

# TOP NEWS OF J&K



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## BRIEFLY

### Police deny reports of terrorist movement in Poonch town

SRINAGAR, Apr 9 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Police have denied reports of terrorist movement in Poonch town.

According to Poonch Police, there was no truth in the news carried by a few social media handles regarding the movement of terrorists in Poonch town.

"There is no truth in news carried by few social media handles regarding movements of terrorists. Social media handles must refrain from sharing sensitive information without verification," police said.

### Burglars make abortive bid to steal cash from SBI ATM in Shopian

SRINAGAR, Apr 9 (Agencies): Burglars made an unsuccessful bid last night to loot cash from the SBI ATM at Goal Chakri in south Kashmir's Shopian district.

According to a senior police official, burglars broke open the shutter of the ATM and made an unsuccessful attempt to steal cash. Following the incident, a police team rushed to the spot, and an investigation is currently underway.

Police have registered a case to apprehend the miscreants, while CCTV footage is also being examined as part of the investigation.

### Did you raise SPO salary, regularization issues with Home Minister: Deputy Chief Minister asks BJP

JAMMU, Apr 9 (Agencies): Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, on Wednesday said that instead of creating repeated disruptions in the Assembly, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) should answer whether they raised the issue of salary hikes and regularisation of Special Police Officers (SPOs) with Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Talking to reporters here, Choudhary, said that SPOs have been

■ Turn to page 9

## Lieutenant Governor attends Navkar Mahamantra Divas celebration at Raj Bhavan

**Person full of love, harmony, peace and compassion can uplift humanity: Sinha**

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 9: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha attended the celebration of Navkar Mahamantra Divas at Raj Bhavan, on Wednesday.

The Lieutenant Governor extended his felicitations to the citizens from different walks of life, members of Jain International Trade Organization, and numerous other organizations and senior officials who have joined together for the collective recitation of the sacred Navkar Mahamantra.

"For thousands of years, several signifi-



cant 'Mantras' are guiding the path of seekers and devotees. Among them Navkar Mahamantra's aura and essence of divinity is unique," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that Navkar Mahamantra-

the most revered and universal chant inspires inner transformation and fosters spiritual awakening.

"Where there is love and harmony there is God. It is true power. A man is closest to God when heart is filled with goodwill. It is my firm

belief that the most precious assets of society are love, harmony, peace and compassion. A person full of these qualities can uplift humanity.

I believe that the true meaning of life lies in self-discovery. When we know ourselves then one thing becomes clear that God has not given this life for small things but there is a big purpose behind it and that is selfless service to society and welfare of all living beings," the Lieutenant Governor said.

In a global initiative, people from more than

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## Encounter underway in Udhampur, Three terrorists trapped

JAMMU, Apr 9 (Agencies): An encounter broke out in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district on Wednesday after security forces established contact with three terrorists, officials said.

"During a search operation by police and other security forces, contact

was established with terrorists at village Jopher in the Ramnagar police station area of Udhampur," the Udhampur police said on X.

They stated that two to three terrorists are trapped.

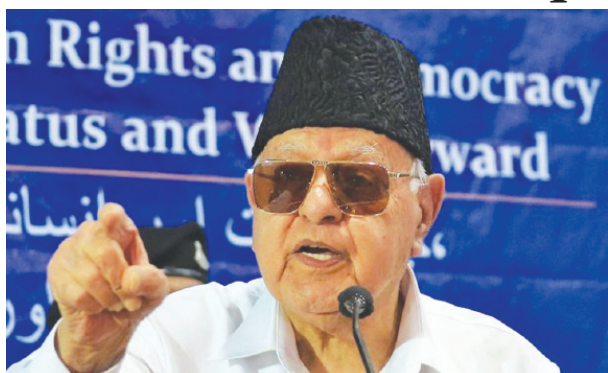
"Firing is ongoing," they added.

Police and security

forces have been tracking terrorists moving from one area to another for the past 17 days following three encounters since the operation started on March 24 in the Sanyial area of Kathua district.

Two terrorists and four policemen were killed in the encounter in the area on March 27.

## J&K Govt will work to take UT out of its difficulties: Farooq Abdullah



SRINAGAR, Apr 9 (Agencies): Ruling National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Wednesday said the government would work to take Jammu and Kashmir out of its difficulties even as its "enemies" will keep on

criticising. "Enemies will always be there, the enemies will continue to say that, but we will do the work we have to do and bring this state out of its difficulties," he told reporters when asked about the ruckus in the assembly

and the opposition's charge that the ruling party did not bring a resolution over the Waqf Amendment Act.

Abdullah was the chief guest at a women's conclave at the SKICC here.

The NC president said the country will not become strong till its women get their due.

"They are 50 per cent and time has come to give them their rights. Work on the (Womens') Bill passed by the Parliament should begin immediately so that they get their rights," he said.

Asked about his earlier remarks about

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## BJP members involved in scuffle with Lone AAP MLA outside J&K Assembly

JAMMU, Apr 9 (Agencies): A scuffle broke out between BJP members and AAP MLA Mehraj Malik in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly premises on Wednesday over his remarks against the saffron party.

Soon after the House was adjourned, Malik was first involved in a verbal duel with PDP workers over his remarks against Mufti Mohammed Sayeed.

PDP worker lashed out at him for his use of alleged derogatory

language against Sayeed. Security personnel deployed for the Assembly's security prevented a physical clash between the AAP MLA and PDP workers.

Malik then hit out at the security wing for allowing PDP workers inside the Assembly complex.

"The Superintendent of Police should arrest PDP workers who assaulted me," Malik told the security wing.

"Whatever I said, I will not retreat from it. He (Sayeed) is a traitor for

me," he told reporters here.

He also accused the police of acting like PDP workers and alleged that the police had failed to take action against those who should have been arrested for "assaulting" an MLA.

Soon after Malik allegedly made some remarks against the BJP and its leaders which did not go down well with BJP MLAs present on the scene.

BJP MLAs led by

■ Turn to page 9

## Budget Session concludes

### Speaker adjourns Assembly Sine Die

#### Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 9: Speaker of the J&K Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather on Wednesday adjourned the House sine die.

The 21 days assembly session commenced on 3rd March with LG's address and culminated today on 9th April 2025 afternoon.

The Speaker informed the house that during the Session, 1355 questions were received; 154 main questions were taken up during this session while their 353 supplementaries were answered. He also informed the house that 1738 Cut Motions were also received and 1731 were taken up for the discussions.

The Speaker further



informed the house that three Government Bills were received and subsequently passed by the house. He added that 33 Private Members Bills were also received and listed for the business.

The Speaker further informed the house that 78 Calling Attention Motions were received by the Assembly Secretariat, out of which 23 were listed for the busi-

ness and 34 were disallowed.

The speaker said that the 21 day Budget session was second longest in the country during 2025.

He also informed that 109 resolutions were received during the session, out of which 85 were admitted and 14 were listed for business.

The Speaker further

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## 83,000 Domicile Certificates granted to Non-State Subjects in two years: J&K Govt

JAMMU, Apr 9 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday disclosed that around 83,742 domicile certificates have been granted to non-state subjects in the

Union Territory over the past two years.

In a written response to MLA Waheed Ur Rehman Para, the government said that around 35,12,184 domicile certificates have

been issued in two years across the Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister Incharge also added that out of which, 83, 742 have been granted to individuals from outside the

erstwhile state.

It is noteworthy that the legislator Para had sought details on the number of domicile certificates issued to non-locals across Jammu and Kashmir during the last 2 years.

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**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. Dular Ji W/o Lt. Sh. Janki Nath Handoo (Bhabhi)  
Smt. Santosh Ji W/o. Lt. Sh. Lok Nath Handoo (Bhabhi)

**Son & Daughter - in - law.**

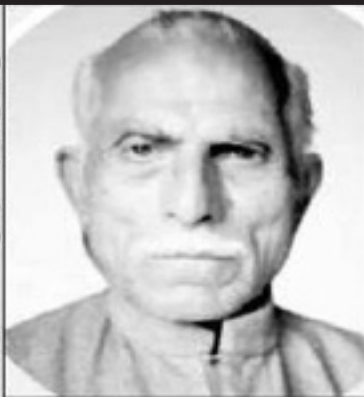
Rajesh and Anita  
Sushil Krishan and Sushma  
Vimal and Anju  
Vishal and Priya

**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, Mysba  
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**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Sh. Ramesh Kumar Bhat S/o Late Sh. D. N Bhat** resident of H.No. 525/5, Suryavanshi-Nagar, Lower Roop-Nagar, Jammu on 1st April, 2025.

**Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on 10th April 2025 at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education. Assembly will also be held at Muthi Ghat at 8:30 am.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

Smt. Kusum Bhat (Wife)  
Dr Priyanka Bhat & Mr. Rohit Bhat (Daughter and Son-in-law)  
Mr. Pratul Bhat (Son)

Smt. Bimla Moza W/o Late Sh. B.K Moza (Sister and Brother-in-law)  
Sh. Rajinder Kumar Bhat & Smt. Pinki Bhat (Brother & Sister-in-law)  
Smt. Babita Koul W/o Late Sh. K.K Koul (Sister and Brother-in-law)

And All Relatives and Friends

Contact No. 78899465, 9650510802, 8010171994



**Sh. Ramesh Kumar Bhat**  
(Retd. Section Officer PHE Deptt. J&K)

**BARKHI**

One year has passed since you left us for a heavenly journey. Physically you are not with us but we feel your presence in every moment of life. Your loving memories are still fresh in our hearts. We pray to God for eternal peace to the noble soul.

**Barkhi** of our beloved **Shri Rikit Gupta (Ricky)** S/o Ashok Kumar Gupta will be performed on April 10, 2025 (Thursday) at Radha Krishan Mandir Hall, lane opp. Amar Colony, Camp Road, Talab Tillo at 12:00 noon onwards.

**DEEPLY MISSED AND REMEMBERED BY**  
Richie and Divyansh (Wife & Son)  
(Father & Mother)

Sh. Ashok Kumar Gupta & Smt. Shashi Gupta  
Ankit and Midu (Brother & Bhabhi)

9797426720, 7889720234



**Shri Rikit Gupta (Ricky)**

**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, Uttarbehni.

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**

**CHOUBARSI**

"Forever in our hearts" Time moves on but your sweet memories remains eternal.

**Choubarsi** of our beloved Father **Late Sh. Suram Singh Sambyal (Retd. Accounts Officer)** S/o Late Sh. Chai Singh and H/o Late Smt. Savitri Sambyal originally from Mandi Thalore Samba will be performed on 10th April, 2025 at our residence H.No. 398, Gurha Bakshi Nagar, Jammu at 12:30 pm.

**DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY**

**Sons & Daughters-in-law**

Mr. Kulbushan Singh Sambyal & Mrs. Pooja Sambyal (Retd. Joint Director, Agr. Deptt)

Prof. Sanjeev Singh Sambyal & Mrs. Jyoti Sambyal (University of Jammu) (Master, Edu. Deptt)

**Daughter & Son-in-law**

Mrs. Pratima Jamwal W/o Late Sh. Ashok Chander Singh Jamwal (Range Officer)

Mrs. Manvi & Col. Mayank Singh Jamwal - **Grand Children**

Col. Divyajeet Singh Jamwal & Dr. Swati - **Grand Children**

Dr. Urvi & Er. Arjun Singh Kohwal - **Grand Children**

Mr. Amaveet Singh Sambyal - **Grand Children**

Dr. Aanandita Sambyal - **Grand Children**

Ms. Sunandita Sambyal - **Grand Children**

**Great Grand Children** : Shubransh Singh Jamwal, Nyasa Jamwal

Contact Nos.: 9419183538, 9419183686



**Late Sh. Suram Singh  
Sambyal**  
(Retd. Accounts Officer)

**TENTH DAY KRIYA/UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Shakuntla Sharma W/o Sh. Girdhari Lal Sharma R/o P 44 B Sector 1** South Ext. Khoo Wali Gali, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. **TENTH DAY & KRIYA** will be performed on 10-04-2025 at 10:00 AM at our Residence. **UTHALA** will be performed on Friday, 11-04-2025 from 5.00 PM to 6.00 PM at Shiv Mandir, Sector 3, Trikuta Nagar.

**GRIEF STRICKEN FAMILY:-**

Girdhari Lal Sharma (SBI)

**Daughter-in-laws and Sons**

Vasudha Mahajan and Sachin Sharma

Nidhi Sharma and Akshit Sharma

**Daughters and Son-in-Laws**

Meenakshi Sharma (J&K Bank) and Narinder Sharma

Sheetal Sharma and Dhaminder Sharma

7889666179, 9469002712, 9419185355



**SMT SHAKUNTLA  
SHARMA**

**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 & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of **Smt Madhu Bhat W/o Prithvi Nath Bhat** originally resident of village Gugloosa Tehsil Tregham Kupwara at present TRT No. 3 Block-E Pukhroo Camp Domana Jammu who left us for heavenly abode on 07-04-2025. May Lord Grant peace to her divine soul.

**10th Day Kriya** will be performed at Muthi Ghat on 16-04-2025 and **Assembly** shall be held at Muthi Ghat at 8.00 AM.

**Grief Stricken**

Sh Prithvi Nath Bhat -Husband

**Sister & Brother-in-law**

Sh Poshkar Nath Bhat & Smt Rupashri Bhat

Smt Santosha Bhat W/o Lt. Sh Krishan Lal Bhat -Bhabhi

Smt Bimla Bhat W/o Lt. Sh Prem Nath Bhat -Bhabhi

Smt & Sh Ramesh Bhat -Son-in-law & Daughter

Nitika Bhat -Son

Nitika Bhat -Daughter

All Nears & Dears

Mob. No. 9797534928, 9797439449



**Smt Madhu Bhat  
W/o Prithvi Nath Bhat**

**10TH DAY KRIYAKARAM**

We are profoundly anguished by the untimely demise of **Param Shivbakt** and 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)

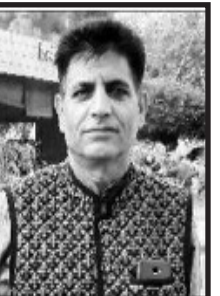
Sh. R.K. Bhat & Smt. Sonia Bhat (Brother & Bhabhi)

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)**

**TENTH DAY & UTHALA**

"You may not be with us anymore but our love for you will never die."

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of **Smt Veena Gupta W/o Lt. Sh. Chaman Lal Paba** (Udhampur wale) who had left for her heavenly abode on 01-04-2025.

**TENTH DAY** will be performed on Thursday 10-04-25 at 11:00am at their residence 266/A Gandhinagar Jammu.

**UTHALA** will take place on Saturday 12-04-2025 from 04:00 pm to 05:00 pm at their residence.

**DEEPLY MISSED BY**

Rahul Gupta (Chhotu)- Son

Daughters

Tamanna Gupta

Purvi Gupta

Whole Paba family & Kohli family

9796666485, 9796486380



**Smt Veena Gupta**

**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 (Sunday) 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 Childrens:** Bhavik Pandita,

Bhavini Pandita, Rupin Pandita, Medhasvi Pandita



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

Mob No: 9858294736, 8491950038

**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

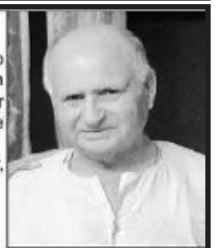
Mrs. Ruby & Mr. Anil Trakroo - Daughter & Son In Law

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 Trikloppur, 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 & Anil 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 Mohalla Anantnag Kashmir at present, 287-A Kashmir Gali near Rose Valley School Vipin Garden New Delhi 59.

The **10th Day** will be performed at Shree Gaur Shanker Mandir (Kashmir 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, Bhudub & Naina (Grand Children)



# Brij Mohan bags Padmashri Prof Ram Nath Shastri Memorial Award 2025

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 9: A jury comprising eminent Dogri writers selected eminent Dogri poet and Music Composer Brij Mohan's collection of poetry entitled 'MANE DE AAHLE' for the prestigious Prof. Ram Nath Shastri Memorial award 2025. In a press note, Padmashri Prof. Lalit Magotra, President Dogri Sanstha Jammu, has said that the award is given every year by Dogri Sanstha Jammu in collaboration with the family of Prof. Ram Nath Shastri to the best of all books which are the first publication of the author for the last five years.

The award carries a memento, shawl and a cash prize of Rs 21,000. This is the 12th award and is given with the sole purpose of not only

acknowledging the contributions of the dogri authors but also inspiring them to contribute for preserving and promoting mother tongue Dogri.

He further added that this year also Sanstha got quite a good number of books and after short-listing the same, seven books got into the final.

The consolidated decision of a jury of five prolific dogri writers went in favour of Brij Mohan's collection of poetry 'Mane De Aahle'.

He congratulated Brij Mohan and said that he is a passionate poet who knows the art of giving words to the contents thus touching the soul of poetry.

As a music composer also he has made colossal contributions to dogri music in particular.

Rajeshwar Singh



'Raju', General secretary Dogri Sanstha Jammu said that Prof. Ram Nath Shastri is the father of Dogri Literature. The award constituted in his memory is a prestigious one and every Dogri author wishes to have the honour of the same.

While congratulating Brij Mohan for the honour, he said that he is a household name for his scintillation music compositions in Dogri . At the same time he is also an eminent poet having written several immensely popular

Dogri songs, Bhajans, 'TARANAS' for Jammu University, Dogri Sanstha and several other Institutions and organizations.

While working as an Editor "Sheeraja" at J & K Academy of Art, Culture and languages he has inspired and encouraged many to pen down creative writing. He hoped that he would continue compiling his poetry in the form of books and enrich the Dogri literature.

In a meeting organized at Dogri Sanstha Jammu in which sons of Prof. Ram Nath Shastri, Ajit Khajuria and Dinesh Khajuria also participated , it was decided that the award will be presented on April 14th '2025 in an impressive function at Dogri Bhawan, Dogri Sanstha, Karan Nagar, Jammu.

# JKAACL organises Seminar on Pandit Mohan Nirash



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 9: A literary seminar titled "Remembering Mohan Nirash" was organized today at the Writers' Club, K. L. Saigal Hall, under the aegis of the Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, to commemorate the 91st birth anniversary of the eminent Hindi and Kashmiri poet, writer, and broadcaster Late Pandit Mohan Nirash.

