

TOP NEWS OF J&K



ENTERTAINMENT

| 6

Ekta Kapoor: Remake of 'Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi' in the works



NATIONAL

| 7

PM Modi to launch projects worth rs 3,880 cr during Varanasi visit on Apr 11

INTERNATIONAL

| 8

EU chief welcomes Trump's pause but quiet about the bloc's own retaliatory duty plan



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BRIEFLY

Woman, Two children jump into canal in Central Kashmir, Rescued

SRINAGAR, Apr 10 (Agencies): A woman and her two children jumped into a water canal in Wurchash area of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Thursday, officials said.

According to officials, the woman, along with her son and daughter, jumped into the canal on Thursday.

Police and local residents responded swiftly, rescuing all three and shifting them to a nearby hospital for treatment. Their condition is reported to be stable.

Nine injured as vehicle falls into gorge in J&K's Poonch

SRINAGAR, Apr 10 (Agencies): At least nine people, including seven women, were injured after a vehicle met with an accident near Kota in the Dhargloom area of Mendhar in Poonch district on Thursday.

Officials said that a Tata Sumo bearing registration number JK03C-5203 lost control and fell approximately 100 meters into a gorge near Kota in Dhargloom.

All nine injured persons were shifted to Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Mendhar for treatment.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognisance of the incident.

More details are awaited.

Traffic suspended on Bandipora-Gurez road due to snowfall

SRINAGAR, Apr 10 (Agencies): Authorities have suspended the traffic on Bandipora-Gurez due to snowfall at Razdan Top.

Subdivisional Magistrate (SDM) Gurez said in a social media post that the traffic will remain suspended till further orders.

"Due to continuous snowfall at Razdan Top and as a precautionary measure, movement on Bandipora Gurez road shall remain

Turn to page 9

LG Sinha addresses special event to celebrate Mahavir Jayanti

JAMMU, Apr 10 (Agencies): Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday addressed a special event to celebrate Mahavir Jayanti in Jammu.

In a post on X, LG Sinha wrote, "Addressed a special event to celebrate Mahavir Jayanti. His teachings are not limited to one sect but transcend all boundaries."

"His blessings and vision uplifted humanity



and guided the world to ensure non-violence & compassion builds the strong foundation of our society," he added.

"The concept of selfless service of Lord Mahavir is linked with the principles of non-violence and compassion towards all living beings," LG Sinha wrote.

"He says that the spirit of selfless service eliminates the ego which hinders spiritual liberation apart from welfare," he said.

Police raid houses of jailed TeH members in UAPA cases

SRINAGAR, Apr 10 (Agencies): In its relentless efforts to dismantle the remnants of secessionist and terrorist ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir, Srinagar Police on Thursday said to have conducted searches as part of the ongoing investigations into cases registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

A police spokesman said in a statement that the search has been carried out in a case under FIR number 01/2024 under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, pertaining to banned organizations after obtaining search war-

rant from the designated NIA Court Srinagar.

"The search related to investigation of case FIR 01/24 which have been registered under sections 10, 13 UAP Act of Police Station Rajbagh was carried out alongwith Executive Magistrate 1st Class in the houses of Tehreek-e-Hurriyat members namely Bashir Ahmed Bhat @ Peer Saifullah son of Ali Mohd Bhat resident of Zadoora Pulwama A/P Rawalpura presently in Tihar jail and Mohd Ashraf Laya son of Gh Rasool Laya resident of Jamia Qadeem Baramulla A/P Old Barzulla," the statement reads.

During the search, police said incriminating materials including books, letter heads, pamphlets and letters related to the investigation of instant case have been recovered from the house of Bashir Ahmed Bhat and they have accordingly been seized in the presence of the Magistrate and independent witness as per proper legal procedures.

"The investigation of the case is going on," it reads.

