual roles may vanish. But a symphony of collaboration between humans and intelligent machines is emerging.

AI will handle data-heavy, analytical tasks, while humans will bring creativity, empathy, critical thinking, and moral judgment to the table. This will give rise to a new genre of hybrid careers—AI ethicists, data translators, human-AI interaction designers, and more.

Education systems will pivot too, emphasizing adaptability, emotional intelligence, and interdisciplinary thinking. The workforce of the future will be more agile, purpose-driven, and creatively empowered.

With great power comes great responsibility. As AI grows smarter, faster, and more autonomous, ethical challenges will loom large. Who owns the data AI learns from? How do we ensure it doesn't reflect or amplify human biases? What if an AI makes a life-or-death decision?

Governments, technologists, philosophers, and communities must come together to build transparent, fair, and accountable AI systems. Explainability, inclusivity, and human oversight must be etched into the DNA of every algorithm.

In the distant future, some whisper of Artificial General Intelligence (AGI)—an AI that can think, feel, and reason like a human. Others dream further, of sentient machines with consciousness, imagination, and emotion. While we are far from that today, research continues to chip away at the boundaries between mind and machine.

If achieved, it could be the dawn of a new civilization—one where biological and artificial intelligences co-exist, perhaps even co-evolve. But such a leap demands unprecedented care and contemplation. We must ask: what does it mean to be human, in a world where machines can dream?

The future of AI is neither dark nor dazzling—it is what we make of it. It is a tool of immense power and promise. It can solve climate change, eliminate poverty, and accelerate education. Or it can deepen inequality, surveil societies, and destabilize truth.

The brush is in our hands. The canvas is vast. If guided by empathy, ethics, and human-centric design, AI can be the paint with which we color a more just, vibrant, and intelligent world.

Let us not fear the future of AI. Let us shape it—with wisdom, courage, and a vision that embraces all of humanity.

## Bawal Aur Ubal in JD[U] Post Passage of waqf Bill

By: Omkar Dattatray

Unfortunately there is big chaos ,trouble and boil in Janata Dal[United] – JD[U] post passage Waqf [Amendment]Bill over the support of Nitish Kumar's JD[U] to the said bill as some Muslim MLA's of his party are of the opinion that Waqf Bill is an assault on the rights of Muslim community and the bill is unconstitutional and against the interests of Muslims. Besides they regards the Waqf [Amendment] Bill as violation of the religious and cultural freedom enshrined in the constitution. Thus there is chaos, trouble, confusion and boil in the JD[U] as some politicians and leaders are severing relations with JD[U].The support of Janata Dal United for the Waqf [Amendment]Bill in parliament has not gone down well with Muslim leaders of the party. After Mohammad Kasim Ansari ,who resigned on Thursday ,four more Muslim JD[U] leaders tendered their resignation on Friday April 4,2025. Angered with the party's stand JD[U] State secretary of minority cell Mohammad Shahnawaz Mallik ,Betthi [West Champaran ]district vice-president Nadeem Akhtar ,State general secretary – minority cell Mahammad Tabrez Siddiqui Alig and party member from Bhojpur Mohammad Dilshan Rayeen resigned from the JD[U]. In one of the resignation letters ,it has been mentioned that the impact of the party's support for the passage of the Bill would be reflected in the upcoming Assembly elections in Bihar. In the resignation letter sent to chief minister Nitish Kumar a day after the Bill was passed in both houses ,Mr. Alig said ,”I never anticipated that JD[U] would support this Bill.

Some people close to your party have brought JD[U] to such a situation that it had deviated from its basic principles. This decision has been taken against the Muslim community, which supported the party for the last 19 years” .He added, “This act is a betrayal of the trust of millions of supporters who repeatedly brought you to the post of chief minister .Its effect will be visible in the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections 2025 and soon there will be a stir in JD[U] due to widespread discontent. In this situation, my conscience does not allow me to remain in the party .””I believed that JD[U] would always be committed to secularism ,social justice and protection of the rights of minorities but support for the Waqf Bill has deeply shaken my faith. The statements made by Lalan Singh [Rajiv Ranjan Singh] in the Lok Sabha in support of this Bill was extremely disappointing and sad. This Bill strikes at the constitutional rights of Indian Muslims and seems to be an attempt to marginalize the entire Muslim community,” Mr Alig added. JD[U] MLC Gulam Gaus on Friday termed the Bill unconstitutional and urged President Droupadi Murmu to repeal the Waqf Bill. In fact Nitish Kumar's JDU faces internal rift over its stand on Waqf Bill as five leaders resigned from the party in protest. The latest to resign from JD[U] was Nadeem AKhtar ,making him the fifth leader to quit the party over its support for the Waqf [Amendment]Bill. The Waqf[Amendment] Bill's passage in parliament has triggered a string of resignations in the Nitish Kumar-led JD[U] ,with fiver senior leaders quitting the party by Friday. The exits come ahead of the upcoming Bihar assembly elections ,deepening worries for the JD[U] as it faces

growing dissent within its ranks. Raju Nayyar ,in his resignation letter said he was “deeply hurt “ by JDU's support for the Waqf Amendment Bill ,calling it a “black law “ that oppresses Muslims. He added ,”I resign from JD[U] after Waqf Amendment Bill is passed and supported in the LoK Sabha ,” and requested to be relieved from all party responsibilities. AIMPLB had called on all secular political parties ,including BJP allies and MP's ,to reject the Waqf Amendment Bill. Mohammed Qasim Ansari ,claiming to be a senior JDU leader ,and Mohammed Nawaz Malik, JDU minority Pradesh secretary of Bihar ,wrote separate letters to Nitish Kumar .In the letters ,they said that Muslims no longer had trust in the party ,which they earlier believed followed a secular path.” Millions of Indian Muslims like us had unwavering faith that you are the flag bearer of a purely secular ideology. But now ,this belief has been shattered. Millions of dedicated Indian Muslims and activists like us are deeply shocked by JDU's stand regarding the Waqf Bill Amendment Act 2024,”reads the letter written by Shah Nawaz Malik .Ansari wrote that the Waqf Bill was “against Indian Muslims,” and could not be accepted “under any circumstances.” “This bill violates many fundamental rights of the constitution .Through this bill ,Indian Muslims are being humiliated and insulted. Neither you nor your party realizes this. I regret that I gave many years of my life to the party ,”he wrote. However ,JD[U] national spokesperson Rajiv Ranjan Prasad responded by saying that neither Ansari ,from East Champaran ,nor Malik ,from Jamul ,were part of the party's official structure. The internal rift,chaos and dissensions and resignations of some leaders

of the JDU will have bearing upon the poll prospects of the party as the assembly elections are not far. Therefore it can be said that the grief and boil in the JD[U] over its support to the Waqf Bill in parliament has resulted in differences and rift in the party and it will have bad repercussions on the political fortunes of the JDU in Bihar assembly elections. Muslims of Bihar are more or less annoyed and saddened with the stand of JD[U] on Waqf Bill in both houses of parliament and they are dismayed by the stand of their party and thus have many of them resigned from JDU as protest. The issue around the Waqf Bill is expected to continue in Bihar until the state assembly elections which are scheduled for later this year. Recently,the AIMPLB held a protest in Patna asking Nitish Kumar and NDA partners like Chirag Paswan to stop the bill. Since rift and disagreement in the JDU triggered resignations of some leaders from Muslim community over the support of JDU to the Waqf Bill in parliament. Since Bihar assembly elections are going to be held in late this year and the rift ,boil and chaos in the party will echo in the state elections. Now it will be the litmus test for CM Nitish Kumar to keep his flock together and face the elections. But it will be a challenging job for Nitish Kumar and his JD[U] and everything will be clear in the coming months. The support of JD[U] to Waqf Bill may cost dearly to Nitish and his party.

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

## Contribution of women in the field of science

By: Vijay Garg

Most of the people from us when asked for the name of a player of cricket, we immediately tell the name of Sachin Tendulkar, Virat Kohli or any other male player without thinking; there will probably be very few or decimals only people who will name Mithali Raj, Jhulan Goswami or any other female player in response to this question. Similarly, when we talk about scientists, Stephen Hawking in our mind, Ijack Newton, A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, CV The same image of male scientists like Raman emerges and not of female scientists like Janki Ammal, Asima Chatterjee, Anna Mani. Yes, even though in the modern era women are walking step by step with men everywhere from earth to sky, but even today, from higher education to research institutions and workspace, their contribution to everywhere is not given as much importance as a man's contribution is given. Despite all kinds of challenges, be a Chandrayaan mission in ISRO or the success of the Mars mission, from NASA to the Nobel Prize in every field our female scientists have considered their iron. So let's know about some female scientists waving their flag in the magical world of science and about the challenges faced by women in the field-

In the century in which women were imprisoned in the boundary wall of the house, at the same time, the names of some female scientists who set up record in the world of science are as follows-

Janki Ammal: Janmi Janki Ammal was a scientist of botanology born in Kerala on 4 November 1897. He had researched the search and cross breeding of hybrid species of gunns which got recognition all over the world. In the year 1957, he was awarded the Padma Shri in view of the contribution to botany. He died on February 7, 1984. Anandibai Joshi: He was born on 31 March 1865 in the city of Pune. These were the first woman in India to have a doctor's degree abroad. After returning to India, he did a lot of work in the field of medical science and health. In 26 February 1887 at the age of just 22, he died due to illness. Asima

Chatterjee: Famous Asima Chatterjee was born in Bengal on 23 September 1917 to develop cancer therapy, epilepsy and antimalaria drugs. These were the first Indian woman who was given a doctorate of science degree by an Indian university. At the age of 90 in 2006, he said goodbye to the world. Anna Mani: Anna Mani, popularly known as the weather scientist, was born on 23 August 1918 in Travancore, Kerala. They did remarkable work in the field of solar radiation, ozone layer and air energy. His life on 16 August 2001 ended. Kiran Mazumdar Sha: Kiran is not an idol of any identity in the world of science. Kiran Mazumdar, a key contributor to the field of biotechnology, established 'Biocon Limited', an integrated biological pharmaceutical company to manufacture enzymes along with research on diabetes, cancer, and self-resistant diseases. Our female scientists have only done incomparable works in the field of science and medicine, but also achieved great achievements in the field of mathematics, space and astronomy. You must know about these women performing powerful in the world of space-

Muthaiya Vanita: These were the project director of the second Chandrayaan mission in India. Muthaiya is the first female scientist to do this level of work in ISRO. These have played an important role in the first Indian remote sensing satellite Cartosat-1 and the second ocean application satellite OceanSat-2 mission used for mapping. In the year 2006, these were awarded the award of the best women scientist.

Ritu Karidhal: Ritu Karidhal, who was the deputy operations director in Chandrayaan-1 mission, was the mission director of Chandrayaan-2, India's most ambitious mission. In the year 2007, he was awarded the Young Scientist Oward of ISRO.

Tessy Thomas: Tessy Thomas, popularly known as India's missile woman and Agniputri, caught everyone's attention from his work at DRDO. They have contributed immensely to strengthening India's defence system.

Kalpna Chawla: Everybody knows about Indian-origin American astronaut Kalpna Chawla from the little kid to the elderly. Kalpna was the first woman of Indian origin

to go into space. She stayed in space for 376 hours 34 minutes. During this time he had made 252 rounds of earth. Sates astronauts, including Kalpana Chawla, died in a wretched crash in space history that took place on 1 February 2003.

Sunita Williams: Sunita Williams is the second woman of Indian origin to go into space through the American space agency NASA. Sunita Williams established a world record of living in space for 195 days as an astronaut.

What say stats?

Take a look at statistics in the Indian perspective, a survey conducted in the year 2020 showed that out of 1,044 members of the Indian National Academy of Science, there are only 89 women who are 9 per cent of the total number. At the same time, his representation in the year 2015 saw a further decrease that included only 6 per cent of female scientists among 864 members. Similarly, Insa's governing body had only 7 women out of a total of 31 members in the year 2020, while no female members were involved in it in 2015.

At the same time, speaking globally, a study jointly conducted by the Gender in Science, Innovation, Technology and Engineering, Inter Academy Partnership and the International Science Council saw a slight increase in the elected membership of women in higher academics. These numbers were 13 per cent in the year 2015 to become 16 per cent by buffering in the year 2020. What is the reason for less participation of women in the scientific world

After seeing the above mentioned stats, we may be happy to think that the number of women is increasing year by year against the previous years, but should also look at that its raftaar is very slow. Some of the major reasons that reduce the participation of women are as follows-

A major reason for women's deficiency in the field of science is conservative gender perception. The recognition among the people is rampant that men can do more diligence and more knowledge work better. Women are made for household tasks and therefore they should do household tasks or choose a business that can be handled easily along with household tasks. Women

are given on patriarchal approach in hiring or giving fellowship and grants etc. Lack of female role models Not being an assistant to institutional framework during pregnancy and safety-related problems in the workplace make women labour out of this area. In these fields, for a low number of women, there is not only social norms but also quality education. Initiated initiative to encourage women

To encourage women to pursue a career in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics in the country, 'Vigyan Jyoti Yojanas' is being run since 2019 by the Department of Science and Technology (DST). At the same time, 'Kiran Yojanas' was introduced in the year 2014-15 with the aim of providing opportunities to women scientists at the academic and administrative level. The 'Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions programme was launched to assess gender equality in the field of stem. Overall it wouldn't be wrong to say that over time women have made a different identity of themselves by hard work and perseverance in the field of science; their inventions and experiments have made four moons in the advancement of science and technology but their speed wheel in this science world running gallop is still slow. So to make rapid changes in the status quo, our family, educational institutions, companies and governments, all have to work together. Also, the success stories of women who leave their indelible mark in the scientific world will have to reach the masses to bring a change in the thinking of narrow minded section and the daughters of the country can ensure their participation in the field of increased science.