The event brought together renowned poets, scholars, writers, and admirers of literature, who gathered to reflect on the life, work, and legacy of Pandit Nirash — a figure celebrated for his deep poetic insight and contribution to Indian literature and cultural broadcasting.

The seminar was pre-

sided over by Dr. P. N. Trisal, a senior academician and thinker from Jammu, who in his presidential address, spoke about the time-less relevance of Mohan Nirash's writings.

Dr. Trisal highlighted how Nirash's poetry transcended linguistic boundaries and expressed a profound engagement with the philosophical and socio-cultural themes of his time.

The program began with a welcome address by Dr. Javed Rahi, Divisional Head JKAACL, Jammu on behalf of Secretary JKAACL Harvinder Kour. He paid tribute to the literary and cultural contributions of the late poet and acknowledged the significance of organizing such commemorations to keep the legacy alive for future generations.

In the first session titled "Mohan Nirash: Diverse Dimensions", renowned poet and broadcaster Shri BrijNathBetab spoke about the multi-layered literary persona of Nirash. He discussed the poet's journey through various genres and media, shedding light on his creative versatility and his role as a bridge between traditional literary forms and modern sensibilities.

This was followed by an emotionally charged session, "Remembering Mohan Nirash", delivered by senior writer and cultural commentator Shri AvtarMota, who shared personal anecdotes and reflections on Nirash's life. Mota described him as a poet of sensitivity and silence — one who turned personal and collective pain into poignant poetry.

# Parents Association stages protest demanding age relaxation for Class 1 Admission, action against private school exploitation



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 9: A protest led by Parents Association President Amit Kapoor erupted outside the Press Club of Jammu today, as a large number of children and their parents gathered to demand immediate age relaxation for Class 1 admissions. The protestors raised slogans against

the ongoing exploitation by private schools and urged the government to issue urgent directives to safeguard children's education and parental rights.

Carrying banners and accompanied by their children, the protestors shouted slogans such as "Bahali Umar Chhoot, Rokiye Private Schools ka Loot" and "Book-Uniform Mafia Ko Lagam

Do", demanding an end to the annual practice of changing books and uniforms, which they say places an undue financial burden on families.

Addressing the gathering, Amit Kapoor criticized the administration for its silence and inaction. He highlighted that other Indian states have already admitted children to Class 1, but Jammu and Kashmir has failed to issue any official orders regarding age relaxation. "Parents are being forced onto the streets with their young children because of bureaucratic delays. While the Principal Secretary of Education says the matter is under review, the Director of School Education remains indecisive," Kapoor said.

He further alleged that

many private schools are exploiting parents financially, changing books and uniforms each year without justification. Kapoor urged the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Jammu to conduct immediate raids, similar to last year's crackdown, to expose and dismantle what he termed the "nexus of books and uniform suppliers."

Calling for political unity, Kapoor appealed to all MLAs of Jammu and Kashmir, regardless of party lines, to raise their voices against the unjust practices of private schools. "This is not a political issue; it's a matter that touches every household," he stated passionately.

In a bold warning to the administration, Amit Kapoor announced

that if the government fails to issue the age relaxation order within the next two days, the Parents Association will intensify its protest and block the highway, escalating the movement until justice is served.

The protest saw participation from key voices such as Dr. Thapa, Amrik Singh, Sonia Dogra, Ishan Singh, and Anju Devi, along with a large number of parents and small children, underlining the emotional and social urgency of the issue.

NORTHERN RAILWAY						
NOTICE INVITING TENDER						
Sr.DEE/TRD/FZR acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the works as under. Bidders will be able to submit their original / revised bids upto closing date 30.04.2025 at 15.00 Hrs only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall not be considered.						
S. no	Tender No.	Name of work	App. Cost (Rs.)	Cost of Tender form(Rs.)	Date & time for submission of tender	Earnest Money (Rs.)
1	703-TRD-FZR-2025-26	Provision of new Contact and Catenary wires by replacement of old ACC, Contact and catenary wire in Polluted zone in Phase-II over Firozpur division.  <b>Similar Nature of Work:</b> "Design, supply, erection testing & commissioning of 50Hz, single phase 25KV A.C.H.E". <b>(Ref: CHE Works S.No.1.1 of Pr. CEENR's Letter No. 181-Elect/TRD/189/PJL dated 29.07.2021).</b>	72,28,452.99	NIL	Upto 30.04.2025 15.00 Hrs.	1,44,900/-
2	704-TRD-FZR-2025-26	TRD work in c/w modification at Multsar (NKS) and Kotkapura (KKP) stations over Firozpur division.	21,99,974.63	NIL	Upto 30.04.2025 15.00 Hrs.	44,000/-
Completion period	Twelve (12) Months	Opening of tender	30.04.2025 after 15.00 Hrs.	Website Particulars	www.reps.gov.in	
Note: #						
Tenderer (s) may please note that offers received without Bid Security either in cash through e-payment gateway or as Bank Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned in tender documents (as per Annexure 21) valid for a period of 90 days beyond the bid validity period, will be considered as incomplete & invalid offer and for which contractor shall have no claim on Railway. No.: 703 & 704-TRD-FZR-2025-26						
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE						1085/25

# Senior Citizens Joy Society hosts seminar on 'Sanskrit and India's Cultural Heritage'

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 9: In a heartwarming celebration of India's spiritual essence and timeless traditions, the Senior Citizens Joy Society (SCJS) organized a profound seminar on "Sanskrit and Cultural Heritage". This intellectually vibrant and spiritually uplifting event honored the language that has carried the breath of India's wisdom for millennia. The seminar was graced by Shastriji Purushotam Lal Dubey, an acclaimed Vedic scholar and educationist, who attended as the Chief Guest, while Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, Chairman of SCJS, presided over the proceedings with grace and reverence.

The event began with an insightful thematic introduction by Ashok Kumar Gupta, who eloquently set the tone for the day's discourse. Dr. Jain, in his welcome address, recounted Shastriji's illustrious journey—highlighting his role as a Vedic scholar, Sanskrit academician, former school principal, NCC Chief Officer, and State Commissioner of Scouts. As the President of Sanskrit Bharati J&K, Shastriji has long been a beacon of San-



sanskrit revival. Dr. Jain also offered a poetic tribute, reciting verses that extolled Sanskrit as a sacred vessel of India's spiritual and cultural soul.

In his keynote speech, Shastriji Dubey shared a deeply moving poem and a stirring message on the irreplaceable role of Sanskrit in preserving India's ancient knowledge systems. He described Sanskrit as the language of the gods, the origin of the Vedas, Upanishads, Ramayana, Mahabharata, and countless philosophical treatises. He emphasized that Sanskrit continues to be the wellspring for disciplines such as Ayurveda, Yoga, mathematics, medicine, astronomy, and the fine arts. Through its lyrical depth and intellectual richness, Sanskrit sustains not only scripture

but the very fabric of Indian life.

Highlighting the need to revive and promote Sanskrit education, Shastriji warned of the modern world's drift from tradition. He urged that Indian culture, rooted in values and wisdom, must be kept alive through education, festivals, and the teaching of ancient texts.

"Sanskrit is the soul of our culture, and cultural heritage is our identity," he declared passionately, calling on the audience to take pride and responsibility in safeguarding this inheritance.

In a generous gesture, Shastriji offered a free 10-day spoken Sanskrit course, inviting attendees to rediscover their roots through conversational Sanskrit. Many senior citizens enthusiastically enrolled,

reflecting the spirit of lifelong learning and cultural pride.

The event was elegantly anchored by Ashok Khajuria, Secretary of SCJS, whose coordination ensured a smooth and meaningful flow. The seminar also included a vibrant interactive Q&A session, where scholars and respected attendees such as Prof. Virender Gupta, H. C. Vaid, Rajneesh Gupta, Narinder Wadhera, C. M. Sharma, Yash Paul Sharma, and Mrs. Anju Bansal shared enriching thoughts and reflections.

The seminar concluded with a solemn vote of thanks delivered by Ashok Khajuria, and a stirring rendition of the National Anthem, leaving the hall resonating with unity, pride, and renewed cultural consciousness.

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL  
DIVISION JAMMU**

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER  
(Short Term)**

**MHDJ/e-NIT 11 of 2025-26**

**Dated: 07.04.2025  
Due : 16.04.2025**

On behalf of the President of India, e-tenders in two cover system on turnkey basis are invited from registered/reputed firms having sufficient relevant experience for the work mentioned below:

S. No	Description of work	Project Authority	Estt	Earnest Money Deposit	Cost of tender document	Time of completion	Eligibility Criterion of Bidder
1	<b>Repair/ Maintenance and Servicing of 32 Nos. Air Conditioning Units of 1.5/2.0 TR capacities at different locations of Govt. Medical College, Jammu.</b>	Principal GMC & Associated Hospital Jammu	0.95 LACS	<b>Rs.2000.00</b> in the Shape of <b>CDR/FDR/TDR</b> valid for <b>12 months</b> pledged to the Executive Engineer MH Division Jammu	<b>Rs 200.00</b> in the shape of Challan through J&K Govt. Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date and also indicating the name of work duly credited to <b>0059-PWD</b> (Revenue) and uploading a copy of treasury challan / receipt on e-tendering portal. <b>OR</b> The bidder may deposit tender fee in the shape of e-Challan through Account no. <b>00970101000 02163</b> in the name of <b>Executive Engineer Mechanical &amp; Hospital Division Jammu</b> Name of Bank: J&K Bank Town Hall Jammu Branch <b>Code:0097</b> <b>IFSC code: JAKA0TNHALL</b> <b>MICR CODE: 180051025</b>	10 days	Registered & Reputed firms having sufficient experience as per Annexure "C" similar nature of work

THE NIT CONSISTING OF Qualifying INFORMATION, ELGIBILITY CRITERIA, BILL OF QUANTITIES (BOQ) SETS OF TERMS & CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT & OTHER DETAILS CAN BE VIEWED / DOWNLOADED FROM THE WEBSITE [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in).

DIP/J-154/25

**Sd/-**  
**(Er. Vishal Mahajan)**  
**Executive Engineer**  
Mechanical & Hospital Division  
Jammu



EDITORIAL

Yoga for One Earth, One Health

In the gentle stillness of dawn, as the first light kisses the earth and the breeze carries the scent of new beginnings, the ancient practice of yoga awakens not only the body, but also the soul. Beyond its stretches and postures, yoga is a philosophy—an art of living in harmony with oneself, with others, and most importantly, with the planet that cradles us all. As the world grapples with health crises, climate emergencies, and disconnection, the call for “One Earth, One Health” echoes louder than ever. And yoga, timeless and profound, rises as an answer rooted in balance, unity, and sustainability.

The concept of One Earth, One Health underscores the interdependence of human health, environmental integrity, and animal welfare. It recognizes that the well-being of people is deeply connected to the well-being of the planet. As modern life races forward—often at the cost of natural ecosystems, mental peace, and social cohesion—yoga emerges as a bridge between ancient wisdom and contemporary challenges. It is not merely a personal journey; it is a collective responsibility.

Yoga, derived from the Sanskrit root “yuj” meaning to unite, is in its essence about connection. It reminds us that we are not separate from the earth—we are part of it. Every breath we take is a gift of nature, every step we walk leaves an imprint. In acknowledging this connection, yoga calls for mindfulness in our choices: in the food we eat, the air we breathe, the words we speak, and the energies we emit. This mindfulness is the seed from which sustainable living grows.

Health in the yogic tradition is not just the absence of disease. It is the radiant vitality of body, the clarity of mind, and the peace of soul. Yoga promotes holistic health—through asanas (postures) that keep the body supple and strong, pranayama (breath control) that harmonizes the nervous system, and dhyana (meditation) that calms the fluctuations of the mind. In an age of stress, anxiety, and lifestyle diseases, these practices serve as preventive medicine, restoring balance where modern medicine often focuses only on symptoms.

But yoga’s potential goes beyond personal health. It nurtures compassion—a value that becomes critical when we consider the environmental challenges of our time. The yogic ethic of ahimsa or non-violence teaches us to tread lightly, to consume consciously, to care deeply. It encourages us to move from a culture of exploitation to one of stewardship. When individuals live in harmony with nature, communities thrive, and ecosystems heal.

On a policy level, integrating yoga into public health and education systems can create ripple effects of wellness and awareness. Schools introducing yoga to children not only improve their focus and fitness, but also sow seeds of empathy and ecological consciousness. Workplaces that embrace yoga reduce burnout and enhance productivity. Communities that gather for yoga find shared purpose and collective strength.

The COVID-19 pandemic, which disrupted the world, reminded humanity of its fragile interconnectedness. As forests were lost and wildlife displaced, zoonotic diseases found pathways to spread. The pandemic was a stark reminder that planetary health and human health cannot be seen in isolation. In the post-pandemic world, yoga stands as a healing balm—a guide to rebuild not just bodies, but societies, with resilience, compassion, and wisdom.

Moreover, yoga is inclusive. It transcends barriers of age, gender, nationality, and religion. It belongs to all and welcomes all. In rural villages and urban metropolises alike, yoga is finding its ground. It requires no fancy equipment or expensive memberships—just a mat, a breath, and an open heart. Its accessibility makes it a powerful tool for global wellness.

As the global community moves towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), yoga’s relevance shines even brighter. It aligns with goals on health, education, gender equality, sustainable cities, climate action, and partnerships for the goals. It teaches harmony—within and without—offering a lifestyle that nourishes the self and sustains the planet.

Misuse of Women-Centric Laws: A Silent Trigger for Male Suicides

By: Dr Anurag Pathak

Ever since Bengaluru-based techie Atul Subhash died by suicide last year, leaving behind a video message blaming his wife and their ongoing divorce case for his death, there has been much debate in India on whether the country’s gender specific laws, like the one on domestic violence, “discriminate” against men. Men’s rights groups, in particular, have been spearheading the demand for “gender neutral laws.”The reality, however, as legal experts and women’s rights activists point out is quite different.Outrightly rejecting the view that such laws should be gender neutral, senior advocate of the Supreme Court, Geeta Luthra pointed out that “by definition, these legislations are aimed at affirmative action for women and to help bring about equalization of the genders and to help women who are undeniably discriminated and victimized by men.” Just as there is reservation of seats or affirmative action for marginalized groups like the Scheduled Castes, there is a need for positive laws that favor women, Luthra told The Diplomat.

Acknowledging the fact that there have been instances of “misuse” of the law by women to frame men in false cases, Luthra says courts need to impose a penalty in such cases to act as a deterrent.

Recognizing the distressing condition of women who face physical violence and are even thrown out of their marital homes, the Law on Protection of Women from Domestic Violence (PWDVA) was enacted in 2005. This legislation is aimed at protecting women in domestic relationships from violence, be it physical, verbal, emotional or sexual, by granting them some form of relief.

The issue of domestic violence needs to be understood in the backdrop of India’s deeply patriarchal social structure, where domestic violence is not just normalized in marriages, it is trivialized. Far from being considered a crime, domestic violence is a socially taboo topic. Conservative family elders fear that addressing it by holding the male member accountable, could disrupt the traditional family set up.

So the majority of women who face violence within the confines of their homes do not even report it.One of the laws that have raised the hackles of men’s rights groups is the section in the Indian Penal Code (IPC) 498 A, which states that “cruelty by a husband or the relative of a husband of a woman” is punishable as a criminal offence. Section 85 in the recently codified criminal laws, the Bharatiya Nyay Samhita, and is a non-bailable offence i.e., the husband and the in-laws of the woman victim are not entitled to get bail when arrested. If convicted, the penalty is a three-year jail term and a fine.

Domestic Violence is a pattern of abusive behaviour by one person towards another, both sharing or having shared a domestic relationship with each-other. It can take many forms- physical, emotional, sexual, economic, psychological or technological, and can manifest itself by way of physical harm, verbal abuses, intimidation, sexual coercion, or restriction of financial resources.

While it is true that even in a progressive society of 21st century, where no limit seems unreachable to man, women are still suffering within the four walls of the so-called-haven by none other than their own family members, it is equally true that even men are not immune to offences of domestic violence or abuse. Despite the availability of statistics and data regarding the latter, no law, till date, has been in its favour.

It focuses on domestic violence against men, and the infringement of their fundamental rights, as guaranteed by the Constitution. It seeks to bring to light the existing lacuna in the existing domestic violence laws, which are currently women centric, advocating to make them gender-neutral, not just from the perspective of the perpetrator, but of the victim as well.

In India, where the Legislature and the Judiciary are making several commendable attempts towards attaining gender equality, and bridge any gaps between sex-based discrimination, what is indeed surprising is the neglect and indifference towards male victims of heinous offences such as sexual assault and domestic violence, to name a few. However, while there is still a patriarchal notion existing in society that men cannot be the victims of such offences, but only women, the figures have altogether a different tale to tell, a different reality to take us to.

The issue of domestic violence against men is not only endemic to one or more countries but is prevalent worldwide. While the data (2022-2023) provided by the Office for National Statistics, the United Kingdom’s largest independent producer of official Statistics, reveals that one in 3 victims of domestic abuse is a male, as per the survey carried out by the Mankind Initiative, a British organization focusing on the male victims of domestic abuse, 25% of the cases recorded by the police involve a male victim. In Bhutan, 69 out of 788 reported cases in 2023 involved male victims reaching out for assistance, and the numbers are only increasing with each passing year. The United States of America (henceforth, the USA), leading the world in almost every aspect, is not behind when it comes to the rate of domestic abuse (also known as Intimate Partner Violence or IPV) as well. Relying on the statistics (2016-2017) provided by the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, nearly 44% of all the men in the US have been victims of IPV at least once in their lifetime. While 1 in 13

men reported sexual violence, 2 in 5 reported physical violence, and 1 in 20 reported being stalked by their intimate partner.