"J&K Police remains committed to maintaining peace and security in the city. Any individual found furthering the agenda of violence,

Turn to page 9

SHO, Sub-Inspector airlifted after violent assault by Drug Peddlers

SRINAGAR, Apr 10 (Agencies): Three police personnel, including the Station House Officer (SHO) of Bari Brahmana Police Station, sustained injuries after a police team was attacked by a group of drug peddlers and their associates in the Balol Khad area of Samba district late Wednesday night.

Quoting sources, local news agency KNT reported that the incident took place when a five-member team led by SHO Pushpinder Singh

acted on specific intelligence inputs regarding the presence of drug peddlers in the Balol Khad area. Upon reaching the location, the team was surrounded and attacked by dozens of suspected peddlers and their aides.

The sudden and violent assault left SHO Pushpinder Singh and Sub-Inspector Abrar Mirza critically injured, while Head Constable Abdul Gani also sustained injuries. Two other constables man-

aged to escape and later called for reinforcement.

All injured personnel were initially taken to Government Medical College (GMC) Hospital in Jammu. However, due to the severity of their injuries, SHO Pushpinder Singh and Sub-Inspector Abrar Mirza were referred to a hospital in Amritsar for specialised treatment.

Police have registered a case and launched a manhunt to trace the assailants. The area has

Turn to page 9

PDP questions Statehood delay, Assembly silence on Waqf

SRINAGAR, Apr 10 (Agencies): People's Democratic Party (PDP) Chief Spokesperson Dr Mehboob Beigh on Thursday said that the ongoing political and social environment raises serious concerns about the state of democracy, as Muslims continue to face targeted measures, statehood remains uncertain, and basic issues such as Waqf are not being allowed to be raised in the Assembly.

Mehbooba Mufti pre-

sided over the meeting of PDP on October 24, 2024 in which the recent defeat in assembly elections was discussed. The party got three seats only.

Speaking to reporters in Srinagar after a party meeting chaired by PDP president Mehbooba Mufti, Dr Beigh said, "Muslims, especially men, are being targeted in various ways—be it clothing, food, or religious practices. If the government claims there is no religious bias, then

how is this being justified?"

He criticised Assembly Speaker Rahim Rather for not allowing a discussion on Waqf issues. "When even in a Muslim-majority Assembly, members are not allowed to speak on Waqf matters, what does that say about democratic practice? We did not expect such conduct from the Speaker," he said.

The PDP meeting focused on the

Turn to page 9

Firing resumes between security forces and terrorists in Udhampur

JAMMU, Apr 10 (Agencies): Firing resumed on Thursday between the joint security forces and the terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district.

Officials said that fresh firing started between the security forces and the terrorists in the Joffar area of the district this morning. The encounter had broken out on Wednesday.

Joint forces had strengthened the cordon around the encounter

site during the night to ensure that the terrorists were prevented from escaping under the cover of darkness.

Reports said that a local confirmed to security forces that three terrorists dressed in black had entered his house around 8 p.m. Wednesday and left around 11.30 p.m. when the security forces started the operation against them. A gunfight had later started between joint forces, and the ter-

rorists in Joffar are falling under the jurisdiction of the Ramnagar police station.

"As the teams of police and the security forces moved in, they were fired upon by the terrorists triggering an encounter, which is now going on," the officials said.

It must be mentioned that on March 23, an encounter took place in Sanyal village of Kathua district, barely

Turn to page 9

Scuffle n J&K Assembly Complex: AAP protests against PDP, BJP



JAMMU, Apr 10 (Agencies): AAP on Thursday held demonstrations against the PDP and the BJP over a scuffle involving its MLA Mehraj Malik with legislators of the saffron party in the assembly complex in Jammu.

Led by Malik and carrying placards against the BJP and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), AAP activists demanded action against those who perpetrated the scuffle.

A scuffle broke out between BJP members and AAP MLA Malik on

the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly premises on Wednesday after he allegedly made some objectionable remarks.

The lone AAP legislator was also involved in a heated exchange with PDP members

Turn to page 9

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

Son & Daughter - in - law.