*(Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational Columnist Street kour Chand MHR Malout Punjab)*



# GDC Akhnoor organises Seminar on Diasporic Themes and Literature on Human Rights

## Top News Report

AKHNOOR, Apr 8: The Department of English ,Government Degree College (GDC) Akhnoor organized a one-day seminar and student-led PowerPoint presentation session on Diasporic Themes and Literature on Human rights.

The event aimed to provide a platform for students and scholars to explore the multi-faceted experiences of displacement, identity, and cultural negotiation as reflected in diasporic literature and racism,discrimination in Literature on Human rights.

It witnessed active participation from faculty members, students of sem IVth and Sem6th literature enthusiasts under the able guidance of Principal of the College Dr.Romilla Malla Bhat.

The seminar began with a welcome address by Dr.Monika Malhotra Head of the Department, who emphasized the growing relevance of



diasporic narratives in a globalized world.

She delivered an insightful lecture on the complexities of cultural hybridity and identity crisis in contemporary diasporic texts. Following the seminar, students of the department presented a series of engaging PowerPoint presentations on selected works by prominent diasporic authors such as Jhumpa Lahiri,V.S.Naipaul, VijayTendulkar, Mulk Raj Anand.

Each presentation offered critical insights into themes like nostalgia, alienation, assimilation, and the politics of home and belong-

ing, discrimination and need for justice for the oppressed. The event concluded with an interactive Q&A session, encouraging thought-provoking discussions among the participants. The faculty members of the English Department Dr. Anju Bala, Dr. Shashi Sharma, Dr.Rajiv Katoch and Dr. Neelam Thappa expressed their views on the said themes .The Department extended its heartfelt thanks to all who contributed to the success of the event and reaffirms its commitment to promoting literary exploration and academic dialogue.

# GDC Vijaypur organizes Lecture on “B. R. Ambedkar: The Architect of Indian Constitution”



## Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Apr 8: In continuation to the series of activities being organized under the Celebrations of B. R. Ambedkar Jyanti, Department of English in collaboration with NSS unit (KHIDMAT) of Government Degree College Vijaypur organized a special lecture on the theme “B. R. Ambedkar:

The Architect of Indian Constitution”. The program was organized under the able guidance and supervision of the esteemed Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Ashu Vashist. NSS volunteers attended the lecture with great

enthusiasm and zeal.

The lecture began with a formal welcome address by Dr. Gunjeet Mahiwal (Lecturer Department of Education).

Dr. Indu Koul (Lecturer Department of English) delivered the lecture to the students.

In her address, Koul highlighted the contributions of Ambedkar in framing and designing the Indian Constitution, which gave equal rights to people irrespective of caste, race, religion and culture.

He also worked for education and basic welfare of Dalits. He

also raised his voice for public drinking water and entry of Dalits in Hindu temples.

The event was carried out with full support of the senior faculty members Prof. Mamta Gupta (HOD Commerce), Dr. Anoop Kumar Bhagat (HOD Sociology), Dr. Arti Sharma (HOD Environmental Sciences) and Dr. Manoj Heer (HOD Environmental Sciences). It was coordinated by Dr. Naseem Chowdhary (HOD English) and Prof. Meetu Sharma (HOD Geography). It was co-ordinated by Dr. Gunjeet Mahiwal (Lecturer Education) and Dr. Indu Koul (Lecturer English).

# Ganesh Sharma’s art works published in International Art and Literature Magazine “Al Fayad” Iraq

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 8: Well known eminent Senior contemporary Internationally acclaimed Sculptor Ganesh Kumar Sharma’s art works selected and published in International Art and Literature Magazine “Al Fayad” published by “Al Fayad International Academy for peace, culture and arts” Iraq. The issue Shawwal 5, 1448, issued on April 04, 2025. Ganesh Sharma’s three art works marvelous marvel stone Sculptures, selected by International Jury Members appointed by the management of the

Academy, from invited entries across the world and published in this prestigious International Magazine. It is to mention here that “Al Fayad International Academy for peace, culture and Arts is accredited by more than twenty Arab and International bodies. Eminent Sculptor Ganesh Kumar Sharma is working in the field of art and culture from more than forty five years and recipient of so many States, National and International awards and honors from so many different art organizations at National and international levels.



# GDC Marh celebrates Ambedkar Jayanti

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 8: NSS unit GDC Marh in collaboration with IQAC, celebrated ‘Ambedkar Jayanti’ in the college premises.

The guest speaker of the event was Dr. K.C. Bhagat, former Professor and Senior Scientist SKUAST, Social worker. The event was organized under the supervision of Prof. Anita Kumari.

She in her keynote address, briefed the students about the contribution of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar in present Indian democracy. Dr. K.C. Bhagat congratulated the students and said that Dr. Bhim

Rao Ambedkar was a pioneer of social change and a versatile personality, made exceptional contribution to our country and society as a jurist, educationist, economist, social-reformer and political leader which Even today, his strong belief in the constitutional system is the foundation of our democracy and good governance.

He appraised the students the problems India faced after Independence such as poverty and shortage of food.

He highlighted that although Green revolution significantly boosted the production and played a crucial in combating hunger and malnutrition, but also led to



negative consequences such as soil pollution and posing risk to flora and fauna which advocates the incorporation of organic farming. In his power point presentation he explained the whole process and species of earthworms used in vermin-composting.

The proceedings of the event were conducted by Dr. Madhvi Parasher,

(HOD Botany).

The event was graced by the Dr. Imtiaz Shahid, Dr. Ram Dayal, Dr. Rahul Sharma, Prof. Anjana Chib, Prof. Asha Kumari, Prof. Sachin Kumar Bhagat, Ravi Kumar, Dr. Shakun Sharma, Dr. Priya Sharma, Dr. Surbhi Gupta, and Dr. Gulzar, Dr. Nadeem, Dr. Gurleen, Dr. Samvedna, Dr. Younis. Mohit

Kalotra and Rachhpal Lal provided technical support for the event. and About 55 students attended the lecture and furnished an affirmative feedback that vermi-composting offers significant entrepreneurial potential, along with sustainable waste management with production of high valued organic compost.

# CEC Tashi Gyalson meets delegation from Chilling Sumda



## Top News Report

LEH, Apr 8: Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson was called on by delegation from Chilling,Sumda Chenmo, Sumda Chun and Ezang Sumda Dho led by Councillor Sonam Nurboo.

The delegation included Goba Nawang Tsering and villagers of Chilling Sumda.

The delegation discussed various issues including boundaries of Hemis High Altitude National Park. They requested the CEC to rationalise the park’s boundaries to address the issues faced by the local residents.

CEC assured the delegation of council’s full support and assistance in addressing the concerned raised.

# CEC Tashi Gyalson Reviews Progress on Cultural Tourism Portal with Firgun Social Initiative

## Top News Report

LEH, Apr 8: Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson chaired a meeting to review the ongoing development of a tourism promotion portal being created in collaboration with Firgun Social Initiative Foundation.

The portal is aimed at promoting and preserving cultural and

sustainable tourism in Leh district. It will highlight unexplored sites, monasteries, trekking routes, village-level experiences, and cultural activities. The platform will also provide travelers with local maps, food options, homestay information, and guidance on activities in all villages under Leh district.

Representatives from Firgun shared a detailed presentation on the website, outlining its key features and modules.

# Government Degree College Sidhra celebrates Ambedkar Jayanti



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 8: As a part of week-long series of activities, NSS unit of Government Degree College Sidhra commemorated 134th Birth Anniversary of the real architect of Indian Constitution, Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar.

In order to celebrate the event NSS unit in collaboration with Library committee of the college organised exhibition of books exhibiting contribution of Dr. B R Ambedkar.

During the exhibition NSS volunteers across

all the semesters visited college library where Hilal Ahmad, Librarian of college library familiarised them with atleast 25-30 books related to life and works of Dr. B R Ambedkar.

Thereafter Dr. Purvaiya Hans, NSS Program Officer acquainted the students and staff on the values, efforts and contribution of Dr. B R Ambedkar not for the downtrodden section of the society but in every section of society such as Economic reforms, Women empowerment, Social equality, Education for all, etc.

The whole staff attended the exhibition and got aware about the importance of Constitution because it establishes the country’s core values and ideals.

Dr. G.S. Rakwal, Principal of the college expressed pride in the students’ enthusiasm and he appreciated the efforts of the staff and the volunteers. The whole event was organised by Dr. Purvaiya Hans, NSS Programme officer with the active support and coordination members of NSS Unit under the guidance of Dr. G.S. Rakwal.

# Kaith, others from J&K hail Rahul Singh Gaddal on winning Volleyball C’ship



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 8: Social and BJP activists from Jammu and Kashmir at a meeting held in Surya Vihar here today, hailed and congratulated Himachal Pradesh’s Volleyball player Rahul Singh Gaddal on winning the cash prize and a trophy in the 1st Volleyball Championship

organised in Govt Govt School Chhatwal by the Gram Panchayat Chhatwal.

While praising Rahul Singh Gaddal, the BJP Activist R.L.Kaith said, “You are a good hitter, do what you know how to do and kill your next attack.”

All present in the meeting wished Rahul much more success and happiness in his future.

Prominent among the attendees included Hony Captain Kamal Dass Kaith, Subedar Baldev Chand Sandhu (Retd), Darshan Kumar Bassa, Sub Inspector (Retd), Havildar Des Raj Kaith (Retd), Master Naresh Kaith, Madan Raj Kaith, Tilak Raj Bassa and Jagdish Raj Kaith.



## Actress Rituparna Sengupta shares how content-driven cinema is making a mark

Over three decades of being in the film industry, actress-dancer Rituparna Sengupta is now enjoying the wave of content-driven cinema. Recipient of the National Film Award for Best Actress for the film Dahan, she is keeping busy between shoots, film festivals, preparing for a musical and the release of her film Pura-tawn.

The film marks the return of veteran actress Sharmila Tagore to Bengali cinema after 14 years. A mother-daughter story, the film is significant for Rituparna. "Working with Sharmila Tagore was special. Even at 80, she has the curiosity of a child. She is so particular about her costumes, dialogues and every other detail on the sets. Her enthusiasm and energy at such an age is a lesson for all of us."

Rituparna is not only one of the significant characters in this story, but also a producer of this project. "The film will see an all India release

and dubbed in Hindi too. So, we are all excited about it." The film bats for remembering our roots while living in the present. "It's good to be modern but treasuring age-old wisdom is also important."

Recently, Rituparna was in Himachal Pradesh for a shoot with an all-women cast in the lap of magnificent mountains. Mesmerised by the natural beauty of the Dhauldhara range, she says, "I am grateful to our producers for zeroing-in on Dharamshala for the shoot. With snow-capped peaks around us, it was all too surreal." The shoot was for the film Nazarbandi, directed by Debarati Bhowmick. "Films like this are rare. It's a thriller with the story revolving around five women."

With most of the crew being dominated by women too, Rituparna says, "We had a blast shooting. Except one, the rest of the cast comprised my juniors. We had great fun shooting the project."



With the spotlight on her films, Ajogya, Distances and Puratawn at the 'I View World International Film Festival' in Delhi, Rituparna was in happy space.

Through acting and producing films, dance has stayed as her first passion. She still performs extensively with her dance troupe.

Trained in Odissi and Manipuri, she prefers fusion forms. "In fact, I am in the middle of writing a musical right now," she reveals. She shares that each film of her career has given her something unique. "I am in the industry for the love of acting. How a film does is secondary; the first thing is to give

my best."

When not acting, or dancing, Rituparna likes to read and write. She is into writing a short film these days, as she preps for a musical along with it. One of her recent projects is Ittar, which marks a comeback of actor Deepak Tijori. "It is a mature love story," Rituparna informs. Then there is Kal Trighori, a horror film by Arbaaz Khan. Salt with Chandan Roy Sanyal, Jihad, directed by Agnidev Chatterjee, and couple of Bengali films, including Madam Sengupta with Rahul Bose, are also in the pipeline for her. "I have been fortunate to have gotten my audiences' love and I love them equally," says Rituparna.

She is happy that alongside commercial films, now an audience has been cultivated for content-driven films too. "Formula is going to stay in cinema, but the contours of the industry are changing. Artists are getting busier," she signs off.

## Sonu Sood urges people to wear seat belts on the rear seats of the car too



Bollywood actor Sonu Sood recalled the recent road accident of his wife Sonali to convey an important message, which highlights the importance of

seat belts for the passengers sitting on the rear seat of cars. Taking to Instagram, he credited the seat belt in the cars for the safety of his wife, nephew and sister

in a recent horrific accident in Nagpur.