Having remained the happiest country for 7 consecutive years, Finland, a Nordic country, shares the same grim fate. As per a survey conducted over a period of 10 years in 2024 alone, a staggering total of 11, 819 cases of domestic violence were reported. While a majority of them were women, 3, 669 were males, constituting approximately 31% of the total victims, which although much less in comparison to female victims, is a concerning figure in itself. These surveys and research are being carried out across several countries, and the data revealed by them is indeed enough testament to validate that domestic violence can happen to anyone, irrespective of sex, race, age or nationality. In India, despite the data present on domestic violence against men, people are still under an impression that such offences are gender-specific with only women being the sufferers. In a study funded by the Indian Council of Medical Research, and conducted over a period of 1 year in Rohtak, Delhi, it was found that out of a sample size of 1000 males, 515 were subjected to violence by their own spouse. While the majority (49.6%) of them experienced emotional violence, physical violence (0.6%) and sexual violence (0.4%) were also reported by them. Further, as per the National Health Family Survey conducted in 2005-2006, approximately 60 lakh women have been the perpetrators of physical violence against their husbands without any provocation. However, men are more likely to face violence by the relatives and family members of their wife than the wife herself, and when such violence is taken into consideration, it accounts to an abysmal 3 crore cases of domestic violence against men in India. It is disheartening and heart-wrenching that although the Preamble, which was held to be considered part of the Constitution in Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala, provides for Justice and Equality, the male members of the society has long been discriminated against merely based on their sex, and denied access to justice. While domestic violence against women is criminalised and the Protection of Women From Domestic Violence Act, 2005 (henceforth, PWDVA) enacted henceforth, no such legislation exists for men.

It is settled beyond doubt that domestic violence has nothing to do with the sex of the victim. While it is unequivocally true that the majority of the casualties are women, the fact that men also are victims of the same cannot be denied in its entirety. It is indeed discriminatory on the part of men that despite them sharing a similar fate as the women victims, there exists a legal rift, with the laws only treating them as perpetrators while turning a blind eye to those cases where the victim is a man.

Article 14 of the Constitution provides the

right to equality to every person, whether citizen or not. Further, Article 15(1) prohibits any form of discrimination against any citizen based on religion, race, caste, sex, birthplace, or any of them. A society where women and men are regarded as equal partners is like a well-balanced chariot, moving steadily towards progress and prosperity. At various instances, the SC has taken important steps in eradicating the deeply ingrained roots of patriarchy in Indian society, with a view to adhere to gender equality, which is not only imperative in the progress of any country but was also the vision of the makers of the Constitution. While in Vishaka & Ors v. State Of Rajasthan, the Apex Court, citing the violation of gender-equality, laid down a detailed set of guidelines to tackle the menace of sexual harassment against women at workplaces, in Joseph Shine v. Union of India, adultery was decriminalised citing violation of Article 14 as one of the grounds. It must not be forgotten that discrimination is the antithesis of equality and recognition of equality in its truest sense will foster the dignity of every individual. However, the lack of acknowledgement of domestic violence against males has impacted the ability of victims to recognize their own victimization. It is true that both, the incorporation of Section 498 A in the IPC, and the enactment of PWDVA, were indeed much needed for a society where women were treated as mere chattels, and were often subjected to violence by their own husbands and family. Nevertheless, the increasing number of cases of violence against men now demands a gender-neutral stance. Although the State, under Article 15(3) can make any special provision for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens or for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, it ought to make reasonable classification to save such legislation from the vice of discriminatory and arbitrariness. Social, revenue and economic considerations are certainly permissible parameters in classifying a particular group. Thus, a valid classification is nothing but a valid discrimination. The non-acknowledgement of males as the victims in laws pertaining to domestic abuse clearly fails the test of Article 14. Although there exists an intelligible differentia, which is sexual orientation, they are not based on any rational nexus backed by any legitimate state purpose. The objective of such legislation should be to primarily protect the fundamental rights of the individual who not only suffers physical and mental trauma at the hands of the perpetrator but also loses self-dignity in his/her own eyes.

(Dr Anurag Pathak)  
Lucknow

Duel Power Structure in J &K-- a Curse

By: Omkar Dattatray

There is unfortunately duel power system and structure in Jammu and Kashmir thanks to the Re-organization Act 2019 which is undesirable and impairs good , efficient and transparent governance and administration .Jammu and Kashmir is perhaps the only UT in the whole country where there are two power centers which is not good for its governance and administration. Duel power center and structure in Jammu and Kashmir is the negation of the principle and doctrine of federalism and it concentrates and centralizes power at the top as all major and important as well as pivotal /strategic power rests with the Lieutenant governor and the chief minister and his council of ministers stand ripped of the powers and real and absolute powers lie with the LG and even for the routine powers and acts,chief minister of J&K has to bend before the LG which is not less than the assault on the democracy ,federalism and is a cruel joke with the people of the UT who have voted enthusiastically after the gap of ten long years. The important, pivotal and strategic powers in a democracy should be with the duly elected government and the chief executive of the state and in our case with chief executive of the union territory. All important powers should be centered with the chief minister and his council of ministers which was the case before the LG Dispensation /governor’s rule. Governor rule or for that matter LG’s rule is no alternative for a democracy. Now that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have voted overwhelmingly and have brought NC-Congress alliance to power in J &K, all administrative and executive powers and authority should lie with the elected Chief minister and his cabinet which is not the case in Jammu and Kashmir as by virtue of the re-organization Act 2019,the real powers are exercised by the LG which is unscientific ,un-pragmatic and can even be termed as an assault on the rights of the duly elected chief minister ,his cabinet and betrayal of the mandate of the people. In J&K balance of power tilts towards the LG and duly elected chief minister has been reduced to a position of toothless tiger. LG who is the head of the UT should have titular and nominal powers and the

real power should be with the elected chief minister and his council of ministers but in our UT it is vice versa. Here real power and authority is centered with the LG and chief minister has only nominal powers and this is not less than a shame for our democracy. How bad it is that few days before the assembly elections ,the MHE has entrusted major powers to the LG Jammu and Kashmir and it has been done to render the elected chief minister and his government ineffectual and without any real authority and power and a chief minister has to time and again call and contact LG even for day to day acts and routine matters. There is also no clarity between the powers of the LG and chief minister and more often than not there is overlapping and duplicity which harms the interests of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The situation has come to such a pass that even for appointing a class fourth/peon chief minister has to get the approval of the LG. Recently we have seen that chief minister and his cabinet has announced the increase of the Dearness allowance to the UT’ employees and pensioners but to our great dismay it was made practical only after the approval of the LG. All the decisions of the Omar Abdullah’s cabinet are sent for approval to the LG. It is travesty of democracy and is no less than a shame. So for as security meetings are concerned, the chief minister is side tracked and is not invited to such meetings and similarly in the meetings of Unified Headquarters our chief minister is not invited and this clearly shows the declining power ,position . authority and status of our elected chief executive. In an organization and for that matter in a political party or state or government orders and powers should flow from a single boss. In J&K UT there are two power centers and it impinges upon the efficiency, transparency and good governance and hence it should be given a goodbye soon. After all an elected chief minister, his council of ministers and the MLA’s have direct contact and rapport with the people who are the real masters and sovereigns in a democracy at least in theory and so the chief minister should be invited to the Unified headquarters meetings but it is not done and thus our chief minister is downgraded and has little powers which impinges on the delivery of

services and day to day routine works of the government. Recently it has been seen that LG has transferred 48 JKAS officers in public interest without consulting the chief minister and this has created ripples in the UT and a chaos and confusion has emerged in the UT .Omar Abdullah, ruling NC and coalition partner congress has resented the move of LG to transfer the JKAS officers unilaterally. It has in fact created a power tussle between the LG and duly elected chief minister. The LG Monaj Sinha has reacted to the chief ministers resentment about the transfer of the JKAS officers and he remarked ,”I know my limits .I will not cross my limits .The transfers are as per the powers vested in me by J &K Re-organization Act 2019 . Thus it is clear that there is tussle of powers between the LG and the chief minister and this will result in poor governance ,inefficiency and no transparency in administration.PDP chief Mehabooba Mufti has remarked that Omar Government is most cowardice and it succumbs to the pulls and pressures of the central government and their sole representative which is a sad commentary on the functioning of the government in Jammu and Kashmir. Normally all powers should flow from the elected chief minister and his council of ministers but it is not the case in our UT where balance of powers and authority tilts towards the LG. Chief minister Omar Abdullah has said duel power system is unacceptable in J&K and it is a recipe for disaster.NC and JKPC are concerned on the duel power centre in Jammu and Kashmir. The duel power system operating in Jammu and Kashmir is betrayal of the people’s trust who have voted an elected government in Jammu and Kashmir and want real powers with the elected government and the chief minister. J&K’s governing National Conference –NC and ally Congress passed a resolution slamming LG Monaj Sinha over alleged usurpation of powers through transfer of officers and warned the centre –appointed authority “not to push them to wall.” The ultimatum went out from a meeting in Srinagar called by chief minister Omar Abdullah and attended by MLA’s of NC, Congress and two independents supporting the government .A separate resolution was passed at the meeting condemning the Waqf Act passed by

the parliament. According to NC,LG has powers to transfer IAS officers ,while elected government wields similar authority over JKAS cadre. At Friday’s meeting , NC and its allies made it clear that would not brook any further “interference” and declared that similar moves in the future would be taken to ” the floor of the assembly. ”NC legislator and spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq asserted that the Omar-led government had been coordinating with LG.” This coordination should not be mistaken for weakness. We are here with our final appeal –don’t push us to the wall. People of J &k gave a mandate through an election –result in October 4,2024 and that must be respected. Anyone who fails to do so is insulting the people of J&k and their mandate,” Sadiq said. After 48 JKAS officers were transferred by LG Manoj Shina ,tensions rise between Omar Abdullah government and LG Manoj Shina which is not a good sign for governance and administration of Jammu and Kashmir.There is discontent in the ruling coalition partners NC, Congress ,CPIM , and other small regional parties like PDP and others but the neither central government nor LG has any effect by this. The MHE should soon clear the mess and allow the duly elected government real powers. This will result in cordial relations between the LG and the chief minister. The sooner it is done the better. The duel power system is not a boon but a bane and a curse and it should go for the smooth running of the governance in our UT.

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



# Faridia Bazm-e-Adab releases “Faizan-e-Naat” book in Doda



## Top News Report

DODA, Apr 9: In a heart-touching literary and spiritual gathering, Faridia Bazm-e-Adab organized a grand function at Faridia Model Higher Secondary School Doda to mark the release of the much-anticipated book “Faizan-e-Naat”, compiled by noted journalist and writer Naseer Ahmed Khora.

The event was graced by Khalid Najeeb Suharwardy, Patron of Faridia Model HSS Doda, who attended as the Chief Guest. Other prominent personalities present included eminent writer and academician Saidullah Shad Faridabadi, literary figure Mushtaq Faridi, Principal Mtr. Shahida Khan, retired lecturer Shoket Ali Mughal, and Prof.

Zaheer Abass Hashmi, among others. In his welcome address, the compiler of the book Naseer Ahmed Khora warmly greeted all the guests and participants. He introduced “Faizan-e-Naat” as a heartfelt tribute penned by several writers in memory of Late Syeda Begum, the beloved wife of Jenab Saidullah Shad Faridabadi & Late Amina

Begum, beloved wife of Mushtaq Faridi. The book reflects deep reverence, literary richness, and devotion. Speeches highlighting the spiritual and literary significance of the book were delivered by Shoket Ali Mughal, Prof. Zaheer Abass Hashmi, Principal FMHSS Doda Mtr Shahida Khan and the Chief Guest Khalid Najeeb Suharwardy. All speakers lauded the initiative and praised the literary contributions of the participating writers. Earlier, a special prayer (Fateha) was offered for Late Syeda Begum and Late Amina Begum, invoking peace and blessings for her departed soul. Students of Faridia Model HSS also added a spiritual touch to the event by reciting Naat-e-Pak, which deeply

moved the audience. The event was attended by a number of notable personalities, including Mehboob Ahmed Tak, Mussarat Jahan Mintoo, Dr. Basharat Ali Kraipak, Mohd Rafiq Batt, Nisar Ahmed Trambo, Niaz Ahmed Rahi, Khalid Mehboob Balwan, Manzoor Ahmed Molvi, and Syed Hamid Hashmi, Mush-taq Ahmed Balwan and Kessar Hassan Shenali. The event concluded with appreciation for the efforts of Faridia Bazm-e-Adab in promoting literary culture and spiritual values in the region. At the end of the programme, prizes in the form of cash—given as tokens of love—were distributed among all the participating students, in recognition of their wonderful performances and enthusiastic participation.

# Vi 5G Goes Live at Maharaja Yadavindra Singh Cricket Stadium, Chandigarh

## Spectators can enjoy unlimited high-speed Vi 5G free of cost

## TopNews Report

JAMMU, Apr 9: In a thrilling development for cricket fans and tech enthusiasts alike, Vi (Vodafone Idea) has launched its 5G services at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh Cricket Stadium, Chandigarh. With the T20 cricket season igniting excitement across the nation, Vi's ultra-fast 5G connectivity is set to redefine the match-day experience for spectators. Fans at the stadium can now enjoy unlimited Vi 5G absolutely free of cost, provided they have a 5G-enabled device and an active Vi SIM. To meet the high data demands of live events, Vi has significantly boosted its network infrastructure in and around the stadium. This includes the deployment of additional 5G network sites, as well as advanced technologies such as Massive MIMO and BTS (Base Transceiver Stations). To further support the surge in traffic, Vi has also rolled out 9 Cell On Wheels (CoW) to ensure uninterrupted, high-speed connectivity throughout the event. This robust network upgrade ensures that even in a packed stadium, fans can stream, upload, and share their favorite cricket moments in real-time without any lag or buffering. Whether it's a last-ball six or a viral crowd moment, Vi 5G promises to keep

fans connected to the action — and to each other — like never before. All Vi customers with 5G-enabled smartphones can access this service by simply switching on 5G in their mobile settings — no additional cost, no special subscription. The initiative reflects Vi's broader strategy of bringing next-gen technology directly to the people, especially in spaces that thrive on high engagement and community spirit. The Chandigarh rollout is part of Vi's larger plan to enable 5G at 11 major stadiums across the country. These include: Eden Gardens (Kolkata), Narendra Modi Stadium (Ahmedabad), M. Chinnaswamy Stadium (Bengaluru), M.A. Chidambaram Stadium (Chennai), Arun Jaitley Stadium (Delhi), Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium (Hyderabad), Sawai Mansingh Stadium (Jaipur), Ekana Stadium (Lucknow), Wankhede Stadium (Mumbai), and Dr. Y.S.R ACA-VDCA Stadium (Visakhapatnam). For fans who can't make it to the stadium, Vi has introduced special recharge packs starting at ₹101, which include unlimited data and a Hotstar subscription, so that the thrill of the game can be enjoyed from the comfort of one's home or while on the move. These packs can be activated easily via the Vi App or by visiting [www.myVi.in](http://www.myVi.in).

# GDC Basohli organizes ‘Tug of War’ competition under Fit India Initiative

## Top News Report

BASOHLI, Apr 9: Government Degree College (GDC) Basohli, under the aegis of the nationwide Fit India Movement 2025, organized a vibrant Tug of War competition on its campus, led by the Department of Sports and Physical Education. The event was aimed at promoting physical fitness, teamwork, and the spirit of healthy competition among students and staff. The event was held under the guidance and encouragement of Principal Dr. Sunil Gupta, whose support was instrumental in the successful organization of the program. The program began with the Fit India Pledge, solemnly undertaken by students and staff, reaffirming their dedication



to maintaining a healthy and active lifestyle. The event was organized by the Physical Director, Roshan Lal Sharma, who played a vital role in coordinating and executing the event smoothly. Dr. Farooq Ahmed, Lecturer in Physical Education, officiated the matches and ensured fair play and discipline throughout the competition. Encouraged by Principal Dr. Sunil Gupta,

the event witnessed enthusiastic participation in both male and female categories. In a unique twist, teams were formed from both students and staff members, making the event inclusive and engaging. In the female category, the Semester 6 girls' team emerged victorious, demonstrating strength and determination. In the male category, the college faculty team secured a

well-earned win, showcasing excellent coordination and teamwork. The event was further graced by the presence of Dean Student Welfare Dr. Irvinde Kour, and senior faculty members Prof. Jasvinder Singh, Dr. Ravinder Kour, Dr. Shub Kumar, Dr. Surya Partap Singh, Dr. Roshan Lal (Convener sports committee) and others, who applauded the participants. Special appreciation

was further extended to the non-teaching staff for their commendable efforts behind the scenes, ensuring the event's smooth conduct and overall success. Principal Dr. Sunil Gupta, in his address, emphasized the importance of incorporating fitness activities into daily routines and praised the collective efforts of all departments in promoting the vision of the Fit India Movement.

# Samsung launches Galaxy Tab S10FE Series in India, starting at Rs 42999

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 9: Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, today announced the launch of Galaxy Tab S10 FE and Galaxy Tab S10 FE+, offering new entry points to the Galaxy ecosystem on a premium tablet design. Equipped with the largest screen yet on the Galaxy Tab S10 FE series and slimmer bezels that expand its display, the Galaxy Tab S10 FE+ provides a fun, immersive viewing experience for everything from entertainment to studying and day-to-day tasks. Samsung's intelligent features empower users to get more done with ease, while a slimmer design helps users to achieve their creativity and productivity on the go. “At Samsung, we are committed to bringing world-class innovation to everyone, and the launch of the new Galaxy Tab S10FE series is a testament to

that vision. With Galaxy AI capabilities making their debut on our FE tablets, we are making cutting-edge technology more accessible than ever. The Galaxy S10 FE series will empower Galaxy users to maximize their creativity and productivity, and help us consolidate our market leadership in India's tablet segment,” said Aditya Babbar, Vice President, MX Business, Samsung India. Combining the Galaxy Tab S series' heritage design with slim bezels, the Galaxy Tab S10 FE+'s 13.1-inch display offers immersive entertainment on a screen that's almost 12% larger than its predecessor. Smooth visuals enabled by a 90Hz refresh rate and new levels of visibility that goes up to 800 nits in High Brightness Mode (HBM) ensure an optimal viewing experience when watching videos and gaming on the Galaxy Tab S10 FE series. The Vision Booster's automatic adjustments

enhance brightness and visibility even in ever-changing outdoor environments while blue-light emissions are safely reduced to minimize eye strain, meeting every unique viewing need. The Galaxy Tab S10 FE series boosts productivity when working or studying, and delivers fast, smooth gameplay without interruption. The performance upgrades enable the Galaxy Tab S10 FE series users to switch effortlessly between multiple apps, allowing for improved multitasking. And when capturing everyday moments in the classroom or in workspaces, a newly upgraded 13MP rear camera produces clear and vivid photos. These versatile experiences, from powerful work to seamless play, accompany users everywhere they go. Now more than 4% lighter than its predecessor, Galaxy Tab S10 FE is even easier to carry around. The Galaxy S10 Tab FE series offers hassle-free storage and mobility at home, on campus, in the workplace and elsewhere with its slim design. Engineered for resilience and durability to withstand the elements, the FE series comes with IP68 rating. For an even more intuitive AI experience, the FE series seamlessly integrates with other Samsung Galaxy devices. Similar to the Galaxy Tab S10 series, users can access a comprehensive overview of their home status with the Home Insight widget dashboard and 3D Map View feature. Summarized status updates of Smart Things-enabled devices give users peace of mind when out and about.