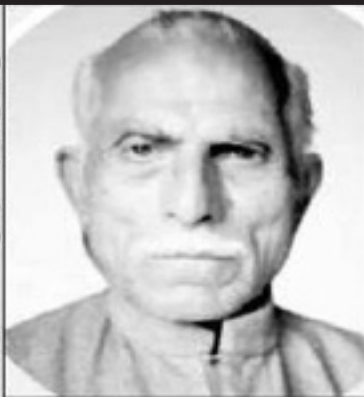
Rajesh and Anita
Sushil Krishan and Sushma
Vimal and Anju
Vishal and Priya

Daughters and Sons - in - law

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

Grand Children

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



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

10TH DAY

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

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh. Narinder Nath (Son)
Smt. Kanta (Daughter-in-law)
Sh. Rajinder Nath (Son)
Smt. Bunt 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

MASWAR AND WAHARWAR

THOSE WE LOVE DON'T GO AWAY
THEY WALK BESIDE US EVERYDAY
UNSEEN AND UNHEARD, BUT ALWAYS
NEAR, STILL LOVED STILL MISSED.

One year have passed since you left us for heavenly abode and the pain of losing you will never fade. Your blessings are always with us and we feel your gracious presence around us.
You will live forever in our hearts guiding and inspiring us throughout our lives.

MASWAR AND WAHARWAR of Smt Phoola Karwani (Saba Ji) W/o Sh. S.K Pandita of Chandapora Habbakadal at present H. No 30-A Sharika Vihar Sector 2 lower Roop Nagar Jammu will be performed on 11th and 12th April 2025 respectively.

DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY

Smt Somawati (Bengashi) Mother in law
Sh. S.K Pandita (Husband)
Sister in Law & Brother in Law
Nirmala Koul and A.K Koul
Daughter & Son in Law
Priyanka Agnihotri & Nauneet Agnihotri
Ashima Agnihotri (Grand Daughter)



**SMT PHOOLA KARWANI
(SABA JI)**

TENTH DAY/ KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform that our beloved mother **Smt Shama Pandita W/o Late Sh. Soom Nath Pandit** erstwhile resident of Kharwara Shopian and presently residing at H.No 37/A, Lane No.11, Gurha Keran Bamai Bantlab Jammu passed away peacefully to merge with eternity on 6th April 2025.

Tenth Day Kriya will be held at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education on Tuesday 15-04-2025 at 9:30 A.M.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Samast Pandit Pariwar of Kharwara, Kandhari's, Bhat's, Tickoo's, Dhar's, Kichloo's, Raina's, Hangloo's.
Mobile No: 6005736119, 9622215389, 7889626173, 9873837070, 7889588023



**SMT SHAMA
PANDITA**

TENTH DAY

With profound grief we inform the passing away of our beloved **Mrs. Vishno Sharma (Retd. HOD DIET)** W/o Sh. Jagan Nath Sharma (Retd. Director Planning), R/O Sector 24/6 Channi Himmat, Jammu. **10TH DAY** will be performed at our residence at 11:00am on Friday, 11th April, 2025.

IN GRIEF :

Sh. Jagan Nath Sharma (Husband)
(Daughter and Son-in-Law)
Mrs. Renuka Sharma and Sh. R. K. Gupta
Dr. Nidhi Sharma and Dr. Sumir Khajuria
(Son and Daughter-in-Law)
Sh. Vikas Sharma and Sushma Sharma
ALL GRAND CHILDREN



**Mrs. Vishno Sharma
(Retd. HOD DIET)**

BARKHI

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

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

Dinesh Singh Slathia (Son)
Rekha Slathia (Daughter In Law)
Priyanka Slathia (Daughter)
Rajesh Manhas (Son In Law)
Ph. 9811512303, 9419641241
Slathia Family (Ramnagar) & Jamwal Family (Kot Bhalwal)



**Lt. Smt Geeta
Slathia**

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt Koushalaya Koul W/o Late Sh. Vasdev Koul R/o Vessu, Anantnag, A/p Hno 17/B Lane No 2 Vasuki Vihar Lower Barnai** behind Army qrts Nether Kothian on 09-04-2025 (Wednesday).