He said, "There is a very important message. Last week, there was a very big accident in Nagpur, in which my wife, her nephew and her sister were inside the car. The whole world has seen the condition of the car. You know that if anyone saved them, it was the seat belt." Sood pointed out the common practice of not wearing a seat belt while sitting in the back seat. He recalled the day of the accident and said that the car crash occurred minutes after his wife, Sonali, asked his sister-in-law Sumita to wear the seat belt, which eventually saved them.

He continued, "Ninety nine out of 100 people who sit in the back seat never wear seat belts. They feel that wearing the seat belt is only the responsibility of the person in front. I request all of you not to sit in the car without the seat belt."

## Manasi Ghosh wins Indian Idol Season 15

Manasi Ghosh has won Sony Entertainment Television's singing reality show, Indian Idol Season 15. The electrifying finale was a celebration of exceptional talent, featuring soul-stirring performances and an emotional culmination of India's quest to find its next singing sensation. Hosted by the charismatic Aditya Narayan, the grand finale saw the esteemed panel of judges - Badshah, Vishal Dadlani and Shreya Ghoshal - cheering for the top six finalists, including Sneha Shankar, Subhajit Chakraborty, Chaitanya Devadhe (Mauli), Priyanshu Dutta, Manasi Ghosh and Anirudh Suswaram. Adding glamour to the night, Raveena Tandon, Shilpa Shetty, Mika Singh and the cast of Sony Liv's 'Chamak' graced the stage, elevating the entertainment quotient.



Hailing from Kolkata, Manasi captivated the judges and audiences alike with her dynamic vocals, consistently

earning accolades throughout the season. Subhajit Chakraborty emerged as the runner-up of the season.

## In Chandigarh, Girija Shankar, the Dhritrashtra of Mahabharata, is all set to put Punjabi films on the world map

Back in the 80s, when actor Girija Shankar was offered the role of Dhritrashtra, he was baffled. Only 28 at that time, with a good physique, he was aiming to play Arjun or Duryodhan. However, the makers convinced him by saying that Mahabharata happened between Krishan and Dhritrashtra. And, he finally agreed!

Rest, as they say, is history—the BR Chopra series enjoyed grand success and he gained fame. In Chandigarh on Monday, Girija Shankar brought along a documentary Sadi Virasat (Heritage of Indian Punjabi Cinema), which charts Punjabi industry's journey from its very beginning in 1935 to 2000.

At one hour and 45 minutes, it dives deep into films, artistes, how well they fared at the box-office and other



interesting tidbits. Working on its release plans, he has another

documentary that clubs together the period from 2000 to 2025.

Rooted to Punjab, Patiala being his hometown, he moved to Mumbai and later Los Angeles to pursue acting. Being in Hollywood, but with the heart in Punjab, he came up with the idea of an international Punjabi film festival; his dream project—Punjabi International Film Festival Los Angeles (PIFFLA).

"PIFFLA Hollywood will not only showcase the creative brilliance of the Punjabi and North Indian communities, but also offer international artistes a chance to collaborate," Shankar said. Putting together the website, Shankar aims to get it rolling by August this year and dreams of making it a platform like Sundance.

"There have been niche film festivals, but we still lacked one for the Punjabi industry. PIFFLA will claim that space," shared Shan-

kar, who was accompanied by Mandeep Singh Sidhu, author of the book Punjabi Cinema Da Sachitar Itihaas.

"Starting with very first Punjabi film Ishk-e-Punjab/ Mirza Sahiban in 1935, many a times our industry saw such dips that it seemed to have no future. But, it was always resurrected. It's our duty to treasure and encourage young talent," shared Shankar, who acted in both Hindi and Punjabi films, apart from television.

He got into direction with English film Banana Brothers and is happy traversing continents, wherever work takes him. "While living abroad, I realised the immense potential of Punjabi cinema, music and folk art. The time has come to take our stories to the world through this platform," he signed off.

## Vishal Dadlani exits 'Indian Idol': Can't be stuck in Mumbai for 6 months each year

Singer Vishal Dadlani said he is leaving reality show "Indian Idol" after being a judge on it for six years.

Dadlani shared a video on his Instagram handle featuring him alongside his colleagues and judges, Shreya Ghoshal and Badshah.

"That's all from me, folks! Six straight seasons later, tonight is my last episode as a judge on Indian Idol. I hope the show will miss me as much as I'll miss it. Thanks Shreya, Badshah, Adi, Aradhana, Chitra, Anand ji, Sonal, Pratibha, Sahil, Saloni, Muskaan, Abisha, the entire production crew, Vilas, Pakya, Kaushik (Pinky), and all the co-judges, singers and musicians down the years! It really has been home!! That stage is

pure love," the 51-year-old singer wrote in the video.

"Time to get back to making music, playing concerts and never putting on make-up. Jai Ho," he added.

Known for tracks like "Ik Junoon", "Jhoome Jo Pathaan", "Selfie Le Le Re", "Dhoom Again" and "Balam Pichkari", Dadlani said he can't stay "stuck in Mumbai" for 6 months every year.

"Alvida, yaaro. 6 seasons mein jitna mazaa kiya, uss se bhi zyada yaad aayegi. @shreyaghoshal @badboyshah @adityanarayanofficial #IndianIdol @fremantleindia @sonytvofficial @aradhanabhola @chitralangeh Haqq se zyada pyaar milaa hai, iss show ki vajah se. Eternally grateful to everyone involved. I



hope the show will miss me as much as I'll miss it I'm literally only leaving because I want my time back. Can't stay stuck

in Mumbai for 6 months each year," read the caption.

Vishal joined the reality show as a judge in 2018.

## Aadesh Chaudhary gears up for a psychological thriller

Aadesh Chaudhary is set to take audiences on a mind-bending journey with his upcoming short film Bhram, a psychological thriller that delves into the complexities of perception and reality.

The film, directed by Mayur Mehta and produced by Kunal Garud, promises an intriguing narrative that keeps viewers guessing.

Talking about the project, the actor says, "Bhram follows a protagonist who navigates a world where reality and illusion blur. Without revealing too much, I can say that my character plays a crucial role in this unsettling tale, but I'll keep the details under wraps for now. The film will be released on a popular OTT platform, with the



official announcement expected soon."

With a short runtime, making an impact was

crucial, and Aadesh worked closely with the director to ensure his portrayal left a lasting impression. "To make my character stand out, I focused on depth and nuance. Every gesture, expression, and line mattered. Mayur's clarity of vision helped me refine my performance, and I made sure to stay true to the character's emotional arc."

Aadesh is all praise for the cast and crew of Bhram, describing the experience as seamless and rewarding. "Working with Mayur and the entire team was an absolute pleasure. His passion is contagious, and the team's dedication made the process incredibly smooth. The atmosphere on set was filled with creativity and commitment," he says.



# Mudra loan empowering countless individuals to showcase their entrepreneurial skills: PM

NEW DELHI, Apr 8 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said more than Rs 33 lakh crore of collateral-free loans have been sanctioned under Mudra Yojana, empowering countless individuals to showcase their entrepreneurial skills.

Interacting with the select beneficiaries of the PM Mudra Yojana (PMMY) at his residence on the 10th anniversary of the scheme, he said it has helped promote the spirit of entrepreneurship among the youth of the country and given them confidence to become job providers rather than job seekers.

With the objective of funding the unfunded, Prime Minister Modi on April 8, 2015 launched PMMY to provide collateral-free institutional credit through Member Lending Institutions.

"It is particularly heartening that half of the Mudra beneficiaries belong to SC, ST and



OBC communities, and over 70 per cent of the beneficiaries are women.

"Every Mudra loan carries with it dignity, self-respect and opportunity. In addition to financial inclusion, this scheme has also ensured social inclusion and economic freedom," he said.

In the Mudra scheme, he said, the highest number of women have come forward. Women

have applied for the most loans, received the most loans, and are also the fastest to repay them.

The prime minister also assured the beneficiaries that the government would review the scheme and take steps to further improve it.

In the times to come, he said, the government will continue focusing on ensuring a robust ecosystem where every aspir-

ing entrepreneur has access to credit thus giving him or her the confidence and a chance to grow.

Under the PMMY, collateral-free loans of up to Rs 20 lakh are extended by member lending institutions (MLIs) viz scheduled commercial banks, regional rural banks (RRBs), small finance banks (SFBs), non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), and microfinance institutions (MFIs), among others.

The loans are given for income-generating activities in the manufacturing, trading and services sectors and activities allied to agriculture.

The scheme was launched to encourage small businesses, and banks were asked to provide collateral-free loans up to Rs 20 lakh under three categories — Shishu (up to Rs 50,000), Kishore (between Rs 50,000 and Rs 5 lakh) and Tarun (Rs 20 lakh).

# Modi will continue to be prime minister even beyond 2029: Fadnavis



MUMBAI, Apr 8 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi will continue to lead the country even beyond 2029 and there is no question of discussing a successor, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said on Tuesday.

Fadnavis' assertion comes in response to Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut's claim last month that Modi had visited Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh headquarters in Nagpur to convey the message that he is "retiring".

When asked about his earlier comments made in Nagpur about Modi's successor, Fadnavis on Tuesday said, "I have said that it is not the right time to think of a successor to Prime Minister

Narendra Modi, because, in 2029, Modi will be prime minister again".

He was speaking at the India Global Forum in Mumbai.

Raut had claimed that Modi probably went to the RSS headquarters on March 30 to "write his retirement application in September," alluding to some leaders in the BJP retiring at 75.

Modi, who is in his third term as PM, turns 75 in September this year.

"It appears that Modi's heir will be decided by the RSS which is why Modi was called (to the RSS headquarters) and discussions took place. Sangh's discussions are held behind closed doors. The indications are very clear. The Sangh will decide the next leader and that leader could be from Maharashtra," the Rajya Sabha member had claimed.

Fadnavis had rejected Raut's claim, saying, "In our culture, when the father is alive, it is inappropriate to talk about succession. That is Mughal culture. The time has not come to discuss it".

Senior RSS leader Suresh Bhaiyyaji Joshi had said he was unaware of any talk of (PM's) replacement.

# Congress-led standing committees made several suggestions to improve lives of Indians: Rahul Gandhi

NEW DELHI, Apr 8 (Agencies): Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday said the Congress-led standing committees made several suggestions to improve the lives of Indians and asserted that even while in Opposition, the party will continue to use every democratic institution to fight for the rights and well-being of the people.

The former Congress president said that in the Budget session of Parliament, the Congress-led Standing Committees made several suggestions to improve the lives of Indians.

The Committee on Agriculture, chaired by Charanjit Singh Channi, expanded on its previous call for a legal MSP and recommended additional compensation for stubble collection, along with a number of key protections for farmers and



fishermen, Gandhi said in a post on X.

"Under Saptagiri Ulaka ji, the Rural Development Committee advocated for the expansion and strengthening of MNREGA, urging the removal of unnecessary obstacles," he said.

The Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports, led by Digvijaya Singh, called for recruiting more teachers, reforms to end paper leaks and higher and timely-paid honorariums for Anganwadi

workers, Gandhi said.

Meanwhile, the External Affairs Committee, chaired by Shashi Tharoor, emphasised the need for safeguards for Indian migrant workers abroad, he said.

"These are just a few examples of the Congress Party's commitment to people's welfare.

Even while in Opposition, we will continue to use every democratic institution to fight for the rights and well-being of the people of India," Gandhi said.

# Heatwaves drove 1/3rd of rise in India's power demand during 2024 summer: Report

NEW DELHI, Apr 8 (Agencies): India's electricity demand during the severe heatwave months of April to June 2024 rose by 10.4 per cent compared to the corresponding period the year before, with increased use of air conditioning contributing to nearly a third of the rise, according to a new report released on Tuesday.

The sixth edition of global energy think tank Ember's Global Electricity Review also said heatwaves were responsible for almost a fifth of the increase in global electricity demand in 2024 and were the main reason behind a 1.4 per cent rise in fossil fuel-based power generation.

This led to a 1.6 per cent increase in global power sector emissions, adding 223 million tonnes of carbon dioxide and pushing total emissions to a record high of 14.6 billion tonnes.

Without the heat-



related demand, fossil generation would have grown just 0.2 per cent, as clean energy met 96 per cent of the demand growth not caused by hotter temperatures, said the report.

In India, electricity demand during April-September 2024 was 6.1 per cent higher compared to the corresponding period in 2023. Ember estimated that 19 per cent of this rise was due to higher temperatures.

During the peak heatwave months from April to June, the demand was 10.8 per cent higher than the previous year.

"This was primar-

ily driven by economic growth, with air conditioning accounting for an estimated 30 per cent of the year-on-year increase. In May, cooling was responsible for more than one-third of the year-on-year demand increase," the report said.

India's total electricity demand rose by 5 per cent in 2024. Clean energy sources met 33 per cent of this additional demand, while coal accounted for 64 per cent. This is a drop from 2023, when coal met 91 per cent of the increase.

A recent study said India may add 130 to 150 million new room

air conditioners in the next decade, which could push peak power demand up by over 180 GW by 2035, straining the electricity grid.