# Spiritual Tour of Saint H. S. Guleria inspires masses across Jammu, Kathua & Samba



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 9: A wave of divine fervor and spiritual enlightenment swept through the districts of Jammu, Kathua, and Samba as Saint H. S. Guleria, Member Incharge, Prachar & Prasara, Sant Nirankari Mission (Delhi), undertook a transformative spiritual tour across the region. The tour witnessed the organization of multiple grand congregations (Satsangs), drawing thousands of devotees who gathered in deep reverence and devotion.

At each spiritual congregation, Saint H. S. Guleria delivered enlightening discourses, emphasizing the eternal relevance of divine knowledge in today's world. While blessing the devotees, he profoundly stated, “The creation of the Creator is never incomplete. Everything in this universe is purposeful and complete in its essence.” He further shared that true transformation begins from within, and it is only possible when one receives divine knowledge (Brahmgyan) through the grace of the

True Master (Satguru). “If we desire change in the world, we must begin by changing ourselves,” he said. Highlighting the essence of inner purity, he urged all to shun negativity, ego, and hatred, and instead embrace love, peace, and divinity. Saint Guleria reminded devotees that the True Master and Nirankar (Formless God) are omniscient — they are fully aware of our thoughts, consciousness, and even the subtlest of egos. “When we truly feel the existence of the Almighty in every moment of life, we begin to live a life filled with bliss, humility, and contentment,” he explained. Ajit Singh Zonal incharge Jammu said that the tour marked a spiritually uplifting experience for thousands, rekindling the spirit of unity, self-realization, and devotion. The congregations concluded with collec-

tive prayers for peace, harmony, and universal brotherhood — the very foundation of the Sant Nirankari Mission. The Mission continues to spread its message of “Oneness through God-realization” under the divine guidance of Her Holiness Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj.

businesses, particularly small and medium enterprises. In a formal appeal, the KCCI has requested the Government of India to initiate a 5% interest subvention scheme for exporters. The Chamber underscored that such a measure is crucial to provide immediate financial relief and sustain operations during this period of international trade adjustment. The stakes are particularly high for Kashmir's iconic handicraft sector. The Valley's world-renowned products—including hand-knotted carpets, exquisite embroidery, woodwork, papier-mâché, and Pashmina shawls—not only generate significant export revenue but also preserve centuries-old cultural and artisanal heritage. Thousands of artisans and craftsmen across the

# KCCI seeks Govt intervention amid rising US Import Duties on Indian Goods

## Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Apr 9: The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) has called upon the Government of India for immediate intervention in light of the recent imposition of substantial US import duties on Indian goods. The move, which came into effect today, has raised the import tariff to 26%, a sharp hike from the earlier 0-4% range. This abrupt policy change is expected to create financial stress for US importers, who, in an attempt to manage higher upfront costs, may delay payments to Indian exporters—including many from the Kashmir region. The ripple effect of these delays poses a serious threat to the cash flow and survival of numerous export

region depend on this sector for their livelihoods. KCCI stressed that timely government action would serve the dual purpose of economic support and cultural preservation. Protecting this sector is not just about trade—it's about sustaining the soul of Kashmir. The Chamber expressed confidence that Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, known for his unwavering commitment to trade promotion and economic resilience, will take the necessary steps to safeguard India's exporters. KCCI firmly believes that, under his leadership, constructive measures will be implemented swiftly to ensure a stable, growth-oriented environment for exporters across the country.



## Filmmaker Rajeev Kumar's documentaries record the journey of painting and the tradition of Punjabi rangmanch

'If it was not documented, it did not happen.'

Such is the power of documentation, but it's a realm that calls for an extra impetus. India may have won an Oscar for its documentary *The Elephant Whisperers*. Year after year its documentaries might be creating a buzz on the global stage. But there is no doubt that documentaries still remain a niche segment.

So feels National Award-winning filmmaker Rajeev Kumar. Indeed, it doesn't stop him from dedicating both his energy and passion to documenting Punjab's rich heritage as well as exploring its contemporary concerns. Though his filmography includes acclaimed films like *Nabar*, he shares how his cinematic journey began with non-fiction. Being associated with the magnum opus *Surabhi*, India's longest-running cultural series, love for documenting facts goes back in time. Even as a student of the Department of Indian Theatre, Panjab University, Chandigarh, he made a documentary on the radical Punjabi poet Avtar Singh Pash.

More recently, he has created and produced a clutch of documentaries, two of which chronicle Punjab's history of theatre and another of its visual arts. Directed by Santiniketan alumnus Tarsem Singh Sidhu, Punjab di Chitarkala records the journey of painting since times

immemorial. Parda Uthan Te, directed by Jagdish Tiwari, is undeniably a treasure trove of facts.

Apart from informing us how the first Punjabi play *Sharab Kaur* was made in 1895, the documentary provides an overarching view of the long-standing tradition of Punjabi rangmanch. From the grand dame of Punjabi theatre Norah Richards, to the first actress of Punjabi stage Uma Gurbax Singh, to setting up of the department of theatre in Panjab University in 1972, to contemporary stalwarts who have taken Punjabi theatre to newer heights, the film touches upon many important landmarks.

Similarly, Punjab di Chitarkala traces the significant markers of visual arts. Tarsem informs, "It's an educational film, especially designed for students. It dispels myths and establishes Punjab's priceless legacy in visual arts."

Dipping back to the Kushan period to painting in Maharaja Ranjit Singh's reign, it takes note of the present trends in the world of colours and imagination, even as AI emerges as a major disruptor. Since one can't help but wish the makers had included clips of stage performances in Parda Uthan Te, to make it more dynamic and engaging,

Rajeev is open to constructive criticism and ready to incorporate necessary changes. He does share how making these documentaries, especially getting stakeholders on board, was an onerous task. However, there is no denying the archival and informative value of the films. Come to think of it, given the import of such films, Rajeev observes, "These documentaries should have been made long ago."



The genesis of not just these two documentaries, but many more in the pipeline owe it's birthing to the ardour of NRI Jasjeet Singh, who had earlier produced notable film *The Black Prince* on the life of Maharaja Duleep Singh. When he proposed the

idea, Rajeev was reluctant to begin with. But Jasjeet was determined to showcase his home state's beauty as well as its travesty. Highlighting Punjab was his way of paying back to his roots.

The films will be finally shown on YouTube as well as an app, Quam TV. However, right now as Rajeev is taking both documentaries to its target audiences in departments of fine arts, as well as theatre in colleges and universities in Punjab, the response has been more than encouraging. Many experts are hailing it as an index, a ready reckoner for those desirous of a deep dive into these disciplines.

## Nushratt Bharuccha opens up on why being an outsider is not easy



The nepotism debate in the industry continues to stir strong opinions. In a recent interview with *News18*, Nushratt Bharuccha shared her thoughts on how being an outsider is not easy, and mentioned that while star kids may have an upper hand in getting more opportunities, they also face a great deal of pressure and constant comparisons.

Acknowledging the pressures on star kids, Nushratt said, "I have

a very balanced view on this. It's not as if they don't have responsibilities or pressure. If my parents had been famous, I would have been very stressed today. I have no fear today. I have nothing to lose. I don't carry the baggage of having to uphold a legacy. They [nepo kids] have their own pressures, expectations and shoes to fill. Of course, they have more opportunities than I do. But why not? A doctor's daughter would natu-

rally get more opportunities if she enters the same field. A businessman's son would have an upper hand there too."

She further talked about how talent matters the most and shared her views on being an outsider. "Audience reject kar rahe hai. If they aren't liking somebody, they are rejecting them. You have actors like Alia Bhatt, Ranbir Kapoor — talent is talent. You cannot deny that. Talent is all that matters. Being an outsider has its cons, but it also has its pros. I'm a very realistic person. I don't live in delusion. I don't live in resentment or bitterness. I'm not bitter that someone else got a film and I didn't," she stated.

The *Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweeti* actor expressed that being an outsider in today's industry means competing not only with star kids but also with individuals who have a larger number of social media followers. She shared that she has been told "poster pe aap sahi nahi dikhte ho" (you don't look right on a poster), and that others have been cast simply because they have more followers.

Nushratt is all set to star in the horror film *Chhorii 2*, directed by Vishal Furia. The film is a sequel to *Chhorii* (2021) and features Nushratt in the lead role alongside Soha Ali Khan, Gashmeer Mahajani, and Saurabh Goyal in pivotal roles. The film is scheduled to be released on Amazon Prime Video on April 11.

## Kangana Ranaut stunned by 1 lakh electricity bill for Manali home: 'Main rehti bhi nahi hoon'

Actor and Mandi MP Kangana Ranaut has expressed her shock and disbelief after receiving an electricity bill of 1 lakh for her home in Manali. She shared that the bill is for a house where she doesn't even reside, making her wonder how the amount could be so high.

Kangana Ranaut slams Himachal Pradesh government

Recently, Kangana attended a political event in Mandi, Himachal Pradesh, where she spoke about the electricity bill. She also criticised the Himachal Pradesh government over the exorbitant bill. A video of the same has surfaced on social media.

Kangana said, "Iss mahine mere Manali ka ghar ka Ra 1 lakh bijli ka bill aaya, jaha main rehti bhi nahi hoon. Itni



durdasha ki hui hai. Hum padhte hai aur sharmindagi hoti hai ke yeh kya ho raha hai. Par hamare paas ek mauka hai, aap sab jo mere bhai behen hai, aap log ground pe itna kaam karte hai. (This month I received an electricity bill of Rs. 1 lakh for my house in Manali, where I don't even live. It is such a miserable condition. I

read it and feel ashamed as to what is happening. But we have a chance, all of you who are my brothers and sisters, you people do so much work on the ground)."

The actor continued, "Yeh hum sabka hie dayitva hai, ke hame iss desh ko, iss pradesh ko, unnati ke raaste par chalana hai. Main toh kahungi yeh bhediya hie

hai, aur hame hamare pradesh ko inki chungul se nikalna hai (This is an obligation for all of us, that we have to take this country, this state, on the path of progress. I would say that these are wolves, and we have to free our state from their claws)".

Kangana's Bollywood work

After the 2023 films *Chandramukhi 2* and *Tejas*, Kangana directed, produced, and starred in the *Indira Gandhi biopic Emergency*. The film is set against the backdrop of the Emergency imposed by the then-Congress government from 1975 to 1977. The film was released this year after a significant delay due to censor issues. It received mixed reviews, and failed to make a mark at the box office. In the OTT space, the film is available on Netflix.

## Raashii Khanna on Bollywood aping south films: 'Dubbed films are anyway available to watch online'



Actor Raashii Khanna agrees with the conversation surrounding Bollywood films copying from South Indian projects to achieve box office success. However, she believes it's time to rethink this strategy.

According to her, audiences are craving fresh content, and with dubbed films readily available online, it's essential for the industry to offer something new. On Bollywood aping South

In the era of pan-India films, a growing sentiment suggests that Bollywood is attempting to replicate successful South Indian projects to strike gold at the box office. Raashii acknowledges that this trend is indeed a reality. "I can't disagree that we do see remakes from the south quite often but I think the industry is also realising more and

more that the audience needs newer content and that dubbed films are anyway available to watch online," Raashii tells us.

She continues, "Also, with the upcoming OTT platforms, language too is not a barrier anymore. I do see that shift in the thinking process and I can just hope that we are able to churn newer content and try different genres because honestly, no one knows anymore what works and what doesn't".

On balancing her career in Hindi and south cinema After making her debut in 2013 with *Madras Cafe*, Raashii has created a name for herself in Hindi as well as Telugu and Tamil film. She has projects such as *Oohalu Gusagusalade*, *Bengal Tiger*, *Supreme*, *Jai Lava Kusa*, *Tholi Prema*, *Imaikkaa Nodir*

gal, *Venky Mama*, *Sardar* and *Aranmanai 4* to her credit.

Talking about both the industries, Raashii says, "Everyone shares the same passion to make good films and be part of them".

"The only thing I can think of, except the language; which is also not a barrier anymore is that each industry is rooted in its culture. You will see those flavours of their traditional values subtly in their films. It's amazing how united we are even in diversity because the emotions run the same through all languages. And that's the common string," adds the actor, who was most recently seen in Tamil-language historical horror film *Aghathiya*.

For *The Sabarmati Report* actor, working on *Aghathiya* was a learning experience. "The genre was the first thing that attracted me to *Aghathiya* and then of course the story which is a perfect element of thriller, horror and fantasy. My biggest takeaway is that horror films aren't easy to shoot. It takes a lot to bring it together. As an actor, it's challenging in a way where you are reacting to things that aren't really in front of you. It expands your imagination a bit also. So it was quite a learning experience. And for *Aghathiya*, they have used a lot of new technology to give the audience a good theatrical

experience, she shares.

On her acting journey During the conversation, the actor admits that switching characters in different languages is difficult.

"It does take a toll on my health, both mental and physical, but I love acting and I don't see it more as a challenge, I see it as an opportunity to keep growing and learning. I am a student of cinema and I will always be and I am very grateful to have had this long amazing journey. The idea is to keep growing and learning," she says.

There was a time when she wanted to become an IAS Officer and called acting an insecure job. Do you still believe that?

"Acting is a challenging profession, especially when you come from the outside with no industry backing. But over time, I've realised that every project is an opportunity to prove yourself and grow as an artist. While box office numbers do play a role, I've also learnt that the ultimate fate of a film isn't entirely in my hands — what is in my hands is the effort, dedication, and passion I bring to each project. With this understanding, I've found a sense of confidence and clarity, and that has helped me leave behind any insecurities," says Raashii, who is also working on the second season of *Farzi* alongside Shahid Kapoor.

## Director Vishal Furia talks about casting for the film Chhorii 2

Filmmaker Vishal Furia has made a name for himself in the horror-thriller genre with his unique storytelling. With *Chhorii* having gained significant attention and acclaim, the anticipation around *Chhorii 2* is at an all-time high. As he gears up for its release on April 11 on Amazon Prime Video, Furia sheds light on the casting process of the lead actress Nushratt Bharuccha and the intriguing choice of Soha Ali Khan as the film's antagonist. Furia, who directed *Chhorii* in 2021, had no doubts about bring-

ing back Nushratt for the sequel. "This was my second time working with Nushratt. She is an extremely collaborative actor to work with. She surrenders herself to the film's world and to the director's vision." While the decision to bring back Nushratt was a given, casting for the film's antagonist, Daasi, was a far more complex process. Furia reveals that it was producer Vikram Malhotra who was the first to suggest the name of Soha Ali Khan for the role and the idea immediately struck a chord with him.





# PM Modi invokes spiritual power of Navkar Mantra, urges nation to adopt nine resolutions

Reflecting on his personal experience, the Prime Minister recalled attending a similar collective chanting event in Bengaluru years ago, which left a lasting impact on him.

NEW DELHI, Apr 9 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi, attired in the traditional white attire of Jainism and barefoot, participated in the Navkar Mahamantra Divas on Wednesday, where he shared his profound spiritual experience of the Navkar Mantra and urged the nation to adopt nine resolutions rooted in the values of Jainism and sustainable living.

Addressing the gathering, he emphasised the mantra's ability to bring peace and mental stability. "The mantra is a unified flow of energy, embodying stability, equanimity, and a harmonious rhythm of consciousness and inner light," he said, reciting its sacred verses and describing the experience as one that "transcends words and thoughts, resonating deeply within the mind and consciousness."

Reflecting on his personal experience, the Prime Minister recalled attending a similar collective chanting event in Bengaluru years ago, which left a lasting impact on him. He spoke about the collective power of millions chanting the mantra together. "The collective energy and synchronised chanting were truly extraordinary and unprecedented," he remarked.

Reminiscing about his roots in Gujarat, where Jainism has



a strong cultural presence, PM Modi said, "From a young age, I had the privilege of being in the company of Jain Acharyas." He added, "Navkar Mantra is not just a mantra but the core of faith and the essence of life." He underlined the mantra's significance beyond spirituality, saying it serves as a guide for both individuals and society. "One bows to the 108 divine qualities and remembers the welfare of humanity when reciting the Navkar Mantra," he noted.

He further stressed that the mantra reminds people that "knowledge and action are the true directions of life, with the Guru as the guiding light, and the path emerging from within."

The Prime Minister then urged the public to adopt nine resolutions after the collective chant-

ing. The first resolution was 'Water Conservation', inspired by the words of Buddhi Sagar Maharaj Ji, who predicted a century ago that water would be sold in shops. Modi emphasised the need to "value and save every drop of water."

The second resolution was to 'Plant a tree in Mother's Name'. He cited the planting of over 100 crore trees in recent months and urged citizens to plant and nurture a tree as a blessing from their mother.

He also recalled an earlier effort in Gujarat to plant 24 trees representing the 24 Tirthankaras, though it could not be fully realised due to the unavailability of certain trees.

Stressing cleanliness, Modi designated it as the third resolution and called on people to maintain hygiene in every

street, neighbourhood, and city. The fourth resolution, 'Vocal for Local', encouraged support for local products that reflect the essence of Indian culture and labour.

The fifth resolution, 'Explore India', urged people to appreciate the country's diverse regions and cultures before travelling abroad. The sixth, 'Adopting Natural Farming', aligned with Jainism's principle of non-violence and called for freeing Mother Earth from chemicals.

'Healthy Lifestyle' was the seventh resolution. The Prime Minister advocated for Indian dietary practices, including eating millets (Shri Anna), reducing oil consumption by 10%, and leading a balanced life. The eighth, 'Incorporating Yoga and Sports', encouraged making them part of daily routine for physical and mental well-being.