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 18-04-2025 (Friday) at Muthi Ghat at 08:30 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Smt. Uma W/o Lt. Lassa Koul - SISTER IN LAW

SONS & DAUGHTERS IN LAW:

Sh. Maharaj Krishan Koul
Smt. Bimla Koul & Sh. Roshan Lal Koul
Smt. Nirmala Koul & Sh. Ramesh Kumar Koul
Smt. Sunita Koul & Sh. Nana Ji Koul

DAUGHTERS & SONS IN LAW:

Smt. Jeeta Bhat W/o Late Sh. Makhan Lal Bhat
Smt. Shanta Koul & Sh. Pran Nath Koul
Smt. Sarla Dhar & Sh. Bhushan Lal Dhar

GRANDSONS & GRANDDAUGHTERS

Ph: 9622217837, 9419878980, 9419874340, 9103839991



Smt Koushalaya Koul

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 Pukhoo Camp Domana Jammu who left us for heavenly abode on 04-04-2025. 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

Nidhi Bhat -Son

Nidika 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)

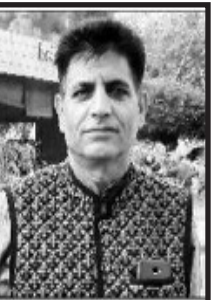
Sh. R.K. Bhat & Smt. Sonia Bhat (Brother & Bhabhi)

Smt. Rubli 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/KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI

With profound grief and deep sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Sat Paul Sharma (Retd Headmaster)** S/o Late Sh. Kartik Ram Sharma R/o 328/11, Shakti Nagar Jammu on Wednesday, 2nd April 2025.

TENTH DAY will be performed on Friday, 11 April 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at our residence.

KRIYA will be performed on Saturday, 12 April 2025 at 11:00 a.m. at our residence.

RASAM PAGRI will be performed on Saturday, 12 April 2025 at 4:00 p.m. at Vashikarma Sabha, Gurah Morth, Bakshi Nagar, Jammu.

Grief Stricken

Smt. Kanta Sharma (Retd Sr Teacher) - Wife

Brother and Bhabhi

Mrs Veena & Mr. Vinod Sharma (Retd Headmaster)

Sons and Daughter-in-law

Mr Sanjeev Sharma

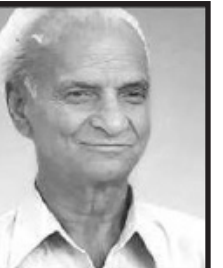
Mr Anil Sharma

Mr Rajeev Sharma and Mrs Rajni Sharma

Smt. Nirmal

Smt. Anju Sharma

Mrs Isha Sharma & Kapil Jamwal - Daughter & Son-in-law



Sh. Sat Paul Sharma

Sisters & Brothers-in-law
Mrs. Shyama & Mr. G R Baru
Mrs. Tripta & Mr. R.L. Sharma

Mob: 941981713, 600540278

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

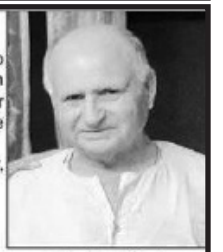
Mrs. Ruby & Mr. Anil Trakroo - Daughter & Son In Law

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 Trikpur, Swarn colony Lane No 01 Near Shiv Temple.

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

ASSEMBLY will be held at Muthi Ghat at 9.00 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN (BROTHER & SISTERS)

B.L Bhan -Husband

Ashok Bhan

Kukoo Ji Bhan & Rajni Bhan

Ramesh Salman & Bharti Salman

Son & Daughter in Law

Sameer Bhan & Sheenu Bhan

Daughter & Son in Law

Shivani Bhan & Anni Razdan



SMT VEENA BHAN

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

10TH DAY KRIYA KARAM

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

The **10th Day** will be performed at Shree Gaur Shanker Mandir (Kashmiri temple) New Palam Vihar Gurugram and Assembly will be at our residence at 11:00 AM on 11-04-2025.