Agency reported last month that India is likely to see a nine to 10 per cent increase in peak electricity demand this summer as more heatwave days are expected.

The share of household electricity use in India rose from 22 per cent in 2012-13 to 25 per cent in 2022-23. Experts say this is largely due to economic growth and higher demand for cooling as temperatures continue to rise.

Ongoing research at the Oxford India Centre for Sustainable Development says that in a world that is 2 degrees Celsius warmer than pre-industrial times, India will see the highest cooling demand in terms of population, followed by China, Nigeria, Indonesia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Brazil, the Philip-

pines and the United States.

Earlier this month, the India Meteorological Department said that the country is likely to experience above-normal temperatures from April to June, with more heatwave days in central and eastern India and the northwestern plains.

The year 2024 was also the warmest recorded both in India, and globally.

This year, heatwave conditions were observed as early as February 27-28. The first official heatwave of 2024 was recorded on April 5.

While heatwaves are common in April and May, scientists say climate change is making them more frequent and intense.

A 2022 study warned that the risk of heatwaves could increase tenfold in the 21st century, with over 70 per cent of India's land area likely to face extreme heat.

# Four of family killed as car collides with tanker in Maharashtra's Wardha



WARDHA, Apr 8 (Agencies): A couple and their two children were killed after their car collided with a

tanker in Maharashtra's Wardha district, police said on Tuesday.

The accident took place at Taroda in the

district on Monday night, they said.

The car driver lost control over the wheels after a wild boar came in front of it and the vehicle then crashed into a tanker, a police official said.

Four car occupants -- a man, his wife and two children -- died in the accident, the police said.

# 6-year-old boy loses vision one year after teacher hurled stick

CHIKKABALLAPUR, Apr 8 (Agencies): A six-year-old boy lost his vision due to an injury sustained in his right eye, a year after his teacher allegedly hurled a stick at the students in classroom which accidentally hit him.

The teacher and five others have been booked in connection with the incident, police said on Tuesday.

The incident occurred at a government school in Chintamani Taluk of this district on March 6 last year when Yeshwant was in Class I, they said.

According to the police, while controlling students, the teacher allegedly hurled a stick at some of them, which accidentally hit and damaged Yeshwant's right eye. Initially, his parents did not realise that the effect of the injury could be long-lasting.

Some days later when his condition worsened, the boy's parents took the child to an ophthalmologist in Chintamani who referred him to a district hospital.

After examining the boy's eye, two surgeries were performed in December last year by the doctors at Victoria Hospital in Bengaluru but even after that when his condition did not improve, the boy's parents took him to a private hospital in Bengaluru where the doctors after examination concluded that he had lost his vision in the right eye, a senior police officer said.

Following this, the parents and locals staged a protest outside the Balahalli police station on Sunday evening following which a case was registered against the accused teacher and five others, including the taluk block education officer in connection with the incident.

"Based on the complaint given by the child's parents, we have registered a case under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita for offence including physical assault and invoked Juvenile Justice Act," the police officer said.

# Four of a family dead as suv falls into pond in bihar



PATNA, Apr 8 (Agencies): Four members of a family were killed after their SUV plunged into a pond in Bihar's Gaya district, officials here said on Tuesday.

The accident occurred near Dakhingaon Bridge under the Wazirganj police station area around midnight.

The deceased have been identified as Shashikant Sharma (43), a well-known farmer from Sahawajpur village, his wife, Rinki Devi (40), and their two sons -- Sumit Anand (17) and Balkrishna (5).

The SHO of Wazirganj police station confirmed the incident. He said the family was returning from a Shraddha Karma ceremony held in Bihar Sharif when tragedy struck.

The family was travelling in a Scorpio SUV when the driver lost control while crossing the narrow bridge near Dakhingaon.

The vehicle skidded off the road and plunged into a roadside pond. The driver, Sintu, managed to escape from the submerged vehicle and cried out for help.

Hearing his distress calls, a nearby hotel operator rushed to alert local villagers and informed the police. Soon after, police and villagers arrived at the scene and, with the help of a JCB machine, pulled the SUV out of the pond.

However, by the time the vehicle was recovered, all four passengers had lost their lives.

The news of the accident has sent shockwaves through Sahawajpur village, where Shashikant Sharma was a respected figure.

His elder son, Sumit Anand, was also locally active in BJP youth politics.

Villagers expressed deep grief, saying, "When no one is left in the family, what is the point of a post-mortem?" The atmosphere in the village is sombre, especially after reports that Shashikant's elderly mother collapsed upon hearing of the incident and is now in critical condition.

Administrative officials have since inspected the accident site and assured a thorough investigation into the cause of the mishap.

Preliminary findings suggest the driver may have lost control due to poor visibility or narrow road conditions on the bridge.

The incident once again highlights the urgent need for road safety measures in rural parts of Bihar, especially on bridges and poorly lit roads.

# Two held in connection with blast at BJP leader's Jalandhar home; ISI, Bishnoi involved: Police

CHANDIGARH, Apr 8 (Agencies): Two persons have been arrested in connection with a blast at Punjab BJP leader Manoranjan Kalia's residence in Jalandhar, a senior police officer said on Tuesday.

He further said the e-rickshaw used in the crime has also been recovered.

Addressing the media here, Special Director General of Police (law and order) Arpit Shukla said the crime was committed to disturb communal harmony.

"It was a major conspiracy of Pakistan's ISI. Zeeshan Akhtar, who is an associate of gangster Lawrence Bishnoi and (Pakistani gangster) Shahzad Bhatti, they had hatched a conspiracy," said Shukla.

He further said an investigation into the possible links of the Babbar Khalsa International is also underway, adding that

Punjab Police was also in touch with the central agencies.

A blast at Kalia's residence in Jalandhar early Tuesday damaged an aluminum partition, shattered glass windows of his home, his SUV and a motorcycle in the courtyard. No one was hurt, police said.

Kalia, a former Cabinet minister and former president of Punjab BJP, was at home when the explosion took place. He is also a member of the BJP's national executive.

There have been many incidents of explosions, targeting police posts in Amritsar and Gurdaspur in the past four to five months but this is the first such incident when the house of a prominent politician was targeted. Last month, a blast occurred outside a temple in Amritsar.



## Gaza rescuers say 19 Palestinians killed in overnight Israeli strikes

GAZA, Apr 8 (Agencies): Gaza's civil defence agency said on Tuesday that Israeli strikes overnight killed at least 19 people across the Palestinian territory, where Israel has resumed its offensive against Hamas.

Civil defence spokesman Mahmud Bassal told agency that "19 civilians including several children were martyred" and dozens more wounded in the latest Israeli raids.

Five children and four adults were killed in a strike that hit a home in the central city of Deir el-Balah, while two separate pre-dawn attacks on Gaza City and Beit Lahia in the north left a total of 10 people dead, Bassal said.

Separately, a media outlet affiliated with the Islamic Jihad movement, a Hamas



ally, announced the death on Monday of an employee named Ahmed Mansur in an Israeli strike on a tent used by journalists in the Khan Yunis area.

The Hamas government media office had on Monday reported the death of journalist Hilmi al-Faqawi, who worked for a local news agency, in the

same strike, which also wounded another nine.

The Israeli military meanwhile said the strike had targeted "Hamas terrorist Hassan Abdel Fattah Mohammed Aslih", claiming that he operated "under the guise of a journalist and owns a press company."

It said Aslih had "infiltrated

Israeli territory and participated in the murderous massacre carried out by the Hamas terrorist organisation" on October 7, 2023.

Israel resumed intense strikes on the Gaza Strip on March 18, ending a two-month ceasefire with Hamas. Efforts to restore the truce have so far failed.

According to the health ministry in the Hamas-run territory, at least 1,391 Palestinians have been killed in the renewed Israeli operations, taking the overall death toll since the start of the war to 50,752.

Hamas's October 2023 attack on Israel that triggered the war resulted in the deaths of 1,218 people, mostly civilians, according to an agency tally based on official Israeli figures.

## Pawan Kalyan's son among 19 hospitalised in Singapore shophouse fire



SINGAPORE CITY, Apr 8 (Agencies): At least four adults and 15 children were hospitalised after a fire broke out at a "shophouse" in Singapore's River Valley Road on Tuesday morning as per the country's state-owned CNA, which cited the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF).

Among those hospitalised was Mark Shankar, the younger son of Jana Sena Party president and Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. The party, in an official statement, said that the fire reportedly caused injuries to Shankar's hands and legs, and the boy was immediately transferred to a local hospital where he is receiving treatment.

The Singapore media outlet CNA said that videos of the incident posted on social media, showed children sitting on a third-storey ledge as plumes of black smoke billowed.

Bystanders, including some construction workers, can be seen climbing scaffolding in an attempt to rescue them.

The Singapore Civil Defence Force said in a statement on Facebook that it was alerted to a fire at 278 River Valley Road at about 9.45 am (local time)

SCDF noted that upon its arrival, "The fire was raging on the second and third floors of a 3-storey shophouse."

The fire was extinguished within 30 minutes using three water jets as per the CNA report.

About 80 people from the affected shophouse and nearby premises were evacuated.

Shophouses are a prevalent building type in Singapore's architectural and built heritage. These buildings are generally two- to three-storeys high, built in contiguous blocks with common party walls. They are narrow, small

terraced houses, with a sheltered 'five foot' pedestrian way at the front.

"A total of 19 casualties (four adults and 15 children) were conveyed to the hospital", SCDF said.

CNA noted that the affected building is an education centre for young children, according to signage seen in the videos.

Singapore's Civil Defence Force shared that the cause of the fire is under investigation and extended thanks to members of the civil society who assisted in the rescue of the stranded persons for their quick actions and bravery.

Meanwhile, the JanaSena party said in an official statement that Pawan Kalyan, who is presently on an official tour of Alluri Sitarama Raju district in Andhra Pradesh, has been advised by party leaders and officials to shorten his trip and head to Singapore to be with his son.

Pawan Kalyan clarified that he had given his word to the tribal people of Kuridi village, near Araku, promising to visit them. He stated that he would first visit the village, interact with the locals to understand their issues, and complete the scheduled development program inaugurations before departing.

## Singapore, which has FTA with US, says Trump's tariffs are not what 'one does to a friend'

SINGAPORE, Apr 8 (Agencies): US President Donald Trump's tariffs on Singapore are "not actions one does to a friend", the city-state's leader said Tuesday, adding the government will likely downgrade this year's economic growth forecast.

Prime Minister Lawrence Wong warned that the "likelihood of a full-blown global trade war is growing" and urged his trade-reliant nation to prepare for difficult times ahead.

"We are very disappointed by the US move, especially considering the deep and long-standing friendship between our two countries," he said in an address to parliament.

"These are not actions one does to a friend." Trump last week announced sweeping levies on friends and foes alike after accusing the world of "ripping off" the United States for years.

Singapore was hit with a 10 percent tariff, despite a free-trade agreement (FTA) with the United States.

The rate is much less than those imposed on other countries.

But Wong said the trade-dependent nation will be particularly hurt by a slump in the world economy and the unravelling of the global trading system based on free trade.

"Singapore may or may not go into recession this year, but I have no doubt that our growth will be significantly impacted," he said.

The trade ministry is reassessing its economic growth forecast this year of 1.0-3.0 percent "and will likely revise it downwards," he added.

Wong said that under the US-Singapore FTA, the city-state imposes zero tariffs on American goods. Singapore also runs a trade deficit with Washington. "If the tariffs were truly reciprocal and if they were meant to target only those with trade surpluses, then the tariff for Singapore should be zero," he said.



Singapore hosts thousands of US companies and many of them have made the city their Asia-Pacific headquarters. While the island-nation is not a US defence treaty ally, it enjoys robust military ties with Washington. "This marks a profound turning point," Wong said.

"We are entering a new phase in global affairs, one that is more arbitrary, protectionist and dangerous."

## Smoke fills air as Kanlaon Volcano erupts in Philippines

MANILA, Apr 8 (Agencies): A volcano in the central Philippines erupted early Tuesday morning, sending a plume of ash 4,000 metres (2.5 miles) into the sky and prompting calls for local school cancellations.

Kanlaon Volcano, one of 24 active volcanoes in the Southeast Asian nation, last erupted in December, prompting the evacuation of surrounding villages.

The area around the volcano on the island of Negros was still under evacuation orders when Tuesday's eruption occurred.

"An explosive eruption is currently occurring at the summit vent of Kanlaon Volcano that began at 5:51 am today," the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said in a statement.

The volcano "is producing a voluminous bent plume approximately 4,000 meters tall that is drifting southwest", it said.

The eruption stopped at 6:47 am (2247 GMT Monday), the institute reported later.

Videos posted on social media showed a wide, billowing plume of smoke slowly stretching into the sky.

"We were prepared for the eruption. The families within 4 to 6 kilometers were already evacuated during the previous eruption last December," John De Asis, a rescue official in Negros Occidental province's La Castellana municipality.

"Right now we are just monitoring which villages will be affected by the ashfall." He added they were recommending "the cancellation of classes



and work in the municipality".

Channel Nicor, 22, said she was waiting for a bus to take her to school when the eruption struck.