The final resolution was 'Helping the Poor'. Modi urged people to support the underprivileged, saying, "Whether by lending a hand or filling a plate, service is the true essence of humanity."

"These nine resolutions will infuse new energy into individuals and provide a fresh direction to the younger generation. Their implementation will foster peace, harmony, and compassion within society," the Prime Minister concluded.

# UP has been a sacred land of Jain Tirthankaras, says CM Adityanath on World Navkar Mahamantra Day



LUCKNOW, Apr 9 (Agencies): Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday highlighted the state's deep connection with Jain heritage and called upon people to adopt the teachings of Jainism in their daily lives.

"UP has been a sacred land of Jain Tirthankaras, where the tradition of spirituality and religion was carried forward," he said while addressing a grand event on the occasion of World Navkar Mahamantra Day at the Sangheet Natak Akademi in Gomti Nagar here.

"The state has a deep connection with Jain heritage. All of us should adopt the teachings of Jainism in our daily lives," he added.

Lord Rishabhdev, the first Jain Tirthankara, was born in Ayodhya. Five Tirthankaras were born in Ayodhya, and

another in Kashi," he said, underscoring the religious significance of the region. The event was organised by the Jain International Trade Organization (JITO) with a focus on promoting peace, energy, positivity, and global welfare through the chanting of the Navkar Mantra.

He also referred to an inspiring message delivered by Prime Minister Narendra Modi via video conferencing, in which the PM outlined nine resolutions to bring the Namokar Mantra into practical life.

"These resolutions are worth adopting by every individual," he said.

Extending greetings on the occasion of Lord Mahavir Jayanti, CM Yogi urged people to spread the message of non-violence and compassion taught by Jainism.

Describing the Navkar Mantra as a powerful

spiritual tool, he said, "This mantra is a means of liberation from physical, divine, and spiritual sufferings. When one connects with the spirit of penance, self-purification, and the welfare of the world, one not only uplifts oneself but becomes an inspiration for others as well." He said that the lives of all 24 Jain Tirthankaras were dedicated to the welfare of humanity.

"Through their teachings and penance, they established a noble path of living, which remains relevant even today. Every Indian should draw inspiration from these ideals and incorporate them into their lives," he said.

Hailing the event as historic, CM Yogi said this was the first time World Navkar Mahamantra Day was celebrated simultaneously across the globe, establishing Jain values on an international platform. He expressed hope that this global initiative would inspire countless people to embrace peace and harmony.

The Chief Minister extended heartfelt greetings on Mahavir Jayanti and urged everyone to imbibe the values and teachings of Jainism in their lives.

# Bodies of woman, her nine-year-old daughter found wrapped in blanket in Agra; husband missing

According to police, a foul smell emanating from the house alerted the neighbours, who informed the authorities.

AGRA, Apr 9 (Agencies): Decomposed bodies of a woman and her nine-year-old daughter were found wrapped in a blanket inside a locked house in Agra's Jagdishpura, police said on Wednesday.

The bodies, which were recovered on Tuesday night are believed to be around four to five days old.

According to police, a foul smell emanating from the house alerted the neighbours, who informed the authorities.

A police team arrived at the spot and broke open the door, discovering the bodies of Shabina (40) and her daughter Inaya (nine)



inside the room.

Assistant Commissioner of Police (Lohamandi) Mayank Tiwari said the bodies have been sent for post-mortem examination.

Preliminary investigation has revealed that Shabina was married to Rashid, who is currently absconding.

"Rashid is suspected to have killed his wife

and step-daughter before fleeing. He had married Shabina as his second wife," ACP Tiwari said, adding that a thorough investigation is underway.

Police have launched a search operation to trace the accused.

The motive behind the suspected double-murder is yet to be ascertained.

# India, China moving in 'positive direction': EAM Jaishankar

NEW DELHI, Apr 9 (Agencies): India and China are moving towards a "positive direction" in their ties and work needs to be done to normalise the relationship, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Wednesday.

"I think we are moving in a positive direction," he said.

India-China relations plunged to their lowest point since the 1962 war following the Galwan Valley clashes.

Following a series of diplomatic and military talks, the two sides withdrew their troops from several friction points along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.

In October last, the two sides agreed to a ceasefire pact for Depsang and Demchok, the



last two friction points in eastern Ladakh.

"It's obviously better than the last time I was here. I think the disengagement, particularly the Depsang-Demchok was important," he said at the News 18 Rising Bharat Summit.

In October last, the two sides agreed to a ceasefire pact for Depsang and Demchok, the last two friction points in eastern Ladakh.

Days after the agreement was finalised,

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks in Kazan and took a number of decisions to improve the ties.

Jaishankar suggested that issues on the border remained to some extent because of the force build up over a period of years.

"But there were many other things which also happened during this period some of it was a collateral of the situation; some of it was actu-

ally a carryover from the Covid era. For example, our direct flights stopped during Covid, they were not resumed," he said.

"The Kailash Mansarovar Yatra stopped during Covid. It did not again resume. I think there is work to be done. We are at it," he said.

"We are sort of trying to see whether lot of this post-Covid and parallel to the border tension, the combination of these issues — how much we can progress on this," Jaishankar added.

The external affairs minister said both sides are looking into these issues.

"We are looking at it because at the end of the day we have always maintained that the situation, which we saw between 2020 and 2024, was not in the interest of either country," he said.

"It was not in the interest of our relationship. And I think there is a recognition of that now," he added.

Last month, India and China explored ways to rebuild ties and agreed to initiate efforts to promote people-to-people exchanges, including arrangements for resumption of direct flights and resume Kailash Mansarovar Yatra this year.

In December NSA Ajit Doval travelled to Beijing and held talks with Foreign Minister Wang under the framework of Special Representatives (SR) dialogue on the boundary question.

In January, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri visited Beijing and held talks with his Chinese counterpart Sun Weidong.

# No divide and rule policy to be allowed in Bengal: Mamata assures minorities

KOLKATA, Apr 9 (Agencies): West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday said Muslims were aggrieved because of enactment of the Waqf (Amendment) Act and assured the minority community members that she will not allow "any divide and rule policy" to persist in the state.

Addressing a programme of the Jain community here, Banerjee asserted that she would protect all minority people and their properties.

"I know you are aggrieved because of the enactment of the Waqf Act. Have faith, nothing will happen in Bengal by which one can divide and rule. You send out a message that all have to stay together," she said.

Banerjee, also the Trinamool Congress supremo, appealed to the people not to pay heed to those who provoke them to launch a political movement.

Apparently referring to the violence over the Waqf (Amendment) Bill in Murshidabad district on Tuesday, she said, "See the situa-

tion in the bordering areas of Bangladesh. This (Waqf Bill) should have not been passed now. We have 33 per cent of minorities in Bengal. What will I do with them?"

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha on April 3, and by the Rajya Sabha in the early hours of the next day after marathon debates in both Houses of Parliament.

President Droupadi Murmu gave her assent to the Bill on April 5.

"History says that Bengal, Bangladesh, Pakistan and India all were together. Partition took place later. And those are living here, it's our job to give them protection," she said.

Banerjee said that if people are together, they can conquer the world.

"Some people will provoke you to assemble and launch a movement. I will appeal to all of you not to do it. Please remember when Didi (Banerjee) is here, she will protect you and your property. Let us have trust in each other," the chief minister said.



At the Jain community programme, Banerjee said she visits places of all religions and will continue to do so.

"Even if you shoot me dead, you will not be able to separate me from (that) unity. Every religion, caste, creed... all of them pray for humanity and we love them," she said.

Banerjee said she goes to Durga Puja, Kali Puja, Jain and Buddhist temples, gurudwara, church and Guru Ravidas temple.

"In Rajasthan, I visited Ajmer Sharif as well as Brahma Temple in Pushkar," she said.

# Anti-Dalit mindset: Rahul slams BJP after leader 'purifies' Rajasthan temple

AHMEDABAD, Apr 9 (Agencies): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday accused the BJP of having an "anti-Dalit mindset" after its leader sprinkled Ganga water at a Ram temple in Rajasthan's Alwar to "purify" it following Congress' Tikaram Jolly's participation in the consecration ceremony there.

He also asserted that the country will be run by the Constitution and its ideals, not by 'Manusmriti' "which considers Bahujans as second class citizens".

The Congress on Tuesday had accused the BJP of being "anti-Dalit" and demanded an apology from its top leadership after a party leader sprinkled Ganga water at a Ram temple in Alwar to "purify" it following Jolly's participation in the consecration ceremony there.

Referring to the incident, Gandhi said in a post in Hindi on X, "Another example of BJP's anti-Dalit and Manuvadi thinking! BJP has been continuously insulting Dalits and attacking the Constitution." "That is why it is important not just to respect the Constitution but also to protect it. Modi Ji, the country will be run by the Constitution and its ideals,



not by Manusmriti which considers Bahujans as second class citizens," Gandhi, who is here to attend the AICC session said.

Congress leaders, including Jolly and former chief minister Ashok Gehlot, have termed Gyandev Ahuja's act an insult to Dalits, but the BJP leader denied the charge.

Maintaining that there was no caste angle to his act, Ahuja, however, defended his action, saying Congress leaders have "no moral authority" to attend such ceremonies as the party's leadership had questioned the existence of Lord Ram and "boycotted" the consecration ceremony in Ayodhya last year. The consecration ceremony at the

Ram temple in a residential society of Alwar was held on Sunday on the occasion of Ram Navami and Jolly was in attendance.

On Monday, Ahuja said the consecration ceremony was a "good programme", but there were some "discrepancies".

"I went there today and sprinkled Ganga water to purify the temple premises," he told reporters in Alwar.

"The Congress' former president Sonia Gandhi had got affidavits submitted in court, calling Lord Ram mythical. Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi boycotted the historic Ram temple consecration ceremony in Ayodhya. So the party leaders have no moral authority to attend such programmes," he said.

When contacted, Ahuja told PTI that he took the step because of Congress leaders' view and approach towards Lord Ram and not because Jolly is a "Dalit".

Jolly, on the other hand, claimed that Ahuja's act was indicative of the BJP's mentality towards Dalits. He claimed it was not only an attack on his faith but also an effort to promote the crime of untouchability.



## A fire kills 20 people at a nursing home in northern China

BEIJING, Apr 9 (Agencies): A fire at a nursing home in northern China has killed 20 people, according to state media, as officials investigate the cause of the fire.

China's official Xinhua news agency said Wednesday the fire started at 9 p.m. Tuesday in Chengde city in Hebei province. Six hours later, 20 people were confirmed dead.

State broadcaster CCTV said 19 others, who were uninjured,



have been transferred to a hospital for observation.

Officials are investigating the cause of the fire. State media said a "relevant" person in charge of the facility

has been taken in by police, without giving any details.

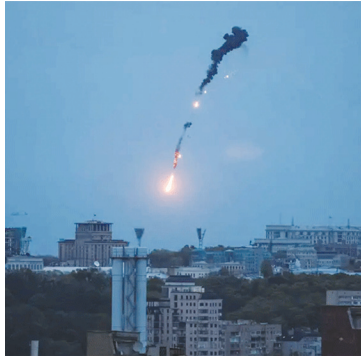
In January, a fire at a food market in the Hebei city of Zhangjiakou killed eight people and injured 15 others.

## Destroyed 158 Ukrainian drones in overnight attack: Russia

MOSCOW, Apr 9 (Agencies): Ukraine launched a major overnight drone attack on Russia, disrupting flights early on Wednesday in the southern part of the country and forcing the evacuation of residents from dozens of apartments in the Rostov region, Russian officials said.

The Russian defence ministry said in a post on the Telegram messaging app that its air defence units destroyed 158 Ukrainian drones overnight, including 29 over the southern Rostov region.

There were no immediate reports of injuries, but resi-



dents from 48 apartments in a building in the Rostov town of Aksay were evacuated due to the threat from a possible detonation of a fallen drone, the region's acting governor said on Telegram.

The defence ministry said that 69 of the drones were destroyed over the Krasnodar region in Russia's North Caucasus and 15 over North Ossetia-Alania in the same region of southern Russia.

The ministry only reports the number of drones destroyed, not how many were launched.

Russia's civil aviation watchdog Rosaviatsia said that several airports in Russia's south were closed early on Wednesday to ensure air safety.

There was no immediate comment from Ukraine about the attacks. Both sides say their strikes are aimed at destroying

infrastructure that is key to overall war efforts.

Kyiv also says that its attacks are in response to Moscow's continued bombing of Ukraine since the beginning of the war that Russia started with its full-scale invasion of the country more than three years ago.

U.S. President Donald Trump, who took office in January after pledging he would end the war in 24 hours, has sought to broker an end to the conflict. The U.S. in late March said it had agreed with Russia and Ukraine two ceasefire accords, including one that would ban strikes on each other's energy infrastructure.

## China vows 'firm and forceful' measures in response to new US tariffs as global markets reel

BEIJING, Apr 9 (Agencies): China vowed on Wednesday to take "firm and forceful" measures to protect its interests after US President Donald Trump's steep 104% tariffs took effect, as global markets came under pressure.

China -- Washington's top economic rival but also a major trading partner -- is the hardest hit, with tariffs imposed on its products since Trump returned to the White House now reaching a staggering 104 percent.

In response, Beijing's foreign ministry spokesman Lin Jian insisted that "the Chinese people's legitimate right to development is inalienable... China's sovereignty, security and development interests are inviolable."

"We will continue to take firm and forceful measures to safeguard our legitimate rights and interests," he added.

Meanwhile, a white paper shared by Chinese state media Xinhua on Wednesday said that Beijing and Washington can resolve trade and economic disputes through "equal" dia-

logue.

"China and the United States can resolve differences in economic and trade areas through equal-footed dialogue and mutually beneficial cooperation," the white paper said.

Similarly, Xinhua reported that Beijing's commerce ministry stated the country had a "firm will" to fight a trade war with Washington.

"With firm will and abundant means, China will resolutely take countermeasures and fight till the end if the United States insists on further escalating economic and trade restrictive measures," Xinhua quoted the ministry as saying.

A day earlier, China said it will "fight to the end" and warned of countermeasures after Trump threatened to raise his tariffs even further on the world's second-largest economy.

Following the sweeping 10 percent tariffs imposed over the week-

end, rates on imports to the United States from exporters including the European Union and Japan rose further on Wednesday.

The customized rates

for nearly 60 economies supersede baseline duties that took effect on Saturday. New levels largely range from 11 percent to 50 percent, but retaliation from Beijing will see the US tariffs imposed on China this year rise to a staggering 104 percent.

World shares deepen losses

Asian and European shares slid on Wednesday, with Japan's Nikkei 225 closing almost 4% lower after launch of the latest set of US tariffs, including a massive 104% levy on Chinese imports took effect.

Chinese markets advanced after regulators appeared to intervene, urging state-owned companies to buy shares.

Germany's DAX lost 2.1% to 19,857.36. In Paris, the CAC 40 declined 2.1% to 6,949.92. Britain's FTSE 100 gave up 2% to 7,753.42.

The future for the S&P 500 lost 0.7% while that for the Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 0.5%.

Markets have been wobbly for days, with investors flummoxed over what to make

of President Donald Trump's trade war.

On Tuesday, the S&P 500 dropped 1.6% after wiping out an early gain of 4.1%. That took it nearly 19% below its record set in February. Similarly, The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 0.8%, while the Nasdaq composite lost 2.1%.

Stocks had rallied globally on Tuesday, with indexes up 6% in Tokyo, 2.5% in Paris and 1.6% in Shanghai. Any optimism or buying enthusiasm appeared to have dissipated by the time the sharply higher tariffs became reality. The Nikkei 225 fell 3.9% to 31,714.03.

In Hong Kong, the Hang Seng rose 0.4% to 20,205.04, while the Shanghai Composite index reversed early losses, gaining 1.3% to 3,186.81.

Taiwan led losses in Asia, as its Taixi plunged 5.8%. Big tech manufacturers were among the biggest decliners. Computer chip giant TSMC Corp. dropped 3.8% while iPhone maker Hon Hai Precision Industry plunged 10%.

South Korea's Kospi lost 1.7% to 2,293.70,

and the government said it would provide help for its beleaguered automakers.

The S&P/ASX 200 in Australia declined 1.8% to 7,375.00. Shares in New Zealand also fell.

In India, the Sensex declined 0.5% as the central bank cut its benchmark interest rate, while Bangkok's SET shed 0.8%.

Analysts have been warning to expect more swings up and down in markets given the uncertainty over how long Trump will keep the stiff tariffs on imports, which will raise prices for US shoppers and slow the economy. If they last a long time, economists and investors expect them to cause a recession. If Trump lowers them through negotiations relatively quickly, the worst-case scenario might be avoided.

Hope still remains on Wall Street that negotiations may be possible, which helped drive the morning's rally. Trump said Tuesday that a conversation with South Korea's acting president helped them reach the "confines and probability of a great DEAL for both countries."

## ASEAN chief urges 'boldly' integrating region's economies amid US tariff worries



KUALA LUMPUR, Apr 9 (Agencies): ASEAN must "act boldly" to accelerate regional economic integration as sweeping US tariffs leave much of the world caught in the middle of a devastating trade war, the bloc's chief said Wednesday.

The 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which count on the United States as their main export market, were among those slapped with the toughest levies by President Donald Trump.

"To remain relevant and resilient in a world where economic chaos is fast becoming the new normal, we must act boldly, decisively, and together to reaffirm ASEAN's commitment to a stable, predictable, and business-friendly environment," ASEAN Secretary-General Kao Kim Hourn told an investment conference.

He was speaking on the eve of a meeting of ASEAN economic and finance ministers as well as central bank governors in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur to discuss how to

respond to the US tariffs.

ASEAN governments have chosen not to retaliate against Washington, preferring dialogue. But their export-oriented economies risk being hurt by a global trade war after China—another key market—imposed its own tariffs on the United States.

"Without urgent and collective action to accelerate intra-ASEAN economic integration and diversify our markets and partnerships, we risk ceding our place in a fractured and fast-evolving global economy," Kao said.

Manufacturing powerhouse and ASEAN member Vietnam was hit with a 46 percent tariff on exports to the United States, while neighbouring Cambodia—a major producer of low-cost clothing for big Western brands—was slapped with a 49 percent duty.