GRIEF STRICKEN :

Kishni Jee - Wife

(Son & Daughter in law)

Roop Krishan Raina & Reena Tickoo

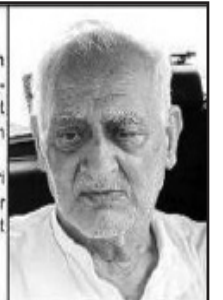
(Son-in-law & Daughter)

Vijay Jee Pandita & Sujata Pandita

Anmol, Astha, Bhulbui & Naina (Grand Children)

& SAMAST RAINA/PANDITA/TICKOO PARIVAR

MOB : 9540339361/ 956089361/ 9811236299



Sh Pushkar Nath Raina

TENTH DAY

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

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

Grief Stricken

Smt. & Sh. Maharaj Krishan Pandita

Sh. Ramesh Pandita

Smt. & Sh. Sudesh Krishan Pand

DSS calls for urgent intervention amid escalating terror threat in Kathua



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 10: The Dogra Sadar Sabha (DSS) J&K sounded the alarm over the spiraling security situation in the upper reaches of Kathua district, where a rising tide of terrorism has left both the civilian population and security forces reeling. The executive body of the DSS, led by its President Th. Gulchain Singh Charak, in a press conference, expressed deep concern and issued a clarion call for immediate government intervention to halt the crisis.

The DSS highlighted a disturbing pattern of terrorist activity that has intensified significantly since early 2024, particularly in areas such as Chochru Gala, Badnota, Hiranagar, Chatargala-Bani, Gandoh, Dhannu Parole, Kohag, and

Malhar. The situation has grown increasingly grave in recent weeks, with violent encounters erupting in Sanyal Forest and Jakhole Village, and a confirmed militant presence reported in Juthana.

Of grave concern are the recent incidents that have resulted in tragic loss of life.

Five army personnel were killed in Badhota village, while two police officers lost their lives in encounters at Chochrugala and Dhannu Parole. Civilians too have not been spared: two individuals were brutally murdered in Kohag Village, their bodies later discovered in Bathri nallah, some 10 kilometers away. Equally horrifying was the killing of three guests from a wedding procession in Marhoon village, whose remains were located by drones

in the Malhar region.

"These are not isolated events," asserted Th. Gulchain Singh Charak, "but a sustained and strategic campaign of terror, actively supported across the border." He emphasized that intelligence consistently indicates Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) is facilitating the infiltration of heavily armed militants, many of whom appear to possess the skills and equipment resembling that of Pakistan's elite SSG commandos.

Beyond the immediate loss of life, the DSS highlighted the humanitarian fallout of these attacks. Local economies have stagnated, educational institutions are facing frequent disruptions, and fear looms large over entire communities. The psychological toll on residents—especially children and the

elderly—has been devastating.

In response, the DSS presented a six-point action plan aimed at restoring peace and protecting the lives and livelihoods of Kathua's residents.

First, they called for specialized counter-terror operations tailored to the region's mountainous terrain, including the deployment of Heliborne Reaction Teams, drone surveillance, and the revival of Village Defense Groups (VDGs) with modern capabilities. Second, they urged the reactivation of Namberdars and Chowkidars—grassroots intelligence agents who historically served as the eyes and ears of rural administration. Their systematic weakening, DSS noted, has eroded local human intelligence networks at a time when they are most urgently needed.

Third, DSS emphasized the need for facilitating civilian protection through fast-tracked arms license renewals and better coordination between villagers and security forces. Fourth, they advocated for the strengthening of human intelligence (HUMINT) networks to identify and neutralize Over-Ground Workers (OGWs) aiding the terrorists. Fifth, the Sabha called

for advanced rapid response units specially trained for high-altitude counter-terror operations. Finally, they urged the government to launch strong diplomatic efforts to expose Pakistan's hand in cross-border terrorism through both international forums and bilateral dialogues.

"The courage of Kathua's residents is truly commendable," Charak said, "but no civilian population can be expected to endure such sustained trauma indefinitely. The protection of citizens is the foremost responsibility of any government."