"The sound seemed like a big rock had fallen from a high place, then I looked up and saw the ash cloud getting bigger and bigger from the volcano,"

"When I saw the ash of course I felt nervous, but not as nervous as the previous eruption, because this time we know what to do."

The level three alert -- out of a scale of five -- put in place during December's eruption remained unchanged.

In September, hundreds of nearby residents were evacuated after the volcano spurted thousands of tonnes of harmful gases in a single day.

## South Korea will hold election on June 3 to succeed ousted President Yoon Suk Yeol

SEOUL, Apr 8 (Agencies): South Korea will hold a snap presidential election June 3 to succeed recently ousted President Yoon Suk Yeol, the country's acting leader Han Duck-soo announced Tuesday.

The announcement came four days after the Constitutional Court removed President Yoon Suk Yeol from office over his ill-fated imposition of martial law in December. By law, South Korea must elect a new president within 60 days of Yoon's ouster. The next president will serve a full 5-year term.

Deep political polarisation will likely shape the election into a two-way showdown between the two major political parties: Yoon's conservative People Power Party and its chief liberal rival, the Democratic Party, which holds a majority in the National Assembly.

It will be an uphill battle for the People Power Party as it struggles to restore public confidence and heal severe internal divisions left by Yoon's martial law stunt.

The focus of attention is on whether conservatives can regroup and field a strong candidate to compete against likely Democratic Party candidate Lee Jae-myung, who observers say is the clear front-runner.

Potential candidates South Korea's political parties are expected to launch primaries to select their presidential candidates in the coming weeks.

The Democratic Party



candidate is expected to be Lee, a powerful party leader who faces no major challengers inside the party. Lee, who narrowly lost the 2022 election to Yoon, led the party through a crisis during which many of its members faced off against troops sent by Yoon to enter the National Assembly building and vote down martial law, and later impeached the president.

About 10 politicians from the People Power Party are expected to seek the nomination. Conservatives in disarray

Yoon's baffling decision to enact martial law, which brought armed troops into Seoul's streets and evoked the country's traumatic memories of past military rule, was a blow to his party's reputation even though the party wasn't directly involved.

Some reformist party members openly criticized Yoon's actions and cast ballots to impeach him, triggering a feud with the party's old guard who supported the president.

Yoon has diehard supporters who regularly staged massive rallies in Seoul and elsewhere. Many share an unfounded perception that Yoon is a victim of a leftist, North Korea-sympathizing opposition that has rigged elections to gain a legislative majority and plotted to remove a patriotic leader.

Yoon has diehard supporters who regularly staged massive rallies in Seoul and elsewhere. Many share an unfounded perception that Yoon is a victim of a leftist, North Korea-sympathizing opposition that has rigged elections to gain a legislative majority and plotted to remove a patriotic leader.

"South Korea's conservative party faces significant disadvantages heading into the upcoming election. Two months is a short time to unify the base, moderates and a conspiracy-driven fringe around a single candidate," said Leif-Eric Easley, a professor at Ewha University in Seoul.

The party's current leadership is filled with Yoon loyalists, and that will likely let the internal divide continue and undermine its electoral prospects, said Choi Jin, director of the Seoul-based Institute of Presidential Leadership.

Among the leading People Power Party presidential hopefuls, Labor Minister Kim Moon Soo is considered to be the most pro-

Yoon. He and Daegu Mayor Hong Joon-pyo opposed impeaching Yoon, while former party leader Han Dong-hoon and senior party lawmaker Ahn Cheol-soo supported removing him from office. The last major candidate is Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon, who has maintained an ambiguous position.

Choi said Yoon will likely exert his influences to boost pro-Yoon figures who are seeking the nomination and party leadership posts so that they can defend him as he faces a criminal trial. Yoon was charged with rebellion in January, and he could face other charges like abuse of power now that he has lost presidential immunity, which protected him from most criminal prosecutions.

The People Power Party "will need to nominate someone who can win over the public, particularly the moderates, rather than someone who can win the party's primaries," said Duyeon Kim, a senior analyst at the Center for a New American Security in Washington. "Korean

moderates and the young generation in their 20s and 30s will likely be the swing voters."

Lee's bid Opposition leader Lee, who has served as a provincial governor and a city mayor, is considered by his supporters as a populist reformer. But critics regard him as a demagogue who relies on stoking divisions and demonizing his rivals.

Lee faces five ongoing trials for corruption and other criminal charges. If he becomes president, those trials will likely stop thanks to presidential immunity.

Yoon has repeatedly accused Lee's Democratic Party of abusing its parliamentary majority status to obstruct his agenda, impeach senior officials and slash the government's budget bill. Yoon said his martial law declaration was a desperate attempt to draw public support of his fight against "wickedness" of Lee's party.

"Lee Jae-myung has many detractors among the South Korean public who believe he nearly broke the government for his own benefit, weaponising the legislature to push Yoon over the edge and cast his own legal cases as political persecution," Easley said.

"Lee's successful maneuvering, including the purge of progressive politicians disloyal to him, means he effectively owns the Democratic Party nomination and has the clearest path to the presidency," he said.

## Drone launched at Israel from east intercepted



TEL AVIV, Apr 8 (Agencies): The Israel Air Force intercepted (shot down) an unmanned aerial vehicle - done - earlier today that was making its way into Israeli territory from the east.

The vehicle was intercepted before it crossed into Israeli territory, and no alerts were activated in accordance with policy, reported the IDF (Israel Defense Forces).



# Maat-Pita Poojan Diwas' at Maat-Pita Temple on April 10



## Top News Report

CHANDIGARH, Apr 8: 'Maat-Pita Poojan Diwas' will be celebrated on April 10 at the world's first and only under-construction Maat-Pita Temple at Khallaur village on Banur-Ambala road in Mohali district.

Swami Shri Akhileshwarananda Giri Ji Maharaj will be the chief guest, whereas senior BJP leader Shyam Jaiu will be guest of honour. The special guests will be Dharampal Bansal, President SBS and Harmony Group of Colleges and Agar Rataan Shri Sham Lal Singla the chief patron of Agroha Vikas Trust Punjab.

Talking to media during a press conference here on Tuesday, Gochar Das Gyan Chand Walia, founder of Mata-Pita Godham Mahatirth said that on this occasion, Shri Chanderkant from Akhil Bhartiya Gau Katha Vachak will share his inspirational thoughts and Bhajan

singer, Parveen Wadhawa will enthrall the audience with his sweet bhajans.

The program will start with Nandini Gau Mahayagya followed by Maat Pita Pujan.

During the occasion winners of coloring competitions will also be given awards.

The coloring competition by Sanskar Jyoti was launched in February under a unique initiative of inculcating a sense of respect for parents and elders in our future generations at school level. Under this initiative of imparting seeds of 'sanskar' in our young minds, the pictures were handed over to 11 schools wherein students with the help of their parents and teachers, while understanding the story behind the picture were asked to colour the pictures and write a description in 3-5 lines also.

The total 11 schools including Stellar International School Basma, , Alliance International School Banur, , Patel Public

Scholl Rajpura, DAV Public School Rajpura, CM Public School, Rajpura, KK Public School Rajpura, SD Model School, Rajpura , SD Public School, Rajpura , Divine Public School, Dera Bassi, Rajpura. New India Senior Secondary School Panchkula, and Sacred Heart Convent School Chandigarh participated in the competition.

The first prize was won by Ridhi Kumar from SD Model School, Rajpura, Kanav Dhiman from Stellar International School Basma and Prabhjeet Singh from KK High School Rajpura.

The second prize was won by Nirwair Kaur from Patel Public School Rajpura, Janvi from DAV Public School Rajpura and Aradhya Badhan from CM Public School, Rajpura.

The third prize was bagged by Taniya Rao from New India Senior Secondary School Panchkula, Aihad from Alliance International Scholl Banur and Vidhi from CM Public School, Rajpura.

The fourth prize was won by Pavneet Kaur from Stellar International School Basma, Ridhi from SD Public School, Rajpura and Himani from SD Model School, Rajpura.

The 5th prize went to Kunal Passi from SD Public School, Rajpura, Arshiya Jaiswal from Sacred Heart Convent School Chandigarh and Navdeep Singh from Patel Public School Rajpura.

During Maat-Pita poojan diwas , Mehar Hospital, Zirakpur will also organize a free medical

camp where BP, sugar , ECG and eye checkups will be done free of cost besides distributing free medicines.

Walia also informed that the second phase work of the temple is completed and final third phase work is expected to be complete by 2026. The temple is being built on 10 acre of land.

He said further that the temple will be the first and only temple in the world, where there will be no idol of any god. Instead it will be a place for the worship of our parents.

The temple has also got the honor of being registered as the world's first temple in the World Book of Records (London).

Meanwhile 3 modern cow sheds with all facilities have been completed and the construction work of the gau-chikit-salaya and panchgavya medical and research center building with state-of-the-art facilities are going on in full swing. □The construction work of 40-room Nand Bhawan for cow sevaks is also going on in full swing. In a newly set up gobar gas plant, savamani is prepared daily for cow mothers.

During the occasion, Amarjit Bansal, Maaman Ram, Pankaj Jaiswal, Subash Singla, Kuldeep Thakur, Kapil Verma, Jeevan Babbu, Suresh Singla, Suresh Bansal, Subhash Agarwal, Juneja, Ashwni Garg, Navdip Gudwani, Kashmiri Lal Gupta, Deepak, KK Aggarwal, Mittal and Jai Gopal Bansal were also present.

# Lecture on 'Role of Nuclear Energy in Clean Energy Transformation' held



## Top News Report

NAGROTA, Apr 8: In a compelling lecture delivered on Tuesday, distinguished speakers Neeraj Gaur and Mahesh Prasad from Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) emphasized the pivotal role of nuclear energy in India's transition to a cleaner and more sustainable energy future.

The session, titled "Nuclear Energy for Clean Transformation", was covered.

Neeraj Gaur opened the lecture by highlighting the increasing global urgency to reduce carbon emissions and tackle climate change. He emphasized that while renewable sources like solar and wind are important, they alone cannot meet the growing energy

demands of a developing country like India without support from a consistent and reliable base-load source — a role nuclear energy is well-positioned to fulfill. While elaborating on the technical and safety advancements in India's nuclear infrastructure. He presented data from NPCIL projects, showcasing the success of existing nuclear power plants and the roadmap for future expansions. He stressed that modern nuclear facilities adhere to stringent international safety standards and are designed with multiple layers of protection.

The speaker addressed common misconceptions surrounding nuclear energy, particularly regarding safety and waste disposal. They clarified how contemporary technologies and

long-term planning have made nuclear a much safer and environmentally friendly option than perceived. Additionally, he discussed the minimal land footprint and lifecycle carbon emissions of nuclear energy compared to fossil fuels and some renewables.

Concluding the lecture, speaker called upon the NCC Cadets to consider careers in the nuclear sector and contribute to India's clean energy mission.

They also encouraged active public engagement and awareness to dispel fears and build support for nuclear initiatives.

The interactive session ended with a lively Q&A, where Cadets raised thoughtful questions about nuclear safety, and the integration of nuclear with other renewable sources.

# Army celebrates World Health Day at Poonch Rajouri and Reasi



## Top News Report

POONCH, Apr 8: Keeping in view of Indian Army's core objective of maintaining cordial relations with local citizens Indian Army celebrated World Health Day at remote areas of Thanamandi, Mastandhara, Parat, Kotranka, Azmatabad to highlight important health topics, inspire action, and encourage the local people to take charge of their health.

The event commenced with a speech on the significance of Good Health in our livelihood. The aim of the event was to create awareness amongst the local

populace about the importance of Good Health in day-to-day life. He explained that Good Health is crucial for a fulfilling life, enabling individuals to live longer, experience better mental and physical well-being and achieve our full potential.

Thus, Good Health plays an important role in organizing more productive and happy society. Representative of Indian Army closed his speech with a slogan "Health is Wealth".

The event witnessed huge participation with volunteers from all sections of society including school children, women

and social activists. A total strength of 272 attended the event. This gesture and effort by Indian Army was highly appreciated by Awam.

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

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

# Ram Navami celebrated at Mastandbara



## Top News Report

POONCH, Apr 8: Keeping in view of Indian Army's core objective of maintaining cordial relations with local citizens through Awam. The Indian Army celebrated Ram Navami with great fervor and enthusiasm at Mastandhara of Poonch. Ram Navami is a Hindu festival that celebrates the birth of Rama, one of the most popularly revered deities of Hinduism, also known as the seventh avatar of Vishnu.

Representative of Indian Army addressed the children and locals about the significance of the festival. He also explained why Ram

Navami is celebrated across India. Bhandara was organized for children during the celebration.

A total strength of 70 children (including 40 x Boys and 30 x Girls) participated with zeal and enthusiasm in the celebration. The event was aimed to promote cultural awareness, understanding and aspect symbolizing the unbreakable bond of love, care and protection between security forces and locals. Delicious dishes and sweets were distributed among the children during the bhandara.

Event was a testament to the strong bond between Indian Army and the local populace.

This event was helpful for establishing peace amongst all and spreading unity in diversity, protection and to create brotherhood amongst locals and Indian Army and to promote love, unity and peace amongst the people so that the country stands together, with a view to foster and reinforce

the spirit of Communal Harmony, National Integration and Pride. This gesture and effort by Indian Army was highly appreciated by Awam.