Other ASEAN nations hit with hefty tariffs are Laos (48 percent), Myanmar (44 percent), Thailand (36 percent), Indonesia (32 percent).

Malaysia, Southeast Asia's third-largest economy, was hit with lower tariff of 24 percent. Brunei also faces a 24 percent tariff while the Philippines was hit with 17 percent and Singapore 10 percent.

The bloc has a combined population of more than 650 million but its members are at different stages of economic development, ranging from poorer countries like Laos and Cambodia to rich ones like financial centre Singapore.

## Strong earthquake shakes Taiwan; no damage reported immediately

TAIPEI, Apr 9 (Agencies): An earthquake shook Taiwan on Wednesday morning, setting off alarms in the capital, but no damage was immediately reported.

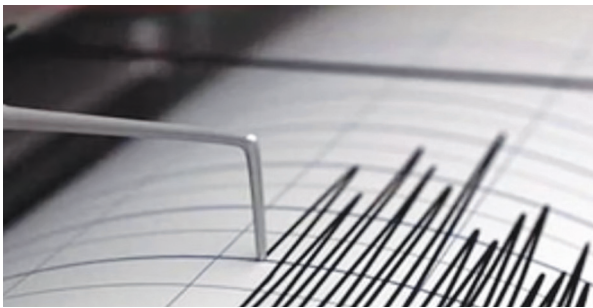
The Central Weather Administration measured the quake at 5.8 magnitude. The shaking in Taipei lasted only a few seconds.

The US Geological Survey said the magnitude 5.0 quake was about 21 kilometers (12 miles) south-southeast

of Yilan on the northeast coast. It was centered 69 kilometers (43 miles) below the Earth's surface. Deeper quakes can be widely felt while generally causing less damage than shallow quakes.

Taiwan lies along the Pacific "Ring of Fire," the line of seismic faults encircling the Pacific Ocean from Chile to New Zealand where most of the world's earthquakes occur.

Taiwan's worst modern quake, a 1999 magni-



tude 7.7 temblor killed 2,415 people, damaged buildings around the island of 23 million people and led to tightened building codes, better response times and coordination and

widespread public education campaigns on earthquake safety.

Schools and workplaces hold earthquake drills, while cellphones buzz whenever a strong earthquake is detected.

## Mass shooting in Virginia leaves 3 dead, 3 wounded

VIRGINIA, Apr 9 (Agencies): Three people were killed and three others were wounded in a shooting in northeastern Virginia on Tuesday evening, and one or more shooters was on the loose, authorities said today.

At about 5:30 pm, 911 calls came in about a shooting at a townhouse complex in Spotsylvania County, just outside Fredericksburg and about 65 miles (105



kilometres) southwest of Washington, said Major Elizabeth Scott, Spokesperson for the Spotsylvania Sheriff's Office.

Officials urged people to avoid the area and those near the scene to stay indoors while authorities investigate,

she said.

The shooting may have been committed by more than one person, according to Scott. There were no immediate arrests or publicly released information about a possible motive.

The three injured people were taken to hospitals with gunshot wounds.

Their conditions and other information about them were not immediately available.

## North Korean leader's sister denounces denuclearization calls

SEOUL, Apr 9 (Agencies): The powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Wednesday mocked Washington and its Asian allies for what she called their "daydream" of denuclearizing the North, insisting that the country will never give up its nuclear weapons program.

The statement by Kim Yo Jong, one of the country's top foreign policy officials, was in response to a meeting last week between the top diplomats of the United States, South Korea and Japan where they reaffirmed their commitment to push for the North's denuclearization.

Noting that North Korea's goals for nuclear weapons expansion are enshrined in its constitution, she insisted that any external discussions of denuclearization constitute "the most hostile act" and amount to a denial of her country's sovereignty.

"If the U.S. and its vassal forces continue to insist on anachronistic 'denuclearization' ... it will only give unlimited justness and justification to the advance of the



DPRK aspiring after the building of the strongest nuclear force for self-defense," she said in comments released by state media, using the initials of North Korea's formal name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. She said North Korea's nuclear weapons status can "never be reversed by any physical strength or sly artifice."

Tensions in the regions have increased as Kim Jong Un continues to flaunt his military nuclear capabilities and align with Russia over President Vladimir Putin's war on Ukraine. Kim is ignoring calls by Seoul and Washington to resume denuclearization talks.

U.S. President Donald Trump has said he

would reach out to Kim again to revive diplomacy, but the North has not responded to that offer. Trump and Kim met three times during Trump's first term, but their diplomacy quickly collapsed over disagreements about ending U.S.-led sanctions in return for North Korea taking steps to wind down its nuclear and missile programs.

Kim's foreign policy priority is now Russia, which he has supplied with weapons and troops to help prolong its warfighting in Ukraine. Seoul fears that Kim may receive economic assistance and advanced technology to develop his arsenal in exchange for its military supporting Russia.

Kim Yo Jong's statement came a day after South Korea fired warning shots to repel a group of North Korean soldiers who had crossed the border. South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said about 10 North Korean soldiers, some carrying weapons, violated the military demarcation line in the eastern section of the border. When South Korea issued warnings and fired warning shots, they did not return fire and returned to North Korea.

It wasn't immediately clear whether acting president Han Duck-soo discussed the North Korean nuclear threat with U.S. President Donald Trump during a telephone conversation on Tuesday.

Trump said in a social media post that the two leaders discussed tariffs, trade and Seoul's payment for what he called the "big time" military protection the United States provides to South Korea. There are concerns in Seoul that Trump might push South Korea to pay significantly more of the costs for the some 28,000 U.S. troops stationed in the country.



# DC Kishtwar holds Single Window Committee Meeting



## Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Apr 9: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan, on Wednesday holds the Single Window Committee meeting.

The main agenda of the meeting was to address the request made by the CVPPL, represented by the General Manager (GM) of the Pakal Dul Hydroelectric (HE) Project.

The request pertains

to obtaining Single Window Clearance for a proposed quarry land located on the right bank of the Marusadar River, downstream of the Coffer Dam of the Pakal Dul HE Project, in order to secure a Quarry License.

During the meeting, the DC directed all concerned members of the Single Window Committee to thoroughly review the contents of the communication and conduct a joint inspection of the

proposed site.

The committee has been given a one-week deadline to submit their comments/the No Objection Certificates (NOC) or otherwise for further process by the DC. The meeting was attended by DFO Kishtwar Vishal Choudhary, CAO Kishtwar Amjad Hussain Malik, CHO Kishtwar Sajid Mustafa, XEn PWD Ravinder Verma and besides other concerned officers and staff.

# Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti organizes Shriram Stuti, Hanuman Chalisa Path for world peace

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 9: In a spiritually uplifting and unifying event, the Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti organized a grand recitation of "Shriram Stuti" and "Hanuman Chalisa" at the revered Shri Ram Mandir, Channi Himmat, with the noble aim of promoting world peace and spiritual awakening.

The event was graced by the presence of Sunil Sharma, National Coordinator of the Samiti, and the esteemed Swami Vikram Tripathi, who served as the special guest and Acharya for the Satsang.

The program commenced on a divine note with the chanting of Vedic mantras and the heartfelt prayer "Hey Prabhu Anand-data Gyan Humko Dijiye," invoking wisdom and blessings for all.

This was followed by a deeply devotional Samoohik Path (collective recitation) of the sacred Shriram Stuti and Hanuman Chalisa, in which a large gathering of devotees, along with their families, participated with full fervor. Notably, the enthusiastic participation of the younger generation added a fresh vibrance to the spiritual atmosphere, underscoring



the timeless appeal of Sanatan values.

During the discourse that followed, speakers reflected on the unwavering devotion and valor of Lord Hanuman, highlighting his selfless service to Lord Rama and his enduring relevance in today's society. His courage, discipline, and loyalty were described as beacons of inspiration, especially in challenging times.

The recitations were followed by a soulful Satsang session, led by Swami Vikram Tripathi, where attendees were blessed with spiritual wisdom and divine guidance.

Addressing the attendees, Sunil Sharma shared the noble initiatives undertaken by the Samiti over the years. He emphasized their ongoing commitment to spiritual education, especially the free distribution of the sacred scripture, the Shrimad Bhagwat Geeta Granth,

not merely as a book but as a divine message of Lord Krishna, following the teachings and directions of Bhrahmyani Guruji. This initiative, ongoing for the past ten years, aims to sow seeds of love, compassion, and dharma in every heart.

The event's grand success was made possible by the dedicated participation and selfless service of many active members and volunteers.

Special acknowledgment was given to Kewal Krishan Sharma, Bhuvneshwari Sharma, Aayushman Sharma, Rohit Verma, Sanjeev Sharma, Prateek Kumar, Sandeep Kumar Sounanya, Om Parkash Sharma, Manmohan Sharma, Sanjay Yadav, Rahul Yadav, Vimbo Devi, Seema Jamwal, Sonia Kumari, Shalini Devi, Sawitri Sharma, Vimal Kumar, and Srinjan Devi for their tireless efforts.

# Precious assembly hours being wasted over Waqf law ruckus: Raman Suri

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 9: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) executive member Raman Suri expressed his deep concern and disappointment over the ongoing uproar in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, led by the National Conference (NC), regarding the Waqf law—an issue that clearly falls outside the purview of the J&K Assembly. This unnecessary disruption is wasting precious hours of the Assembly, which should instead be devoted to addressing the pressing needs and aspirations of the people of the state which NC had promised during electioneering.

The budget session, which resumed on Monday following the Eid and Navratri holidays, was anticipated to be a platform for meaningful discussions on private proposals, bills, and issues of public interest. However, the National Conference's

insistence on raising the Waqf law has derailed proceedings, plunging the House into chaos, Raman Suri said.

This is particularly disheartening at a time when the Speaker of the Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, has taken a firm and commendable stand by disallowing debate on this matter, adhering strictly to the rules of the House. We appreciate Speaker Rather's efforts to uphold the sanctity of the Assembly and ensure that its time is not squandered on matters beyond its jurisdiction.

Raman said, It is unfortunate and unacceptable that the MLAs of the ruling party, particularly the National Conference, are unwilling to respect the Speaker's decision. The ruling party bears a greater responsibility to ensure the smooth functioning of the House, yet it has chosen to fuel this ruckus, undermining the democratic process.

Those disrupting proceedings too, have failed to rise above petty politics, contributing to the deadlock instead of focusing on constructive dialogue.

He added that people of Jammu and Kashmir have placed their trust in the government and its promises, expecting it to address critical issues such as development, infrastructure, and welfare in this first budget session of the new government—formed after a decade-long gap since the last Assembly elections. However, the continuous sloganeering and disruptions over the Waqf law are eroding public confidence in the legislative process.

The Assembly is not a platform for grandstanding or settling political scores—it is a sacred space meant to serve the people.

The Waqf law, as clarified by Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather, is not within the ambit of the J&K Assembly's legislative authority and is being contested in the Supreme Court. Attempts to debate it are futile, as such matters are governed by existing legal frameworks and institutions like the Waqf Boards. Moreover, both houses of the Parliament have debated on the subject for multiple hours.

Any disputes or revisions related to this law are for the courts to adjudicate, not the Assembly. The new constitutional framework has already addressed these concerns, and there is no scope for the Assembly to intervene in what is essentially a settled matter. Raising this issue now is nothing more than a distraction

from the real challenges facing the state.

Raman said that elected representatives of the ruling party must cease this wasteful disruption and redirect their energies toward fulfilling the aspirations of the people. The time of the Assembly is a valuable resource that must be utilized to discuss developmental agendas, public welfare schemes, and solutions to regional problems—not squandered on issues that serve no purpose other than political posturing.

We stand firm in our commitment to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and call for an immediate end to this chaos. Let the Assembly function as it was intended—to serve the public, not to stage unnecessary confrontations, he asserted.

# GCET Jammu celebrates Dr. B.R Ambedkar's 134th Birth Anniversary with series of events

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 9: The NSS Unit of Government College of Engineering and Technology (GCET), Jammu organized a series of thought-provoking events to commemorate the upcoming 134th Birth Anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the visionary architect of the Indian Constitution.

These events, held under the guidance of Principal Prof. Sameru Sharma who highlighted not only Dr. Ambedkar's monumental contributions to social justice but also his profound economic ideas that laid the foundation for inclusive growth and poverty alleviation in India.

In her address to students, Prof. Sharma underscored Dr. Ambedkar's multifaceted legacy, emphasizing his role as a champion for equality, human rights, and socio-economic empowerment.

"Dr. Ambedkar was a true nationalist and a relentless advocate for the marginalized. His work extended beyond social reforms, as he sought to create economic opportunities for the poor, ensuring that prosperity was accessible to all segments of society," said Prof. Sharma.

The event series



included a vibrant debate competition on the theme "Role of Constitution in Democracy," where students from various engineering branches expressed their perspectives on how the Constitution sustains and strengthens India's democratic ideals. In addition, a creative poster-making competition on the theme "Rights and Duties: Two sides of the same coin" allowed students to visually explore the delicate balance between individual rights and societal responsibilities. Senior NSS volunteers Anav Sharma, Dhanush Dalmotra, Mehak, Vanishika, Aneesh, Anshdeep, Oshan Manhas, Eshwank, Ragav and

Rudhar Gupta played a key role in organizing the event under the expert guidance of NSS Program Officer Dr. Raman Gupta.

"Dr. Ambedkar's legacy is an enduring source of inspiration," said Dr. Gupta. "By engaging in these activities, we hope to instill in our students the values of social justice and economic equality, which remain as relevant today as they were in Dr. Ambedkar's time." GCET remains committed to fostering a learning environment that encourages students to engage with the nation's history, reflect on its challenges, and contribute to creating a more just and inclusive society.

# Lieutenant Governor attends Navkar Mahamantra Divas celebration at Raj Bhavan

108 countries participated in 'Navkar Mahamantra Divas' celebration promoting peace, and universal harmony. The occasion also encourages all individuals to reflect on the values of self-purification, tolerance, and collective well-being.

Anand Jain, ADGP Armed Police; Rajeev Jain, North India Advisor, Jain International Trade Organization (JITO); Pankaj Jain, President SS Jain Sabha; Sandeep Jain, General Secretary, SS Jain Sabha and representative JITO J&K, senior officials, and people in large number were present on the occasion.

**Speaker adjourns**

# Assembly Sine Die

said that more than 39 hours were utilized during the Budget Session.

Speaker thanked all the Assembly Members for their cooperation for smooth conduct of the Assembly proceedings. He also thanked Information Department, Assembly Secretariat, Health Department, Radio, Doordarshan, J&K Police, Media and other stakeholders for support during the Budget Session.

**J&K Govt will work to take UT out of its difficulties: Farooq Abdullah**

establishing a centre for women in J-K, Abdullah said, "We will establish a womens' centre. As this is the crown of India, we will start it from the crown. I have asked them to identify the land and we will support them in whatever we can".

To a question about pending court cases related to women especially domestic violence, the former chief minister of the erstwhile state of J-K said if our daughters enter assembly, be elected District Development Council or to panchayats, then they can fight for their rights.

"I will also try so that such cases are heard sooner," he added.

# BJP members involved in scuffle with Lone AAP MLA outside J&K Assembly

Vikram Randhawa and Yudhvir Sethi were involved in a scuffle with the AAP MLA.

In the melee, Malik fell on a table which broke while the shirt of a BJP MLA was torn in the clash with him.

Malik was then escorted into the House by the Watch and Ward

staff, accompanied by NC members.

BJP members tried to charge at him again when he was being taken into the House but were held back after intervention of some NC members.

"I want action against the SP Security. I want the arrest of the PDP men. PDP and BJP are together in this war against me. I do not want anyone's support. I will sit in the House and seek a reply from the Speaker," Malik said in the House to NC members.

The BJP members claimed that Malik used unparliamentary language against their leaders.

Malik had earlier allegedly made some derogatory remarks against Hindus which were objected to by BJP leaders.

**Did you raise SPO salary, regularization issues with Home**

# Minister: Deputy Chief Minister asks BJP

demanding regularisation and better pay for the last ten years despite playing a key role in the fight against terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. "These are the issues that should be discussed in the House, but BJP members seem more interested in media attention than the people's problems," he said.

"BJP legislators entered the House only to create disturbances and did not speak about vital issues like electricity, water, schools, roads, hospitals, unemployment or the concerns of daily wage workers," the Deputy Chief Minister alleged.

"We have formed a committee to look into the regularization daily wagers, but BJP continues to ignore these matters," he said.

Choudhary said the Speaker had

given his ruling and the House must be run according to the Constitution. "Still, we hope for a meaningful session. But looking at their behaviour, BJP members are likely to continue the disruption," he said.

He also said that young people in Jammu and Kashmir are performing well in sports, especially in rural areas, but no one, including BJP leaders, is talking about their needs. "This House belongs to the people. It is not a party meeting. Elected representatives must use this platform to raise the people's voice," he said.

Asked about extending the session, he said the decision lies with the Speaker. "I am the Deputy CM, but I am also an elected MLA. I want to speak for my people," he said.

Choudhary said everyone in a democracy has the right to speak, but BJP tries to suppress that voice inside and outside the House. "They've never succeeded in doing that," he added.

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## JKTJAC shows resentment against order of \$BLOs for Registration of public on Samadhan Portal

### Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Apr 9: The Jammu Kashmir Teachers' Joint Action Committee (JKTJAC) has expressed strong resentment over the recent order issued by the Deputy Commissioner of Udhampur, which directs BLOs (95% of whom are teachers) to engage in the registration of the general public on the Samadhan Portal.

In a press statement, Vinod Sharma, UT President of JKTJAC, voiced serious concerns over this repeated pattern of assigning non-teaching

duties to teachers. He emphasized that such practices hamper students' education, as teachers are being treated like puppets, constantly diverted from their primary responsibility of teaching. Citing an earlier instance, he pointed out that a large number of teachers were deputed for the YUVA mission survey for over a month, significantly affecting the academic schedule of students in summer zones.

Sharma stressed that teachers should not be engaged in any non-teaching duties, except those related to elec-

tions—which BLOs have historically undertaken. He argued that such assignments not only impact the quality of classroom education but also cause disruption in the teachers' professional duties.