The press conference was attended by several prominent DSS figures, including Col. Karan Singh Jamwal (Vice President), Adv. H.C. Jalmeria (General Secretary), G.A. Khawaja (Addl. General Secretary), Adv. Gambhir Dev Singh Charak (In-charge Youth Wing), Sr. Arvinder Singh (In-charge Cultural Cell), Prof. Anita Bloria (In-

charge Ladies Wing), Col. Dr. V.K. Sahi (Co-Convener Press Cell), Brig. Dr. Vijay Sagar (In-charge Media Cell) among others.

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E-Auction Notice
The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager(FS, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Firozpur Division.

Catalogue No.	Auction Start	Name of Work
EAFZR-SLR25-56	29/04/2025 at 11:00 Hrs.	Allotment of contract for leasing of parcel space in Train No./SLR compartment: 11906/R1, 12550/F1, 14610/F1, 15015/F1, 11906/F1, 14504/R1, 12426/F1, 16032/F1, 14682/F1 & 11078/F1.

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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION REASI
Mail ID:- xenpwdrandreasi@gmail.com
CORRIGENDUM
Subject:- 1. CONSTRUCTION OF DOUBLE STOREY BUILDING OF 04 NO'S CLASS ROOMS OF SIZE 22'X18" WITH 7' WIDE VERENDHA AT GOVT HIGH SCHOOL KOTLA, ZONE POUNI UNDER CAPEX BUDGET (UT SECTOR) FOR THE YEAR 2024-25.
2. CONSTRUCTION OF TOE WALL AND R/WALL AT BABA BALAK NATH TEMPLE AT KALIKA MANDIR REASI PART-1.
3. MAINTENANCE OF LINK ROAD FROM NEELA DUB TO SADHEEN ROAD TO RASHID MOHALLA (ST BASTI) PANCHAYAT KOTHIAN BLOCK POUNI KM 1ST RD 0-500.
Reference:- 1. This office e-NIT No. 53 of 2024-25 Dated 24-02-2025
2. This office e-NIT No. 54 of 2024-25 Dated 06-03-2025
3. This office e-NIT No. 56 of 2024-25 Dated 07-03-2025
Due to technical reason & poor response the tenders invited vide this office e-NIT given in the reference are hereby cancelled till further order:-
DIP/J-195/25
No:- 145-49
Dated: 08/04/2025
SD/-
(Er. Bhopinder Kumar Banotra)
Executive Engineer
PWD(R&B) Division
Reasi.

Rakesh Gupta demands free & fair CCI Elections, alleges nexus to rig polls again

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 10: Former President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) Jammu, Rakesh Gupta, along with his team of contestants for the upcoming May 11 elections, issued a strong demand for free and fair polls.

Flanked by prominent members including Deepak Aggarwal, Sunil Gupta, Rahul Mahajan, Ashu Gupta, and Manik Gupta, Gupta, while addressing a press conference here on Thursday, reiterated concerns over alleged electoral malpractices that marred the CCI elections in April 2023.

He referred to what he described as "irrefutable evidence" of electoral rigging in the 2023 elections—pointing to the shutting down of CCTV cameras, use of markers and different pens to cast votes, selection of



relatives and close associates as polling and counting agents, and unauthorized access by influential members into the polling area, in direct violation of the CCI constitution.

Gupta expressed deep dismay over the re-nomination of the same "biased and tainted" Election President for the 2025 elections, accusing a so-called executive meeting—which he claims was never legally constituted—of facilitating the move to rig the polls

once again.

In a sharp rebuke to the outgoing CCI President Arun Gupta, he condemned the latter's alleged statement that members disagreeing with the nomination should leave the Chamber. "This attitude is both unconstitutional and undemocratic," said Gupta.

He affirmed that formal complaints have been submitted to the Registrar of Societies, highlighting these irregularities. A notice has already been served

to CCI Jammu by the Registrar's office on April 7, 2025, seeking a response by April 11, 2025, failing which action will be initiated as per the Societies Act.