This endeavour by Indian Army to reach out to the population residing in remote areas, where civil administration has limited accessibility, will go a long

way in developing and strengthening trust between the Indian Army and Awam.

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

# Delegation from Sku-Markha and Chilling Sumda meets CEC, Adv Tashi Gyalson



## Top News Report

LEH, Apr 8: Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson was called on by a delegation from Sku-Markha and Chilling Sumda today led by Sku-Markha Councillor Sonam Nurboo.

The delegation included Ven. Jigmot Tundup along with other venerable monks, who discussed the challenges

faced by elderly people in their region, particularly the hardship of travelling long distances.

They requested the Hon'ble CEC to consider setting up a dedicated old age facility in the Leh area to provide better care and support for senior citizens.

CEC assured the delegation of council's full support and assistance in addressing the concerned raised.

FromPage No: 1

“Three more organizations disassociate themselves from Hurriyat” : Amit Shah

Modi's vision for a united and powerful Bharat stands even more bolstered today, as so far 11 such organisations have shunned separatism, proclaiming unwavering support for it.

During his visit, Shah visited a forward post along the India-Pakistan International Border on Monday.

He is set to review the security situation in the Union Territory on Tuesday.

PDP MLA mar-

shalled out of J&K Assembly during protest over Waqf Act

24 crore Muslim population but they are normalising the Act by their actions. They do not want a resolution against the Act," he said.

The Speaker repeatedly defended his action of rejecting the adjournment motion to discuss the Waqf amendment law in the House. "You cannot undo what Parliament has already done," he said.

Old town Baramulla residents protest against poor

road condition

demands are not met soon.

928 SRO-43 cases pending across Jammu Kashmir: Govt

departments have been instructed to promptly settle all pending compassionate appointment cases under SRO-43/1994 and the Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme (RAS) that fall within their competence, ensuring due diligence and adherence to all formalities.

"Compliance reports detailing the number of cases settled are to be submitted to the General Administration Department fortnightly for review," the minister said, adding that the Jammu and

Kashmir Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme, 2022, has introduced a criteria-based assessment to ensure equity and transparency in compassionate appointments.

The scheme, he said, includes provisions for online application submissions, centralised processing, and a merit-based system for appointments.

Fraudulent Job Scam Lands Sopore Youth in Trouble Overseas

Laos has assured support to Momin and is in touch with his family. However, pressure is mounting on the government to launch a wider investigation into travel agents operating across the Valley, especially in light of similar

recent scams reported from Gulf countries.

Locals demand that the government take strict measures to regulate consultancy agents and prevent further exploitation of Kashmiri youth abroad.

“Light Rain, Snow & Thunderstorms expected in J&K's higher reaches Today”: MeT

and dry conditions, with a possibility of light rain, thunderstorms, and gusty winds.

On April 8, the region is expected to experience generally cloudy conditions towards the afternoon, with a possibility of light rain, thunderstorms, and gusty winds, as

well as snow over higher reaches of North and Central Kashmir towards evening and night.

The following days, April 9 and 10, are expected to be generally cloudy with intermittent spells of light rain and snow at many places, accompanied by a possibility of thunderstorms and gusty winds, reaching speeds of 30-40 km/h, at a few places. On April 11, the region is likely to experience generally cloudy conditions with light rain and snow at scattered places towards morning, followed by improvement. The period from April 12 to 17 is expected to be generally dry, before fresh spells of rain and snow return from April 18 to 20. In light of the forecast, travelers, tourists, and transporters are advised to follow admin and traffic advisories, while farmers are recommended to suspend farm operations during April 9 and 10.



# BJP's outreach program ensures peoples' voice is not just heard but acted upon as well: Zorawar

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 8: In accordance with the directives of the top leadership of the Bharatiya Janata Party, a comprehensive five-day outreach programme was formally launched today across various districts of Jammu & Kashmir. The initiative is aimed at strengthening the party's grassroots engagement, understanding public grievances, evaluating developmental requirements, and reinforcing the BJP's commitment to inclusive governance and people-centric policies.

As part of this structured initiative, prominent BJP leaders, office bearers, and dedicated workers have commenced visits to constituencies, villages, and urban localities. The programme seeks to foster deeper connections between the party and the people, while also disseminating awareness about the landmark policies and welfare schemes introduced under the



leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In one of such party programmes, BJP Leader, Zorawar Singh Jamwal, while interacting with party workers in Gurha Bakshi Nagar area, said "This outreach is a vital step towards ensuring that the voices of the people are not only heard but acted upon. It is about reaffirming our resolve to work for development, transparency, and empowerment at the grassroots level."

While meeting with local people, Zorawar Singh Jamwal listened to their issues related to roads, public facilities, job opportunities for youth, and welfare schemes. He assured them that he would keep working to get their problems solved quickly through the right government departments.

In addition to public interaction, the outreach programme is designed to reinvigorate the party's organizational structure at the booth level, mobilize

karyakartas, and prepare the cadre for forthcoming electoral and organizational challenges. Meetings are being conducted with senior citizens, women, youth groups, and BJP workers to foster unity and collective responsibility within the party fold.

The feedback collected throughout the five-day campaign will be compiled into a comprehensive report and submitted to the party's senior leadership to support policy refinement and better delivery of government services.

The BJP continues to remain steadfast in its vision of "Seva, Sushasan, and Garib Kalyan", and is fully committed to building a prosperous, inclusive, and progressive Jammu & Kashmir.

Notable attendees at the event included BJP Co-Treasurer, Prem Gupta, Ravi Kant Sharma, Ravinder Singh Jamwal, Vikrant Gupta, Master Mahesh, Baal Kandhari and Naresh Kumar

# Awareness Lecture conducted on World Health Day at Hamirpur

## Top News Report

AKHNOOR, Apr 8: On the occasion of World Health Day 2025, a special health awareness lecture was organized by the Indian Army at Government High School, Hamirpur with the aim of educating students about the importance of maintaining good health and hygiene.

The event focused on emphasizing the need for accessible healthcare, healthy lifestyle habits and mental well-being for all individuals, especially the youth.

Health experts and educators engaged with students through interactive sessions cover-



ing topics like personal hygiene, balanced nutrition, regular exercise and the importance of mental wellness.

The initiative aimed to instil health-conscious habits in students and empower them to be ambassadors of change within their communities.

The school staff, local

health officials and community members actively participated, making the event a great success.

Such awareness drives not only enhance knowledge but also bridge the gap between health services and rural populations, fostering a more informed and healthy society.

# Army celebrates World Health Day with events at Mamun, Samba and Kathua

## Top News Report

KATHUA, Apr 8: On the occasion of World Health Day, Gurj Division of the Indian Army organized a series of events across Mamun, Samba, and Kathua, reaffirming its commitment to promoting health and wellness among the local population and students.

The celebration aimed to spread awareness about the importance of preventive healthcare, physical fitness, and mental well-being.

As part of the initiative, Yoga workshops were conducted at schools in Samba and Kathua, witnessing enthusiastic participation from over 250 school children of DS Public School, Kathua & Calvary School, Samba.

The sessions empha-



sized the benefits of yoga in daily life and encouraged students to adopt healthy habits and mindfulness for holistic development.

In Thrithi village, a vibrant health awareness camp was held for local women.

Led by a dedicated team of female Army doctors, the camp provided essential consultations and comprehensive health check-ups, addressing key health issues and empowering women with vital health

education.

Additionally, a health awareness lecture was Organised at Mamun Cantonment, where troops and families interacted with educators from Pratap World School.

The session focused on adopting a healthy lifestyle, covering topics such as balanced nutrition, hygiene, and preventive care highlighting the Army's sustained efforts toward community health and wellness.

# EPFO hosts Cross-Functional Team meeting in Jammu; welcomes new RPFC-I



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 8: A monthly cross-functional team meeting was held at the Regional Provident Fund Office, Railway Road Jammu, under the chairmanship of Rizwan Uddin, Regional Provident Fund Commissioner-I (RPFC-I), to bring together various verticals under the Ministry of Labour & Employment from the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

The meeting witnessed active participation from key departmental heads, including Shri Dushyant Pande, Deputy Director, ESIC RO Jammu, and Dr. Pankaj Rastogi, Regional Director (In-Charge) DTNBWED RO Jammu.

The meeting began with a warm welcome extended to all participants by Rizwan Uddin, who also introduced Sumeet Singh, the newly appointed

Regional Provident Fund Commissioner-I of EPFO Jammu. T. Key points discussed included the review of recent departmental achievements, a detailed discussion on the Government's "Handbook of Convergence" for enhanced coordination among labour bodies, and the sharing of complaints regarding certain defaulting establishments. A joint case of M/s Unique Sanitation and Outsourcing Services was highlighted where EPFO had facilitated the recovery of one month's PF contributions, and ESIC confirmed ongoing inspections, with detailed findings to be shared in the next meeting.

Additionally, the meeting explored the idea of conducting joint training programs at the field level.

Dr. Rastogi elaborated on the nature of training currently imparted by DTNBWED for both

formal and informal sector workers and assured the sharing of a detailed list of training modules. EPFO and ESIC discussed their requirements and expressed interest in collaborative training once the list is received.

On the sidelines of the meeting, a delegation from the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) comprising Sh. Ashok Choudhary, Sh. Harbans Choudhary, Sh. Mukesh Kumar, Sh. Ramesh Malhotra, and Sh. Subash Chander visited the EPFO office to felicitate Shri Rizwan Uddin on his transfer and extend best wishes for his future endeavors. Shri Uddin, in his remarks, shared his enriching experience working with EPFO, ESIC, and DTNBWED and acknowledged the role of ESIC's facilities in supporting workers in the region.

He expressed confidence in the capabilities of Shri Sumeet Singh to carry forward the legacy of innovation and service excellence. In his brief address, Shri Singh outlined his vision for enhancing citizen-centric services, transparency, and promoting a culture of inter-departmental synergy and accountability.

The meeting concluded on a positive note with a renewed commitment to collaboration among the departments, strengthening of

service delivery frameworks, and reinforcing the mission of inclusive and sustainable worker welfare across both UTs.

# GCW Udhampur organizes Embark on Educational Journey to Hartyan village



## Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Apr 8: The Department of Geography at Govt. College for Women (GCW), Udhampur, recently enriched its students' learning through an engaging educational tour to Harteryan village, Udhampur district. This practical excursion, a key component of the department's academic program, offered 45 students of Sem 2nd Major Practical a valuable opportunity to explore the region's physical geography firsthand and understand the dynamics of pilgrimage tourism.

The tour was led by Assistant Professor Pooja Bharti (HOD Geography) Under the able guidance and support of worthy Principal Prof. (Dr.) Nalini Pathania and accompanied by teaching staff: Lecturer Aizaj Sadiq Mir, Lecturer Insha Amin, Lecturer Divya Sharma, Lecturer Poonam Bharti; and non-teaching staff: Balbir Singh (Lab Bearer), Sanjay

Kumar (Driver), Subhash Chander (Driver).

During the tour, students visited the significant Mata Kali temple, allowing them to witness the intersection of cultural and physical landscapes. They actively observed the area's distinct physical features and gained crucial insights into the role of pilgrimage tourism in bolstering the local economy. The experience proved to be an invaluable bridge between classroom theory and real-world application, sparking enthusiasm and deeper understanding among the participating students.

The Department of Geography is committed to provide such enriching experiences and intends to organize further educational tours in the future to continually enhance the academic journey of its students.

This recent trip to Harteryan village, Udhampur district, stands as a successful testament to this commitment.

# Toyota unveils enhanced urban cruiser Hyryder, redefining hybrid SUV experience

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 8: Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) today announced exciting feature enhancements to its popular Urban Cruiser Hyryder, further elevating the SUV's appeal with advanced safety, comfort, and connected mobility upgrades. As India's first self-charging strong hybrid electric SUV, the Hyryder has already clocked 1 lakh sales, cementing its legacy as a modern mobility icon.

Blending Toyota's global SUV heritage with cutting-edge hybrid innovation, the latest Urban Cruiser Hyryder stays true to the brand's commitment to customer-centric innovation. According to Mr. Varinder Wadhwa, Vice President of Sales-Service-Used Car Business at

TKM, the upgrades are a response to evolving customer needs, ensuring the SUV remains at the forefront of performance, safety, and tech-savvy comfort.

The Hyryder's hybrid powertrain delivers high fuel efficiency and dynamic performance through a self-charging strong hybrid system and a 1.5L K-series engine with both Neo Drive (ISG) and transmission options including 5-speed manual, 6-speed automatic, 2WD, and 4WD — tailored to suit every driving style.

Inside, the Hyryder pampers its passengers with a luxurious cabin that features a 9-inch infotainment display, ventilated leather seats, 360-degree camera, ambient lighting, head-up display, cruise control, and voice assistant

integration with Google and Siri. Rear-seat passengers enjoy added comfort with reclining seats, rear AC vents, USB ports, and a flexible 60:40 split seat configuration.