He further highlighted a critical shortage of over 30% teaching staff in Udhampur district, with many rural schools barely functioning due to rationalization of staff. With winter zone schools having opened just a month ago and the academic session beginning in summer zones, he warned that this recent order would

significantly hamper learning outcomes. Moreover, such non-teaching engagements could have adverse effects on new student enrollment, particularly in primary and middle schools that are already understaffed.

Sharma also raised practical challenges, pointing out that some ZEOs have issued orders requiring BLOs to work in schools during the first half and conduct public registrations in the second half. This, he said, is impractical, as the assigned areas for registration are often far from the teach-

ers' schools, making it logistically and physically difficult to manage both responsibilities in a single day. In his concluding remarks, Vinod Sharma appealed to the District Development Commissioner of Udhampur to review and revoke the order in the interest of thousands of students whose education is at stake. He urged the administration to engage staff from other government departments for such assignments, thereby allowing teachers to focus solely on their core duty—educating the future generation.

## KVK Reasi organizes training on Scientific Backyard Poultry Farming



### Top News Report

REASI, Apr 9: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Reasi, under the aegis of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J), organized a training programme on "Empowering Rural Youths through Scientific Backyard Poultry Farming" under the ARYA (Attracting and Retaining Youths in Agriculture) project at Jadh village in Reasi district. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from numerous farmers of the region.

The main objective of the training was to educate rural youth about scientific practices in backyard poultry farming and to develop income-generating assets for resource-poor

farmers in the hilly terrain of Reasi. The programme was held under the dynamic leadership of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. B.N. Tripathi, and the guidance of Director Extension, Prof. Amrith Vaid.

Dr. Banarsi Lal, Chief Scientist and Head of KVK Reasi, welcomed the participants and highlighted the ARYA project's goal to foster agri-entrepreneurship and self-reliance among rural youth.

He emphasized the income-generating potential of poultry farming in hilly areas and advocated the adoption of horti-poultry models to maximize returns.

Dr. Mandeep Singh Azad, Scientist, provided detailed insights into scientific backyard poultry practices. He guided the trainees on improved

poultry breeds, housing, disease management, and organic feeding options like Azolla. Dr. Azad urged farmers to adopt organic poultry methods and establish Azolla units to reduce feed costs. He also emphasized the importance of forming Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs) for collective growth and better market access.

During the session, KVK scientists addressed several farmer queries on organic poultry management. Poultry birds of the Rainbow Rooster breed were also distributed to the participants, which generated great interest among the youth. The event concluded with a vote of thanks from Dr. Mandeep Singh Azad, with support from Manohar Lal.

## GDC Khour commemorates Ambedkar Jayanti



### Top News Report

KHOUR Apr 9: The NSS unit of GDC Khour organized an awareness lecture to commemorate 134th birth anniversary of the architect of Indian Constitution Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar.

The resource person of the lecture was Dr. Khursheed Ahangar (Lecturer in Political Science). He enthralled the audience on the values, efforts and contribution of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

for the poorest sections of the society and the nation as a whole. He gave great insight on the life history and teachings of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

He elaborated in detail of his contributions in various fields like social justice and equality, inclusion of fundamental rights, relevance of independent judiciary, drafting of the preamble which outlines the basic principles and values of Indian Constitution.

The event was organized by Dr. Rashmi Sharma (HoD Political Science) and Prof. Himanshu Khajuria, NSS PO, under the overall guidance of Prof. (Dr.) T.K. Sharma, worthy Principal of the College.

In his address, the Principal of the College encouraged the students to follow the footprints of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and imbibe in themselves the principles enshrined in the Constitution.

## GDC Sidhra commemorates Ambedkar Jayanti

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 9: As a part of weeklong 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 sequel to celebration of birth anniversary of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar, NSS unit of the college organized a documentary screening on life and history of Dr. B R Ambedkar alongwith an extension lecture by Mr. Deepak Kumar,

PTI on same theme.

The programme commenced with formal welcome address by Dr. Purvaiya Hans, NSS Programme Officer. Students from all semesters participated in the event with full zeal and zest and listened to the whole documentary with full dedication and concentration.

Thereafter lecture was delivered by Deepak Kumar on Life and History of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar.

He has enthralled the students and staff on the values, efforts and contribution of Dr. Ambedkar for the poorest sections of the society.

## Army Public School Ratnuchak Pre Primary Wing inaugurated

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 9: Army Public School Ratnuchak celebrated a landmark occasion today with the grand inauguration of its pre-primary wing, attended by a distinguished gathering of dignitaries and special guests.

The event was graced by Brig Sumeet Sharma Chairman APS Ratnuchak, Monika Sharma as the Guest of Honour, Principal Sonal Sharma, and other prominent personalities.

The ceremony commenced with the unveiling of a commemorative plaque, followed by a warm welcome address and the traditional light-

ing of the ceremonial lamp. The atmosphere was elevated by a soulful rendition of the Saraswati Vandana and an enchanting dance performance, showcasing the vibrant talent of the students.

These performances beautifully set the tone for the Chairman's inspiring address, which underscored the transformative power of education in shaping individuals and advancing society.

The event concluded with a guided tour of the school campus, offering guests a glimpse into the institution's steadfast commitment to academic excellence and holistic development.



## 84 Bn CRPF unveils Memorial stone of its brave hearts at Digdol

### Top News Report

RAMBAN Apr 9: while the country is celebrating Valour Day, 84 Bn CRPF, under the aegis of DIG CRPF Jammu North Ops Range, Vivek Bhandral, unveiled a memorial stone dedicated to the supreme sacrifice of its two brave personnel.

Shailendra Vikram Singh, then DIG CRPF Srinagar North and Constable/Dvr Naveen Kumar of the 144 Bn laid down their lives in the line of duty at Digdol on 15 Dec 2019.

The memorial stone was unveiled by N Ranbir Singh Commandant in the presence of A K Dixit Second in Command and personnel of 84Bn, Zaheer Ahmed Ex-Sarpanch and prominent members of Digdol

and media personnel.

During the function, floral tributes were paid to the 02 CRPF brave hearts.

Speaking during the occasion, Commandant 84 Bn stated that the memorial stone signifies CRPF's steadfast commitment to honoring its heroes and upholding its legacy of valour. CRPF, with approx 250 Bn, is the largest Central Armed Police Force in the country and deployed for multifarious duties across the length and breadth of the country.

The 84 Bn CRPF is securing a 47 km stretch of the NH 44, a major lifeline connecting Kashmir Valley with the rest of the country and ensuring smooth passage of SF, Yatri, VVIP, etc.



## Keshav organizes 96th Free Health Check-Up Camp for police personnel

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 9: In a heartfelt initiative to serve those who serve us, Samvedna Society Chairman Keshav Chopra organized the 96th Free Eye Screening and General Health Check-up Camp for police personnel at the District Police Office (DPO), Jammu. The camp witnessed enthusiastic participation from the Jammu Police force, with a total of 92 police personnel availing the free health services.

The medical team from Dr. KD's Multispecialty Hospital, led by Dr. J.P. Singh, conducted a wide range of health services including Refraction, Non-Contact Tonometry (NCT), Auto-Refracton (AR), Vision Check-up, and General Body Examination.

In addition to health screenings, medical tests were conducted on-site, and medicines were also distributed free of cost.

The camp was formally inaugurated by Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Jammu, Joginder Singh, JKPS, in the esteemed presence



of SP Jammu North Vivek Shekhar Sharma, JKPS, DySP Hqrs Farha Nishat, JKPS, and DySP DAR Sheikh Tahir Amin, JKPS.

Speaking on the occasion, SSP Joginder Singh extended heartfelt gratitude to Samvedna Society and applauded their dedicated efforts in reaching out to the police force with voluntary health services.

He praised the initiative as a much-needed and thoughtful gesture for the welfare of the personnel who often work under high stress and difficult conditions.

Keshav Chopra, while addressing the attendees, expressed his commitment to continue working for the welfare of all sections of society. He stated, "This camp

was exclusively planned for our brave police personnel, to foster a culture of care, compassion, and service. Samvedna Society will keep organizing such camps so that more and more people can benefit from quality healthcare at their doorstep."

The event saw dedicated participation from an extended medical and volunteer team including Dr. Bhavuk Kapoor, Dr. Neha Sharma, Dr. Shipra, Dr. Sakshi, Naresh (Optometrist), Amit Bagotra, Anju Chopra, Ramesh Kumar, Vikas Kumar, Nipun Malhotra, Manoj Tandon, Sourav Gupta, Shazia, Arti, Palak, Kajal, Ashok, Divyansh, and others whose tireless efforts made the camp a grand success.

## Amit Shah's visit reaffirms Centre's zero tolerance policy against terrorism: Bali Bhagat

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 9: Bali Bhagat, senior BJP leader and former Minister, on Wednesday said that the three-day visit of Union Home Minister Amit Shah to Jammu and Kashmir has sent a strong and clear message that terrorism will be eliminated from the region very soon. He asserted that the Central Government is working with a resolute approach of zero tolerance against all forms of terrorism and those aiding such activities.

In a press statement issued here today, the senior BJP leader said that the recent surge in terror-related incidents, particularly in the Kathua district and other parts of the Jammu region, has once again highlighted the need for an uncompromising crackdown on terrorists and their overground workers (OGWs). "The



Centre is well aware of the emerging challenges, and the Home Minister's detailed review meetings with security and intelligence agencies during his J&K visit reaffirm the government's seriousness and preparedness," he said.

Bali Bhagat said that the security forces have been given a free hand to act decisively against terrorists, their handlers, and OGWs. "Those who are supporting terrorism in any form, whether directly or indirectly, will be dealt with sternly under the law. No leniency will be shown to

those who are enemies of peace and stability in Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

The senior BJP leader lauded the Centre's unwavering stand and the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, saying that their vision for a peaceful and prosperous Jammu & Kashmir is being implemented with seriousness and full force.

Bali Bhagat also urged the people of J&K to stay alert and cooperate with the administration by reporting any suspicious activities.

"Together, we can defeat the nefarious designs of our enemies and restore complete peace in the region," he said.

The senior BJP leader reassured the public that the days of fear are numbered and that a new era of security and development is on the horizon.

## SDM Hiranagar conducts visit of Govt offices

### Top News Report

HIRANAGAR, Apr 9: The Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Hiranagar, Phulail Singh, conducted a surprise inspection of government offices in Marheen Tehsil today, marking his maiden visit under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Kathua.

The inspected offices included the Tehsil Office, Patwar Khana, Primary Health Centre Hiranagar and BDO Office Hiranagar. During the inspection, SDM Hiranagar emphasized the importance of maintaining cleanliness, ensuring quick disposal of public grievances and enforcing punctuality in government offices.

He also stressed that benefits of all government schemes should reach the last person



in line in real-time and directed that intensive awareness programs be provided to the general public through disclosure of scheme formats of respective departments.

The SDM warned

that no lackadaisical approach would be tolerated, underscoring the administration's commitment to transparency and accountability.

Tehsildar Marheen accompanied him during the inspection.



# Opener’s sparkling century propels Punjab to 18-run victory against Chennai

MULLANPUR, Apr 9 (Agencies): Amid the loud cheer for Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Punjab Kings’ young sensation Priyansh Arya stole the spotlight as he smashed the fastest century by an uncapped player in the Indian Premier League here on Tuesday. Riding on Arya’s 103 off 42 balls, Punjab Kings beat Chennai Super Kings by 18 runs for their first home win of the season. Arya scored a 39-ball ton to help his side record the highest total at this ground with 219/6.

Punjab, though, almost threw it all away with some ordinary fielding. Dropped catches and missed run out chances almost cost Punjab the win. However, the target proved too much for Chennai, who could not overcome the scoreboard pressure.

Coming to bat at No. 5, Dhoni hit two back to back sixes in the 18th over to set off alarm bells for Punjab Kings. He hit another six and a four in the next over to bring down the equation to 28 runs needed from six balls. However, Dhoni fell on the first ball of the final over, caught at short fine leg,



ending Chennai’s hopes. Earlier, Devon Conway (69 off 49 balls) and Shivam Dube (42 off 27) set the pace for Chennai. The duo held the crease for an 89-run stand, but once Dube lost his wicket all hopes were passed to Dhoni. Skipper Rituraj Gaikwad (1) failed to get going, while Rachin Ravindra (36 off 23) could not convert his start.

Arya on fire

Arya’s record knock started with a lucky escape. He was handed a lifeline by Khaleel Ahmed on the second ball of the innings. The CSK pacer found the leading edge but couldn’t hold on to a difficult return catch. Thereafter, the rookie opener delivered a match winning performance. The 24-year-old, known for hitting six sixes in an over during the Delhi Premier League last year, hit nine sixes and seven fours in his innings.

His fearless approach lifted Punjab Kings to the 200-plus total after the hosts were struggling at 83/5 in eight overs. He shared a crucial 71-run partnership with Shashank Singh, who scored an unbeaten 52 off 36 balls.

After two successive failures, Arya was under pressure but the way he started his innings, hitting Ahmed for a six over point, set the tone for his memorable effort.

He collected three sixes off Ravichandran Ashwin, though one of them should have been a catch at the boundary. He deposited Matheesha Pathirana for three straight sixes before a mis-hit for four towards third man brought up his century.

CSK’s leading wicket taker Noor Ahmed was introduced in the 11th over and Shashank welcomed him into the attack with a massive six over long-on. While Arya stole the show, Shashank played the perfect innings mixing caution with aggression. Marco Jansen also cut loose near the end, hitting an unbeaten 34 off 19 balls.

scores: PBKS: 219/6 (Arya 103, Shashank 52\*, Jansen 34\*; Ahmed 2/45); CSK: 201/5 (Conway 69, Dube 42; Ferguson 2/40).

# PBKS vs CSK: BCCI punishes Glenn Maxwell for breaching IPL code of conduct

MULLANPUR, Apr 9 (Agencies): Punjab Kings all-rounder Glenn Maxwell has been penalised by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) after breaching the Indian Premier League’s (IPL) Code of Conduct during the clash against Chennai Super Kings. Maxwell was fined 25 percent of his match fee and received one demerit point for his offence, becoming the sixth player this season to have been handed a fine.

Although the BCCI did not specify the exact incident, it confirmed that Maxwell admitted to committing a Level 1 offence under Article 2.2 of the IPL Code of Conduct. The article pertains to “abuse of cricket equipment or clothing, ground equipment or fixtures and fittings during a Match.” A similar offence earlier in the tournament saw Gujarat Titans pacer Ishant Sharma fined during a match against Sunrisers Hyderabad.

“Article 2.2 includes any action(s) outside the course of normal cricket actions, such as hitting or kicking the wickets and any action(s) which deliberately (i.e. intentionally), recklessly or negligently (in either case even if accidental) results in damage to the advertising boards, boundary fences, dressing room doors, mirrors, windows and other fixtures and fittings. For example, this offence may be committed, without limitation, when a Player swings his/her bat vigorously in frustration and causes damage to an advertising board,” the article states.

The incident occurred during a match that saw Punjab Kings claim a significant 18-run victory over CSK at Mullanpur, powered by a brilliant century from youngster Priyansh Arya. While Maxwell failed to make an impact with the bat—scoring just one run—he contributed with the ball, finishing with economical figures of 1/11. His dismissal of Rachin Ravindra was seen as a pivotal moment in the match.

Despite his disciplinary setback, Maxwell’s bowling performance helped tighten the screws on CSK’s top order and played a key role in PBKS defending their 218-run total. However, the all-rounder’s inconsistency with the bat continues to be a concern for the franchise.

Several other players, including Digvesh Singh, Rishabh Pant, and Riyan Parag, have also been fined this season for breaching the Code of Conduct or maintaining slow over rates. The BCCI’s ongoing efforts to uphold discipline and match standards have seen stricter enforcement of the rules in IPL 2025.

# Pakistan Cricket Board’s earning from Champions Trophy exceeds estimation

KARACHI, Apr 9 (Agencies): The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) claimed to have earned three billion rupees by hosting the ICC Champions Trophy, exceeding its target of two billion rupees.

The PCB claim came in a written reply to the National Assembly, which expressed its concerns over the persistent under-performance of the national team over the last two years.

In a written response, the PCB also confirmed that a total of 18 billion rupees are being spent on the upgradation of stadiums in Karachi, Lahore and Rawalpindi. It said that the complete upgrade process would be completed by 2026 and the second phase would begin after the Pakistan Super League ends in May.

The PCB also said that there have been no budget overruns so far because of the Champions Trophy and other issues. “The PCB undergoes two audits annually, at the end of its fiscal year. The audits for the current fiscal year will take place after June 30,” the PCB confirmed.

It also said that the final figures earned from the Champions Trophy will be determined once the ICC completes its financial audit. The PCB insisted that there had been no overspending or mismanagement as the Champions Trophy was entirely managed by the ICC.

On the performance of the national team, the PCB’s response was to blame injuries and different playing conditions. “Key players have suffered injuries at crucial moments, impacting team balance and strategy,” the reply read. “The PCB is actively working on strengthening injury prevention and rehabilitation programmes.” It also highlighted how varying playing conditions across different venues have sometimes hindered the team’s adaptability.

The PCB also assured that a robust evaluation system is in place to ensure continuous accountability and improvement in selection, coaching and fitness.

“The selection committee follows a merit-based approach, evaluating domestic performances, fitness levels and international exposure. Post-series reviews are conducted to reassess strategies and make necessary adjustments,” the board stated.

It further clarified that transparent selection decisions, effective coaching and maintaining high fitness standards for players are integral components of their long-term strategy.

# RCB vs DC: Intriguing battle, dotted with interesting personal match-ups on cards

BENGALURU, Apr 9 (Agencies): Drama and mayhem is on the cards when fearless Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Delhi Capitals take on each other in a high-stake IPL match, where the outcome will be governed by a clutch of intriguing personal match-ups, here on Thursday.

The Capitals have three wins from as many matches, and the Royal Challengers bagged three victories from four games. That record testifies their wonderful shapeshifting ability according to opponents and conditions.

Royal Challengers have mastered conditions as distinct as Kolkata, Chennai and Mumbai and their lone stumble came at home against Gujarat Titans. It was more to do with a rather out of character Chinnaswamy pitch taking them by surprise than any sudden erosion in skills.

The RCB will be wiser for that experience against the Delhi side, who have wins at varied Visakhapatnam and Chennai tracks. But the hosts will be a confident group as star batter Virat Kohli made a return to run-making ways after an all too brief blip.