Expressing full faith in the law, Rakesh Gupta appealed to the Divisional and District Administration to ensure the sanctity of the electoral process is upheld. "CCI elections must be transparent, just, and democratic for the credibility of the institution to be restored," he concluded.

Derogatory comments on Hindus will not be tolerated, apologize publicly: Shiv Sena asks AAP MLA

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 10: Aam Aadmi Party MLA Mehraj Malik should apologize for his alleged and objectionable comments on Hindus otherwise will be welcomed with shoes in Shiv Sena style, stated by Manish Sahni, President Shiv Sena UBT Jammu-Kashmir unit.

In a press conference held today at the party's state central office, state chief Manish Sahni said that those who made the alleged remarks on Hindus will be welcomed with shoes. Malik's statement is not only insulting but also completely false, shameful and hurts the

religious sentiments of crores of Hindus. It is a direct attack on our religion, culture and identity.

How can an elected public representative, who has taken an oath to serve all religions, make such hateful and communal remarks? Such words not only reflect his deep hatred and bias towards the Hindu community, but also create an atmosphere of tension and disrespect in the society, Sahni said.

The 'Tilak/Tikka' on our forehead is a symbol of devotion and purity. It is a part of our daily religious life. Linking it with alcohol and wrong deeds is not only derog-



atory but a direct insult to our religion, Sahni added.

Sahni said that Malik's alleged remarks deserve to be thrashed and Shiv Sainiks know very well how to bring

such leaders to the right path. He has demanded the Speaker to cancel the membership of Mehraj Malik and strict legal action through a written complaint to SSP Jammu.

RUNNING OF SUMMER SPECIAL EXPRESS TRAINS

For the convenience of Rail Passengers, Railways have decided to run the following Summer Special Express Trains as per schedule given below:-

04088/04087 New Delhi - Patna Jn. - New Delhi					
Reserved Superfast Special Express Train					
Train No. 04088					
Arr.	Dep.	STATIONS		Arr.	Dep.
—	15:50	New Delhi		04:40	—
08:40	—	Patna Jn.		—	12:00

Days of Run: 04088 Ex New Delhi on 20.04.2025 to 10.07.2025 (Daily) and 04087 Ex Patna Jn. on 21.04.2025 to 11.07.2025 (Daily). Accommodation: AC 3 Tier & General. Stoppages: Govindpur, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara & Danapur Stations.

04081/04082 New Delhi - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi					
Katra - New Delhi Reserved Special Express Train					
Train No. 04081					
Arr.	Dep.	STATIONS		Arr.	Dep.
—	23:45	New Delhi		09:30	—
11:40	—	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra		—	21:20

Days of Run: 04081 Ex New Delhi on 21.04.2025 to 12.07.2025 (Monday, Wednesday & Saturday) and 04082 Ex Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra on 22.04.2025 to 13.07.2025 (Tuesday, Thursday & Sunday). Accommodation: AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General. Stoppages: Sonapat, Panipat, Karnal, Kurukshetra Jn., Ambala Cantt., Chandani Kalan, Jalandhar Cantt., Pathankot Cantt., Jammu Tawi & Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan Stations.

04024/04023 Delhi Jn. - Varanasi Jn. - Delhi Jn.					
Reserved Superfast Festival Special Express Train					
Train No. 04024					
Arr.	Dep.	STATIONS		Arr.	Dep.
—	19:30	Delhi Jn.		08:50	—
09:45	—	Varanasi Jn.		—	18:35

Days of Run: 04024 Ex Delhi Jn. on 21.04.2025 to 10.07.2025 (Monday, Thursday & Saturday) and 04023 Ex Varanasi Jn. on 22.04.2025 to 11.07.2025 (Tuesday, Friday & Sunday). Accommodation: Sleeper & General. Stoppages: Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Lucknow, Rae Bareilly Jn. & Maa Belha Devi Dham Stations.