Further enhancing ownership experience, Toyota offers 66 exclusive accessories, a 3-year/100,000 km warranty (extendable to 5 years/220,000 km), and a generous 8-year/160,000 km hybrid battery warranty — reflecting Toyota's confidence in its hybrid legacy.

Starting at just Rs. 11.34 lakhs (ex-showroom), the newly upgraded Urban Cruiser Hyryder continues to set benchmarks in the hybrid SUV space, offering a refined, future-ready drive for the modern Indian motorist.

# Samsung introduces Bespoke AI Laundry Vented Combo for smarter, faster washing

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 8: Samsung Electronics has unveiled its latest innovation in laundry technology: the Bespoke AI Laundry Vented Combo, an all-in-one washer and electric dryer featuring a 7-inch AI Home touchscreen.

This sleek new appliance eliminates the need to transfer clothes between machines, offering high-performance washing and drying in one seamless cycle.

Building on the success of

the 2024 Ventless Combo, this vented model brings faster drying and even more advanced AI functionality. With a spacious 5.3 cu. ft. Ultra Capacity drum and Super Speed cycle, users can wash and dry loads in just 68 minutes. Its efficient vented design ensures garments come out thoroughly dried every time.

Samsung's cutting-edge AI Bubble™ technology creates a rich foam that penetrates deep into fabrics, while the Steam Wash feature tackles tough stains effortlessly.

The intuitive 7-inch AI Home

Display and Voice Control capabilities offer hands-free convenience and simple navigation, making laundry feel less like a chore and more like magic.

AI Opti Wash & Dry automatically detects fabric types and soil levels, adjusting settings for optimal results. The Flex Auto Dispense System can handle up to 47 loads of detergent, and the Auto Open Door prevents lingering moisture and odors.

Designed with sustainability in mind, this ENERGY STAR® Certified appliance supports SmartThings Energy, letting

users monitor energy usage and activate AI Energy Mode to cut consumption by up to 30%. It also features the Less Microfiber™ cycle, which reduces synthetic microfiber release by 39%, helping protect oceans and waterways.

The Bespoke AI Laundry Vented Combo is available in Dark Steel and Brushed Black in the U.S., with regional availability set for Canada and Mexico in Q2 2025. Pre-orders are now open in the U.S., giving households a smarter, more elegant way to do laundry.



# Mission Director JJM, J&K directs Jal Shakti divisions for expenditure reconciliation by April 10

## Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Apr 8: Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), J&K Mr. Khurshid Ahmad Shah today convened a review meeting of Jal Shakti (PHE) Divisions of Kashmir province in Civil Secretariat, Srinagar.

The meeting was attended by the Executive Engineers of civil and Mechanical divisions besides Superintending Engineers of respective circles and officers in Mission Directorate.

The chief Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Kashmir was represented by Technical officer in the Department.

At the onset, MD enquired about the pace of execution of projects in the Kashmir region. The chair was informed that with the arrival of

outside labors, the pace in execution of works specific to outside work force have gathered momentum while as the routine works like pipe laying and general civil works are being executed at steady pace. The chair directed the divisional officers to monitor these works expeditiously so that the quality of work is maintained as per set standards.

The MD directed the officers to reconcile the expenditure on Integrated Management System (IMIS) and Public Financial

Management System (PFMS) by 10th April 2025 as directed by the Ministry Of Jal Shakti, Government of India. Mission director also enjoined upon the officers to clear the disparities in fund utilization between the two portals within one week.

The meeting also discussed uploading of data on PM Gati Shakti for which refresher training will be imparted at Chief Engineer, PHE Kashmir office tomorrow in batches. The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the chair.



FC Barcelona- Barca Academy India announces football camps

Changes in New Zealand setup as head coach Gary Stead steps down from white-ball formats

NEW DELHI, Apr 8 (Agencies): Registration is now open for limited seats in Barca camps across Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Delhi. Top performing talent to get a chance to play in Barca Academy World Cup 2026, according to a release from FC Barcelona.

Barca Academy, the official academy of world-renowned football club FC Barcelona is back in India after a gap of a year. Barca Academy has announced that it will host Barca Camps across the country. The five days Barca camps offers a rare opportunity for Indian young football enthusiast to be trained by FC Barca Academy coaches and Technical director specially flown from Barcelona for these camps which starts from June 2, in Ahmedabad followed by Hyderabad from June 9 till June 13, Bangalore from June 16 till June 20th and in Delhi from June 23 till June 27th.

Speaking on the occasion of Barca Legends Match in Mumbai, Sergi Barjuan, former Barca captain, coach and worldwide sporting director of Barca Academy said that, "Barca is very excited to be back in India which is strategically



cally a very important market for us. We will start with four cities camps which will be run by Barca coaches and Technical Director and some deserving high performing players will be shortlisted for Barca Academy World Cup in 2026," as quoted from a release by FC Barcelona.

The Barca Academy football camp is a great initiative to bring much needed grass root improvement for football which is gradually gaining popularity in India and FC Barcelona Academy coming back to India is a testimony of the potential India offers given its vast young popu-

lation and its growing interest in Football.

In a landmark moment for Indian sports, Real Madrid Legends came out victorious by 2-0 against the FC Barcelona Legends as the two iconic football giants reignited their iconic rivalry on April 6 at the DY Patil Stadium in Mumbai, as part of the much-anticipated 'Legends Faceoff'.

The venue was buzzing with energy as thousands of passionate fans packed the stands to witness footballing royalty in action. The electric atmosphere, filled with cheers and chants, added to the grandeur of this

historic occasion, as per a press release issued by The Sports Front.

Morientes opened the scoring for Real Madrid Leyendas in the 14th minute, capitalizing on a well-worked move orchestrated by Luis Figo and Michael Owen. The second half of the much-awaited Legends Faceoff saw the intensity rise as FC Barcelona Legends pushed hard to break through the Real Madrid defence.

With the crowd roaring them on, they turned up the heat, launching wave after wave of attacks. Just as Barcelona looked closest to scoring, Real Madrid Legends doubled their lead in the 69th minute. A moment of brilliance from David Barral saw him skip past two legendary defenders--Carles Puyol and Frank de Boer--before calmly slotting the ball past the goalkeeper. The strike further energized the Madrid camp and left the crowd at DY Patil Stadium in awe.

Fans in Mumbai had a memorable night filled with nostalgia, skill, and footballing greatness. With legends rolling back the years, the match was a perfect celebration of football's timeless charm.

AUCKLAND, Apr 8 (Agencies): New Zealand men's head coach Gary Stead has officially announced his decision to step down from his role in the white-ball formats, as per the official website of ICC.

Stead will also decide in the next few weeks if he wishes to reapply for the Test role.

First appointed to the position in 2018 following the resignation of Mike Hesson, Stead is considered one of New Zealand's greatest coaches, having steered the men's team to the inaugural World Test Championship title in 2021, and to an unprecedented 3-0 Test series sweep of India on the sub-continent last year.

In the white-ball formats, the side reached the final of the recently-concluded Champions Trophy in Pakistan and UAE, a Cricket World Cup Final in 2019, and a T20 World Cup Final in 2021.

Formally signalling his intention to step down from ODI and T20I role, Stead stated his intention of spending more time at home.

"I'm looking forward to getting away from touring life for a while and having a think about my future," said Stead, as quoted from the official website of ICC.

"My focus has been on finishing the season strongly with a lesser experienced team," he added.

"The past six to seven months has been particularly busy with relatively non-stop cricket action since September," he said.

"I now want to evaluate my options but still feel I have coaching left in me, albeit not as head coach across all formats," Stead said.

"The next month will give me the opportunity to discuss the situation more with my wife, family and others," he noted.

"I'll be in a better position to know whether I want to reapply for the Test coaching position after this time of reflection," he added.

Stead has twice had his contract renewed, in 2020 and in 2023, with the latter term expiring in June this year.

New Zealand Cricket Chief High Performance Officer Bryan Stronach said Stead deserved the opportunity to take some time out over his decision.

"Gary's results have been very impressive over a long period and we're very comfortable giving him some time to collect his thoughts and mull things over," said Stronach, as quoted from the official website of ICC.

"At the moment we haven't any strong preference for either a split-coaching role or a sole appointment who covers all three formats, and we're unlikely to be clearer on that until we see who's putting their name forward," he added.

Advertising for the positions will commence this week.

## RCB captain Rajat Patidar fined for slow over-rate in clash against Mumbai Indians

MUMBAI, Apr 8 (Agencies): Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) captain Rajat Patidar has been fined after his team was found guilty of maintaining a slow over-rate during Match 21 of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 against Mumbai Indians (MI) at the Wankhede Stadium, according to IPL Media Advisory.

As it was RCB's first offence of the season under Article 2.2 of the IPL Code of Conduct, which deals with minimum over-rate violations, Patidar has been handed a fine of INR 12 lakh.

Royal Challengers Bangalore have found a new leader stepping up with authority and consistency. Rajat Patidar, captaining RCB for the first time in the Indian Premier League (IPL), has led the side to an impressive start, winning three out of their first four games under his leadership.

His performance, both as a leader and with the bat, has been brilliant.

RCB's victories under Patidar have come against three of the most formidable teams in IPL history -- Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), Chennai Super Kings (CSK), and Mumbai Indians (MI). The Bangalore-based franchise has not only defeated these heavyweights but has also managed to win against them on their home turf.

He has scored 161 runs in four matches, including two half-centuries. His calm and calculated approach at the crease has offered much-needed stability in the RCB lineup.

While it remains to be seen how the rest of the season unfolds, the early signs point toward a promising chapter in RCB's journey, one that could be written under Rajat Patidar's watch.

Coming to the match, MI won the toss and opted to field first.

Though Phil Salt departed early, Virat (67 in 42 balls, with eight fours and two sixes) and Devdutt Padikkal (37 in 22



balls, with two fours and three sixes) made sure MI regretted their decision as they put on a counter-attacking 91-run stand. After the dismissal of this duo, skipper Rajat Patidar (64 in 32 balls, with five fours and four sixes) and Jitesh Sharma (40\* in 19 balls, with two fours and four sixes) made sure that the run-rate never went down. RCB ended at 221/5.

Hardik Pandya (2/45), the skipper, and Trent Boult (2/57) took two wickets but leaked runs. Vignesh Puthur got a wicket as well. Jasprit Bumrah delivered figures of 0/29 in four overs on his comeback.

During the run-chase, MI was 99/4 in 12 overs, but an explosive 89-run stand between Tilak Varma (56 in 29 balls, with four boundaries and four sixes) and skipper Hardik Pandya (42 in 15 balls, with three fours and four sixes) threatened to take the game away from RCB.

However, Krunal (4/45), Josh Hazlewood (2/37) and Bhuvneshwar Kumar (1/48) came in clutch with crucial wickets at the right times, helping secure RCB a 12-run win. RCB is at the third spot with three wins and a loss in four matches, and all three wins have been away from home. MI have won just one out of their five games and are in the eighth spot.

## Will Pucovski announces retirement from cricket due to concussion battles

MELBOURNE, Apr 8 (Agencies): Australian batter Will Pucovski has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket at the age of 27, citing ongoing concussion-related issues. Calling it a "humongous disappointment that is hard to deal with," Pucovski shared the news during an appearance on SEN radio in Melbourne, as per ESPNcricinfo.

Tipped to be a long-term fixture at the top of Australia's Test batting order, Pucovski's career was unfortunately derailed by repeated head injuries. He played just one Test match in 2021 against India, but his early success in first-class cricket for Victoria had marked him as one of Australia's most promising talents.

His final match came in March 2024, when he suffered a serious concussion after being struck by a bouncer from Tasmania's Riley Meredith during a Sheffield Shield game. It was the latest in a long line of concussions, with estimates placing the total number of head knocks in the mid-teens -- some dating back to his teenage years playing Australian Rules football.

Due to the frequency and severity of his concussions, an independent medical panel was brought in last year to



assess his future in the sport. While the panel advised him to step away from playing, Pucovski took time to consider his options, factoring in ongoing discussions regarding his contract, insurance, and potential loss of income.

Speaking on Tuesday, Pucovski said the decision was especially tough as he had felt he was finally finding rhythm during the 2023-24 season.

"I wish I was coming in maybe under better circumstances," Pucovski said, as quoted from ESPNcricinfo.

"I'm not going to be playing cricket again. It's been a really difficult year to put it as simply as possible," he added.

"I'd need a few hours, I think, to take you through the whole journey...but the simple message is I won't be playing cricket at any level again," he noted.

He played more first-class matches than in any other season and scored a century in his second last game against New South Wales.

"After that century in Sydney, I thought from a personal point of view things were starting to click for me," he said, as quoted from ESPNcricinfo.

"I put a mountain of effort into getting things right off the field to be good on the field," he added.

"It had always been my dream to play for Australia, I found myself in that position in 2021. My ambition didn't stop there. I wanted to be that guy that was a leader of the batting unit. I wanted to play 100 Tests," he noted.

"Unfortunately, one Test is where it ends," he said.

Although the panel had recommended retirement last year, Pucovski delayed the announcement, determined to explore every possible avenue to return to cricket.

"In my head, I didn't want to make an official call until I was symptom-free," Pucovski

said, as quoted from ESPNcricinfo.