If the 22-yard strip here retains its nature from that GT match, then Kohli’s form will be crucial for RCB.

Kohli vs Starc and Kuldeep

The 36-year-old Indian star will have two formidable foes to negate in this match pacer Mitchell Starc and left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav.

Kohli has an edge over Starc in T20s as he has scored 72 runs off 31 balls, but the Aussie is in fine fettle this season taking nine wickets from three matches at an average of 11.

So, Kohli’s battle with Starc in the Power Play will have a massive influence on RCB’s initial charge.

Kohli will come up against Kuldeep (6 wickets at an economy of 6) if he bats a bit deeper, and it will be an interesting battle.

Kohli is a much-evolved batter in T20s after shedding his reticence to play lofted and sweep shots against spinners. It has allowed him to bat with more liberty against slow bowlers, and Kuldeep’s endless bag of tricks will challenge the senior pro, especially the one the slides away from the right-hander.

Here, in-form RCB skipper Rajat Patidar too will have a big role to play as he is a superb player of spin, and, in that context, DC will hope for a heavier contribution from left-arm spinner Axar Patel.

The Delhi captain has bowled just eight overs across three matches, and is yet to take any wickets.

RCB new ball bowlers’ effect

Without being spectacular, Josh Hazlewood and Bhuvneshwar Kumar have given RCB control over their rivals in the Power Plays. They will have to do an encore against Delhi keeping KL Rahul, who knows the conditions here to the hilt, silent.

Rahul is now trying to maximise his stay at the crease rather looking to bat deep as he has often done in the past, and it has made him a more dangerous customer.

The Delhi outfit will also closely watch the fitness of Faf du Plessis, who missed the previous match against Chennai Super Kings.

If Du Plessis, another player with first-hand knowledge of the conditions here, joins Rahul atop then it will become imperative for RCB new ball bowlers to fall into their rhythm straightaway.

Teams (from): Rajat Patidar (c), Phil Salt, Virat Kohli, Devdutt Padikkal, Liam Livingstone, Jitesh Sharma (wk), Tim David, Krunal Pandya, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Josh Hazlewood, Yash Dayal, Suyash Sharma, Rasikh Dar Salam, Manoj Bhandage, Jacob Bethell, Swapnil Singh, Abhinandan Singh, Romario Shepherd, Lungi Ngidi, Nuwan Thushara, Mohit Rathee, Swastik Chikara.

Delhi Capitals: Axar Patel (c), Jake Fraser-McGurk, Faf du Plessis, Abishek Porel(w), Sameer Rizvi, Tristan Stubbs, Ashutosh Sharma, Vipraj Nigam, Mitchell Starc, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohit Sharma, Mukesh Kumar, Karun Nair, Donovan Ferreira, Tripurana Vijay, Darshan Nalkande, Dushmantha Chameera, KL Rahul, T Natarajan, Ajay Jadav Mandal, Manvanth Kumar L, Madhav Tiwari.

Match starts at 7.30 pm.

# ‘Master Blaster’ Sachin Tendulkar enjoys his time at Kaziranga National Park; feeds elephants, enjoys jeep safari

DISPUR (ASSAM), Apr 9 (Agencies): India’s legendary batter Sachin Tendulkar fed sugarcane sticks to elephants during his visit to the Kaziranga National Park in Assam on Wednesday.

The ‘Master Blaster’ continued to enjoy his time in the Kaziranga National Park and interacted with the wildlife present in the sanctuary. He fed elephants sugarcane sticks and then enjoyed a jeep safari.

Notably, Tendulkar embarked on a jeep safari at the Kaziranga National Park and met a little fan. During the safari ride, he met a young fan and shook hands with him.

Tendulkar, famously known as the ‘God of Cricket,’ still holds the records for the most runs in Test and One-Day Internationals (ODIs) and has scored 100 international centuries. Renowned for his exceptional skills and mastery of cricket, he entertained fans across the globe from 1989 to 2013.

The Mumbai-born cricketer made his Test debut on November 15, 1989, at just 16 years old, and



played his first ODI on December 18 of the same year. Across 664 international appearances, he scored a total of 34,357 runs at an average of 48.52, remaining the highest run-scorer in international cricket.

His 100 centuries and 164 half-centuries remain unmatched in the sport’s history.

Tendulkar was the first cricketer to score a double century in ODIs and played a record 200 Test matches. In ODIs, he accumulated 18,426 runs at an average of 44.83, including 49 centuries and 96 half-centuries.

In Tests, he amassed 15,921 runs at an average of 53.78, with 51 centuries and 68 fifties.

A key member of India’s ICC Cricket World Cup-winning squad in 2011, Tendulkar fulfilled his lifelong dream of lifting the prestigious trophy after making his World Cup debut in 1992.

From 2008 to 2013, he represented the Mumbai Indians in the Indian Premier League (IPL), helping them clinch the title in 2013.

# “Viewers will leave the IPL to watch us”: Hasan Ali drops bold statement ahead of PSL opener

KARACHI, Apr 9 (Agencies): With the Pakistan Super League (PSL) and Indian Premier League’s (IPL) schedule clashing this time around, right-arm seamer Hasan Ali expressed optimism with a jaw-dropping remark that fans and viewers would “leave” IPL for PSL, Pakistan’s premier T20 tournament if the players perform well.

PSL, which was usually held between February and March, was moved to the window of April and May due to Pakistan’s jam-packed international schedule. The change led to Pakistan’s top T20 tournament clashing with the ongoing 18th edition of the cash-rich IPL.

Even though IPL is widely regarded as the top T20 tournament worldwide, Hasan is optimistic that despite the scheduling clash, viewers will prefer to watch PSL if the players perform better. “Fans watch the tournament where there’s good cricket with entertainment. If we play well in the PSL, viewers will leave the IPL to watch us,” Hasan told reporters, as quoted from Geo News ahead of the PSL opener on Friday.

Hasan, who will represent the Karachi Kings in the 10th edition of the tournament, reflected on Pakistan’s shambolic international cricket performance. While Pakistan’s horror run in international cricket extends back to 2023, its recent performances have echoed its frustra-



tions and struggles.

Under the refined leadership of Mohammad Rizwan, Pakistan’s title defence in the Champions Trophy concluded in the group stage on the back of two successive defeats against New Zealand and India.

After an unprecedented heartbreak, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) broadened its view and built a team for the T20 World Cup 2026 and the ODI World Cup 2027.

Days after the Champions Trophy concluded, Pakistan embarked on a white-ball tour of New Zealand, consisting of five T20Is and three

ODIs. While the T20I side introduced a couple of new faces while staying true to the experienced stars, Pakistan surrendered a 4-1 series defeat.

In the three-match ODI affair, Rizwan and Babar Azam, who were notable absentees in the T20I Leg, returned in the 50-over format. Despite their return, Pakistan’s fate stuck to defeat as the Kiwis whitewashed the Men in Green by orchestrating a 3-0 triumph. “When the national team doesn’t perform well, it impacts franchise leagues like the PSL,” Hassan said. “But when Pakistan do well, the PSL’s graph also rises,” Hasan remarked.

“The current results aren’t great, but we have fresh faces in the team and also in management who need time. The players know where they went wrong and where to improve,” Hasan said while backing the youngsters.



# Natrang presents scintillating Theatre & Dance show at IIT Jammu



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 9: Natrang the leading cultural organisation of Jammu & Kashmir presented a scintillating mega theatre and dance show at Indian Institute of Technology, Jammu. The show was hosted by the Student Affairs Department, IIT Jammu under the series 'Ek Bharat Sreshtha Bharat'. Devised, designed and directed by Padamshiri Balwant Thakur, the show aimed at promoting national integration through celebrating the vibrant cultural diversity of India. Amongst the prominent personalities who graced this auspicious occasion included Sartaj Ul Hasan, Dean Student Affairs, Arvind Kumar Associate Dean Student Affairs, and R.P. Prajapat Assistant Reg-

istrar Student Affairs. The Student Affairs Department IIT Jammu also felicitated Padmashiri Balwant Thakur for this mindblowing presentation which received repeated applauds and standing ovation from the audiences. The programme opened with a musical theatre act showcasing the divine battle between Shri Mata Vaishno Devi and Bhairav Nath. A Tantik named Bhairav who was a disciple of Guru Gorakhnath, is believed to grow arrogant due to his Siddhis of Tantras, and chased Mata Vaishnodevi for malicious purpose. The Devi reached near a cave in the hill, she called up Shri Hanuman and told him that "I would do penance in this cave for nine months, till then you should not allow

Bhairav Nath to enter the cave." Despite this, arrogant Bhairav made unsuccessful attempts to enter the cave and disturb Shri Mata Vaishno Devi. In a brief fight with Hanumaan Ji, he was beheaded by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi before he could cause any harm to anyone. It is said that she granted him a boon that the pilgrimage of her devotees to the shrine would only be considered complete when they visited the temple of Bhairav Nath, which is located nearby. This theatrical act was written and directed by Balwant Thakur and assisted by Neeraj Kant. This electrifying theatrical event was followed by ten diverse dance presentations signifying the vibrant cultural diversity of Jammu & Kashmir.

Entitled 'Colors of Jammu & Kashmir'- this unique cultural album of Jammu & Kashmir showcased the variegated variety of different colors, rhythms, design patterns, and diverse artistic expressions which truly portrayed the essence of 'Ek Bharat Sreshtha Bharat'. The dances were choreographed by Sunny Mujiu and the show was coordinated by Kurpa Bawane and Arayan Singh. Devisha Patel conducted the event with professional ease. The lights were designed and executed by Shivam Singh who was assisted by Adesh Dhar. Mohd Yaseen scored the music of this mega event. The artists of Natrang who participated in this mega show included Meenakshi Bhagat, Kananpreet Kaur, Palshin Dutta, Sakshi Gupta, Suneha Angural, Suhani BhasinSuhani, Aradhana Soodan, Shruti Kumari, Mehak Chib, Manvi Devi, Priyal, Ashok Gupta, Isha Sharma, Muskaan Thakur, Neeraj Kant, Sunny Mujiu, Vishal Sharma, Arun Dev Verma, Arun Sharma, Sahil Narwalia, Sanket, Vansh Pandotra, Kartik Kumar, Adaksh Bagal, and Aryan Sharma.

# KDP Wing of DPAP demands independent probe into mysterious death of Sahil Koul in Barzulla

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 9: In a heartfelt and urgent appeal, the Kashmiri Displaced People Wing (J&K) of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) has called for an independent investigation into the untimely and deeply suspicious death of Sahil Koul, son of Jawahir Lal Koul, originally a resident of Wagoora, Baramulla. The tragic incident occurred on March 17, 2025, in Barzulla, Srinagar, where Sahil was reportedly employed at a hotel near the Barzulla Bridge. In a joint statement issued by Sanjay Dhar (President), Piaray Lal Pandita (Chairman), Raj Kumar Ticku (General Secretary), Naveen Gosani (Youth President), and other senior leaders, the KDP Wing expressed profound concern over the lack of due process and transparency in handling the case. According to the family of the deceased, the death was sudden and shrouded in secrecy—not an accident, but potentially an attempted murder. Grieving relatives have stated that neither the hotel management nor the local police authorities informed them of Sahil's death. The silence, they allege, is not accidental but part of a deliberate effort to obscure the truth. The leaders emphasized that the family's suspicion, now echoed in public discourse, points toward foul play being quietly brushed aside by the very institutions meant to uphold justice. The alleged inaction

and negligence by the concerned police station, coupled with non-disclosure by the hotel authorities, paints a disturbing picture of collusion and apathy. In their earnest plea, the KDP Wing has appealed to the Chief Minister, the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, and the Director General of Police to take

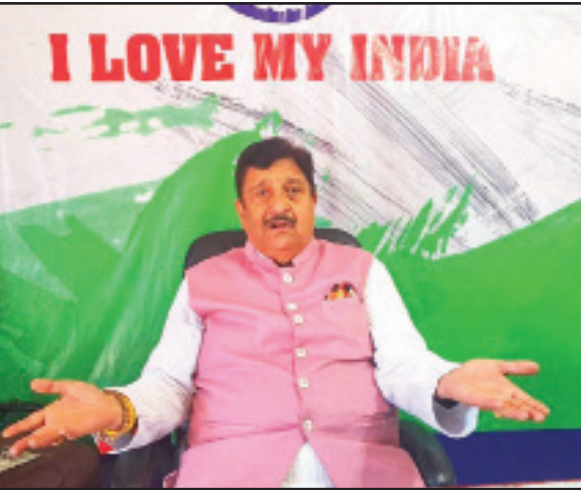
personal cognizance of the case. They have demanded a probe by an independent investigative agency, free from local influence or bias. "This is not just about one young man lost," the leaders stated, "but about the faith of the entire Kashmiri Hindu Pandit community in the justice system. Only

a transparent, impartial investigation can restore that faith." They urged authorities to act swiftly and decisively—not only to uncover the truth of Sahil Koul's death but to reassure displaced and vulnerable communities across Jammu and Kashmir that justice remains not just a word, but a promise kept.

# Dimple slams "Gang War" in Assembly as Murder of Democracy

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 9: In a scathing condemnation of the chaos that erupted in the J&K Assembly, Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood, denounced the violent altercation between MLAs of the BJP, PDP, and AAP as a "murder of democracy" and a "black spot on the sacred history of the J&K Assembly." Addressing media following the shocking incident, Dimple expressed deep anguish and outrage at the "gangster-like behavior" of the legislators, stating, "I have never in my life witnessed such illiterate, unruly conduct in a temple of democracy. This assembly has, for over 75 years, been a place of peace, dialogue, and dignity." Dimple condemned all participating MLAs for prioritizing political brawls over the real concerns of the people, especially the long-pending restoration of Jammu & Kashmir's statehood and special status. He alleged that the recent passage of the Waqf Bill by BJP is a deliberate attempt to sow religious discord between Hindus



and Muslims across India. "The BJP's aim is not governance, but division," he warned, adding that the incident in the Assembly reflects a broader failure of leadership and a deepening rift between the Raj Bhawan and the elected government. "Our MLAs are supposed to be role models, the chosen voices of the people. But what message has today's brawl sent to the youth of Jammu and Kashmir, to the nation watching?" Dimple further alleged that the entire budget session has been a waste, with no meaningful discussions, no development work, and rising confusion and chaos among the public,

especially unemployed youth. He painted a grim picture of J&K today: a region overrun by liquor mafias, mining mafias, and disillusionment. Demanding a ban on liquor and illegal mining, Dimple also issued a stern warning to the central government: "We will not tolerate further delay in the restoration of Dogra state with special status. If our voices continue to be ignored, our agitation will intensify." The Mission Statehood leader urged all democratic forces to rise above petty politics and unite in the cause of justice, peace, and the rightful restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's identity.

# Shrine Board, THDCIL & GSI collaborate for enhanced Pilgrim safety on Vaishno Devi track

## Top News Report

KATRA, Apr 9: The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) has signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Limited India Limited (THDCIL) and the Geological Survey of India (GSI) to enhance pilgrim safety and security during the pilgrimage to the revered Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine. This decision was made during a recent Meeting of the Board held under the Chairmanship of Shri Manoj Sinha, Hon'ble Lt. Governor, JK-UT with the objective to ensure the long-term safety and resilience of the yatra route through advanced geotechnical and geophysical investigations, coupled with the design of modern slope stabilization measures. The MoU was signed by Alok Kumar Maurya, Additional CEO, SMVDSB; Dr. Niraj Agrawal, GM, Design (Civil-II), THDCIL and Sanjiv Kumar, Deputy Director General, GSI (NR) in the presence of Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB along with senior officers from Shrine Board, THDCIL and GSI.



also facilitate the sharing of expertise and resources among the three organizations. The agreement also involves conducting an extensive LIDAR survey to identify and delineate areas of slope instability particularly along the Adhkuwari to Bhawan yatra route for treatment measures with execution of work undertaken under the close supervision of the Geological Survey of India (GSI). Notably, the Shrine Board has been working with THDCIL since 2012 to mitigate the risks associated with falling stones and landslides, which posed a threat to

pilgrim safety. THDCIL have so far treated and stabilized 28 sites, which have been identified as most vulnerable landslide and stone falling areas on the yatra track. Effective measures are implemented in vulnerable zones including installation of rockfall barriers, wire mesh, concrete work, drilling, grouting and anchoring towards which an expenditure in excess of Rs.40 Cr has been incurred by the Board till date. The Shrine Board under the guidance and directions of the Chairman, SMVDSB has been working tirelessly

to improve the pilgrimage experience and this collaboration is a significant milestone in this endeavour. With the expertise and resources of THDCIL and GSI, the Shrine Board is poised to take a major leap forward in ensuring the safety and security of pilgrims, while promoting sustainable pilgrimage and protecting the shrine's ecosystem. Additionally, the partnership will not only enhance the safety and security of pilgrims but also contribute to the overall development of the region.

# Pencak Silat Trials on April 19

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 9: The Pencak Silat Association of Jammu and Kashmir is set to conduct the Open Selection Trials for both Men and Women athletes between the ages of 17 to 45 years. These trials are being organized in preparation for the 13th Senior National Pencak Silat Championship 2025-26, which is scheduled to be held from May 9 to May 12, 2025, at KD Babu Singh Indoor Stadium, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. The selection trials will be held on April 19, 2025, in Srinagar. Interested players are required to carry a set of mandatory documents including a valid ID proof, a recommendation letter from their respective district head, a parent/guardian declaration, and a medical, health, and insurance certificate. Additionally, two passport-size photographs must be submitted at the time of registration. Only after submission of all these documents will the athlete be considered eli-

gible to participate in the trials. All affiliated District Pencak Silat Associations are requested to confirm their entries for the selection trials in both male and female senior categories. Participants must note that no boarding, lodging, or transportation arrangements will be provided during the trials. Athletes must make their own arrangements for travel and accommodation. Following the selection trials, the shortlisted athletes will face a screening committee of the J&K Sports Council on April 21, 2025. After successfully clearing the screening process, the selected athletes will participate in a 21-day coaching camp at Srinagar to prepare for the national championship. All athletes and district associations are urged to strictly follow the selection procedures and adhere to the rules and regulations laid out in this notice. For any further queries or clarifications, participants may contact:

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