"When you're struggling it's hard to make a huge decision. The medical panel recommended I retire and that was really difficult to come to terms with. I felt like I was coming over the hill with a few things," he added.

"Technically you can't make anyone retire from anything...it got made clear to me it was a strong recommendation but the final decision ultimately was up to me," he noted.

"Since then I have spent a ridiculous amount of time trying to find answers, trying to understand what the brain injury is that I have and why have I had all these problems," he said.

"There probably wasn't a moment that I thought 'This is the day' but things haven't changed. I wanted to hold on to the dream as long as I could but the flip side to that is you want to feel better and live your life normally," he added.

"I just don't want to risk doing any more damage to my brain than I've already done," he noted.

"There's the mental health symptoms which is one part of it. Then there's the fatigue, which is quite bad, I get regular headaches," he said.

"I really struggle with things on my left side. If I have things happening in my left I feel sick and dizzy. I struggle with motion sickness," he added.

"At 27, I have so much ahead of me and I have so many things I want to achieve in my life. I wanted to play another 15 years and that gets taken away which is bad enough. At least I know I won't get hit in the head again, but when the symptoms are ongoing, it's frightening," he noted.

"I know what I was like before these concussions and I know what I am now. My family and friends have noticed a difference in me and that's scary for me and for them," he said.

Nevertheless, Pucovski expressed his desire to remain connected to the game. He has already committed to taking over as head coach of his Victoria Premier club, Melbourne, for the 2025-26 season. He has also previously appeared as a television commentator and may consider returning to the broadcast space in the future.

Across his first-class career, Pucovski amassed 2,350 runs at an average of 45.19, including seven centuries, three of them double tons.

## Kashvee Gautam, N Shree Charani, Shuchi Upadhyay earn maiden call-ups for India's ODI Tri-Series in Sri Lanka

NEW DELHI, Apr 8 (Agencies): India has announced a revamped ODI squad for the upcoming tri-series in Sri Lanka, which will also feature South Africa, with several fresh faces earning their maiden national call-ups. Kashvee Gautam, N Shree Charani, and Shuchi Upadhyay have been included in the team for the first time, marking a significant step forward in their careers, as per

ESPNcricinfo.

Harmanpreet Kaur returns as captain after missing the previous series against Ireland at home in January. Also making comebacks are Sneha Rana, Yastika Bhatia, Arundhati Reddy, and Amanjot Kaur.

Notably, Shafali Verma remains absent from the squad despite an impressive showing in the Women's Premier League (WPL) earlier

this year. She scored 304 runs across nine innings, finishing fourth on the run-scorers' list with a strike rate of 152.76.

In the previous series against Ireland, where India won all three games convincingly under Smriti Mandhana's leadership, several players featured who haven't been retained this time. Uma Chetry, Raghvi Bist, Sayali Satghare, Tanuja Kanwar,



Minnu Mani, Priya Mishra, and Saima Thakor are among those left out.

Kashvee Gautam, 21, was one of the standout performers in the WPL, taking 11 wickets, the

most by an Indian in nine matches, impressing with her pace and accuracy. Left-arm spinner N Shree Charani, 20, featured in just two games for Delhi Capitals but managed to claim four wickets. Meanwhile, fellow left-arm spinner Shuchi Upadhyay earned her call-up following a stellar performance in the Senior Women's One-Day Trophy last December. She was the tour-

nament's third-highest wicket-taker, grabbing 18 wickets at an economy of 3.48 and an average of 15.44. Her efforts earned her the Player of the Tournament award as Madhya Pradesh clinched the title.

This tri-series serves as a crucial preparatory stage for all three teams as they build towards the Women's ODI World Cup, scheduled to be held in India later this year between Septem-

ber and October.

India squad for women's ODI tri-series in Sri Lanka: Harmanpreet Kaur (capt), Smriti Mandhana (vice-capt), Pratikha Rawal, Harleen Deol, Jemimah Rodrigues, Richa Ghosh (wk), Yastika Bhatia (wk), Deepti Sharma, Amanjot Kaur, Kashvee Gautam, Sneha Rana, Arundhati Reddy, Tejal Hasabnis, Sree Charani, Shuchi Upadhyay.



# Civic Safai Karamchari Union stages protest, demands justice from JMC



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 8: The Civic Safai Karamchari Union, under the leadership of its President Rinku Gil, organized a protest on Tuesday in Jammu, raising a strong collective voice against the longstanding neglect of crucial issues affecting Safai Karamcharis. The union highlighted key demands pending with the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), urging immediate resolution and redressal.

One of the major demands raised was the release of the final selection list for 600 Safai Karamchari posts, which were advertised back in 2018. Despite conducting physical and practical tests in 2019 and 2021, the selection process remains incomplete, leaving hundreds of aspirants uncertain about their future. The Union insisted that this delay be addressed without further bureaucratic hindrances.

The protest also emphasized the importance of economic empowerment within the Safai Karamchari community, demanding that tenders and contracts related to sanitation, sewer services, and transport be allotted on a priority basis to the children of Safai Karamcharis. This would not only ensure inclusion but also uplift families that have long served the city's sanitation needs.

Another key issue

raised was the regularization of around 40 workers who have completed their 7-year probation period. The Union urged the JMC to honor their service and immediately confirm their employment status. In addition, although 535 workers were regularized in 2023, nearly 80 of them have yet to receive salaries due to delays in document verification. The Union called for immediate administrative intervention to resolve this issue and ensure the financial stability of these workers.

The Union also highlighted the pending cases under SRO-43, requesting the JMC to expedite their settlement. They further stressed the need for timely salary disbursement for all Safai Karamcharis, including those working under NGOs, as well as the urgent clearance of Provident Fund dues and salary arrears pending since 2023.

A demand for an increase in minimum wages for all categories of workers—skilled, semi-skilled, and unskilled—was also raised, given the rising cost of living. Additionally, the protest called for the distribution of essential uniforms, including jackets, raincoats, and shoes, to field workers and drivers who brave all weather conditions to maintain city hygiene.

In terms of career advancement, the

Union pressed for the conduct of Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) meetings in line with current rules and demanded that 50% of vacancies be reserved for departmental promotions across all cadres in JMC. Another major concern was the non-release of 2.5 days' salary for staff members including supervisors and drivers, which the Union urged the authorities to release at the earliest.

Finally, a heartfelt plea was made for the allotment of new colonies to Safai Karamchari workers, as existing housing areas have become densely populated and overcrowded. The Union also demanded the regularization of colonies allotted since 1957, affirming the community's right to secure and dignified living spaces.

President Rinku Gil, addressing the gathering, said, "Our workers are the silent backbone of the city's cleanliness and health. We demand not just recognition, but fair treatment and justice. These demands are not new; they are long overdue."

The protest concluded with a vow to continue peaceful demonstrations until all legitimate demands are fulfilled. The Civic Safai Karamchari Union remains steadfast in its commitment to ensuring dignity, security, and respect for all sanitation workers under JMC.

# AJKGRDS to celebrate 134th Birth Anniversary of Dr. B R Ambedkar on Apr 14

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 8: In a highly attended and spirited press conference held at Guru Ravidass Gurudwara, Krishna Nagar, the All J&K Guru Ravidass Sabha (AJKGRDS) announced its decision to commemorate the 134th Birth Anniversary of Bharat Ratna Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar with grandeur and unity. The event, scheduled to take place at Krishna Nagar on \$14, will be organized in collaboration with all major SC/ST/OBC socio-religious organizations of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, bringing together thousands of followers to honor the legacy of India's chief architect of the Constitution.

Mohinder Bhagat, President of the All India Bhagat Mahasabha (J&K Unit), lauded the collective decision to host a joint celebration. He shared that this noble initiative was spearheaded by the Adhoc Committee of AJKGRDS, which extended invitations to



various socio-religious groups to participate in what is poised to be one of the most unifying celebrations of Babasaheb's ideals in the region.

A wide spectrum of organizations and respected individuals attended the press meet, pledging full support. These included Prof. Kali Dass, Qureshi (AIBCU), Er. Sadiq Azad (GDCT), Mohd Muneer Mugal (Pir Panchal ABC), M.R Bangotra (AIBCU), K.K Fotra (Sain Samaj), Brij Mehra, Prof. G.L. Thapa, Er. Joginder Paul (JKRCEA), representatives from Kabir

Sabha, Saryara Sabha, Gardri Sabha, Batwal Sabha, and numerous branches of Guru Ravidass Sabhas.

Ajay Thapa of Bhim Kranti Sena and many Sarpanches, Panches, and social activists were also present to endorse the joint effort.

Sham Basson from the Dalit Chetna Manch, elaborated on the planned program, which will begin with Buddha Bandana, followed by addresses from dignitaries, children's speeches, and a cultural segment. Notable performers include Sonu Heer, the Tapasya Art Group, and

students from Savitri Bai Phule Modern School led by Sunita Bangotra.

The event will be graced by Rajinder Kashyap, former Special Secretary of Law, Government of India, as the Chief Guest, while the Director of IIM-CSIR, Jammu is expected to be the Guest of Honour. A keynote address will also be delivered by a prominent local speaker with national repute.

Er. R.C. Bhasin, Convener of the All J&K Shree Guru Ravidass Sabha, concluded the announcement with details of the closing ceremony, which will

feature Bheem Bandana and a vote of thanks, followed by a community lunch for all attendees. He urged all Ambedkarite followers, especially youth, women, retirees, and working professionals from SC/ST/OBC communities, to attend the event in large numbers and be inspired by the life and teachings of Babasaheb Ambedkar.

The conference saw active participation from over 50 leaders and community members, including TC Bavouria, Kuldeep Fouji, Gaurav Ravidasi, Surjeet Singh Heer, Prof. C.L. Shivgotra, CL Banal, Capt. Ashok Kumar, Capt. Harbans Lal, Des Raj Saragral, Dr. Buti Ram, Himant Kumar, and many others—reflecting a united front of Ambedkarite thought and community spirit.

This year's celebration of Babasaheb's 134th birth anniversary promises to be not only a tribute to a towering social reformer but also a powerful symbol of collective resolve for equality, justice, and empowerment.

# Tug of war in House just to divert attention from liquor ban, public issues: Shiv Sena

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 8: A tug of war is being played between BJP and NC as part of a well-planned strategy to avoid discussion on all public welfare issues including liquor ban in Jammu and Kashmir, restoration of state status, said Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit chief Manish Sahni.

In a press conference held on Tuesday at the party's state central office, state chief Manish Sahni said that after passing in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and becoming a law, discussion on the Waqf Bill in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly does not matter.

At the same time, despite the Speaker being from the NC, not getting permission on the demand of NC MLAs to discuss the Waqf Bill is like throwing dust in the eyes.

Both the parties are continuing this tug of war to bake political breads and divert the attention of the public from important issues.

Sahni said that today some MLAs are going to bring private proposals on ban on liquor and restoration of statehood in Jammu and Kashmir, which can put both NC and BJP in a dilemma.

While NC is not able to take a decision on liquor ban, BJP is also not able to clarify its position on this. BJP is also not in favor of any kind of proposal regarding restoration of statehood.

Sahni said that it is unfortunate that to divert attention from liquor



ban and public welfare issues, a game of farce is being played to mislead the public by resorting to Waqf Bill.

Sahni has demanded

from BJP MLAs to raise their voice for implementing liquor ban in Jammu and Kashmir and the temple city of Jammu.

# Dimple leads protest against hike in LPG, fuel prices

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 8: In a spirited show of dissent, Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood, led a massive protest rally along with hundreds of traders and citizens against the recent hike in LPG cylinder prices, as well as rising petrol and diesel rates. The rally surged through Amphalla, New Plot, Janipur, and High Court Road, echoing with slogans demanding immediate price rollback.

Addressing the agitated crowd, Dimple launched a scathing attack on the Central Government, urging Prime Minister Narendra Modi to withdraw the Rs 50 hike on LPG cylinders and bring petrol, diesel, and LPG under the GST regime to ensure uniform pricing across the nation.

"The surge in prices of essentials—from fuel to food—is crushing the common man," Dimple declared. "The prices of



milk, curd, food grains, cooking oil, pulses, and flour are soaring beyond the reach of poor families. It's no longer just inflation—it's injustice."

He further called upon Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to take urgent steps, demanding the provision of 200 units of free electricity, 12 free LPG cylinders annually, and double ration supply to support struggling households.

Dimple didn't hold back in criticizing the local administration, stating that the Food and Supply Department has become

dysfunctional, unable to regulate market rates. "Vegetables like onions, tomatoes, and staples such as atta, rice, curd, milk, and cheese have become unaffordable luxuries," he lamented.

He also raised concerns over broader governance issues, condemning the installation of smart electricity meters, skyrocketing bills, burdensome taxation, and the discontinuation of the Darbar Move post the abrogation of Article 370, which he claimed had "brought untold hardship to the

people and traders of Jammu & Kashmir."

Warning the central government of escalating agitation if prices aren't rolled back soon, Dimple said, "This fight is for survival. If the government doesn't act, the people will rise in protest."

Prominent protestors included Ram Jetinder Gupta, Dev Raj, Vipran, Mukesh, Ram Kumar Das, Mohinder, Nazir, Shafi, and many more community leaders who joined the call for relief and reform.

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