04064/04063 New Delhi - Gaya Jn. - New Delhi					
Reserved Superfast Special Express Train					
Train No. 04064					
Arr.	Dep.	STATIONS		Arr.	Dep.
—	09:30	New Delhi		23:35	—
01:50	—	Gaya Jn.		—	06:40

Days of Run: 04064 Ex New Delhi on 21.04.2025 to 10.07.2025 (Monday & Thursday) and 04063 Ex Gaya Jn. on 22.04.2025 to 11.07.2025 (Tuesday & Friday). Accommodation: AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General. Stoppages: Govindpur, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Bhabua Road, Sasaram & Delhi-on-Sone Stations.

04066/04065 New Delhi - Saharsa Jn. - New Delhi					
Reserved Special Express Train					
Train No. 04066					
Arr.	Dep.	STATIONS		Arr.	Dep.
—	21:35	New Delhi		23:30	—
22:00	—	Saharsa Jn.		—	23:55

Days of Run: 04066 Ex New Delhi on 21.04.2025 to 10.07.2025 (Thursday & Monday) and 04065 Ex Saharsa Jn. on 22.04.2025 to 11.07.2025 (Friday & Tuesday). Accommodation: AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General. Stoppages: Govindpur, Prayagraj Jn., Mirzapur, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra Jn., Sonpur, Hajipur Jn., Muzaffarpur Jn., Samastipur Jn., Dalsingh Sarai, Barauni Jn., Begusarai, Khagaria Jn. & Mairi Jn. Stations.

04096/04095 Anand Vihar (T) - Jaynagar - Anand Vihar (T) Reserved Special Express Train					
Train No. 04096					
Arr.	Dep.	STATIONS		Arr.	Dep.
—	05:00	Anand Vihar (T)		08:10	—
05:20	—	Jaynagar		—	07:30

Days of Run: 04096 Ex Anand Vihar (T) on 21.04.2025 to 10.07.2025 (Monday & Thursday) and 04095 Ex Jaynagar on 22.04.2025 to 11.07.2025 (Tuesday & Friday). Accommodation: Sleeper & General. Stoppages: Govindpur, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra, Hajipur Jn., Muzaffarpur Jn., Samastipur Jn., Darbhanga Jn. & Madhubani Stations.

For any kind of information & detailed time-table etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

04518/04517 Bhatinda Jn. - Varanasi Jn. - Bhatinda Jn. Reserved Special Express Train					
Train No. 04518					
Arr.	Dep.	STATIONS		Arr.	Dep.
—	20:50	Bhatinda Jn.		17:00	—
17:30	—	Varanasi Jn.		—	20:40

Days of Run: 04518 Ex Bhatinda Jn. on 21.04.2025 to 11.07.2025 (Monday & Friday) and 04517 Ex Varanasi Jn. on 22.04.2025 to 12.07.2025 (Tuesday & Saturday). Accommodation: Sleeper & General. Stoppages: Rampura Phul, Barauni, Dhuri, Palasia, Rajpura, Ambala Cantt., Yamunanagar Jagadhri, Saharanpur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow & Maa Belha Devi Dham Prayagraj Stations.

04209/04210 Lucknow Jn. - Chandigarh - Lucknow Jn. Reserved Superfast Special Train					
Train No. 04209					
Arr.	Dep.	STATIONS		Arr.	Dep.
—	20:45	Lucknow Jn.		21:30	—
07:55	—	Chandigarh		—	10:20

Days of Run: 04209 Ex Lucknow Jn. on 21.04.2025 to 09.07.2025 (Monday, Wednesday & Friday) and 04210 Ex Chandigarh on 22.04.2025 to 10.07.2025 (Tuesday & Saturday). Accommodation: First class Second AC, AC 2 Tier, Sleeper & General. Stoppages: Shahjahanpur, Bareilly, Moradabad, Saharanpur, Yamunanagar Jagadhri & Ambala Cantt. Jn. Stations.

05636/05635 Guwahati - Sri Ganganagar Jn. - Guwahati Summer Special Train					
Train No. 05636					
Arr.	Dep.	STATIONS		Arr.	Dep.
—	18:15	Guwahati		00:25	—
03:30	—	Sri Ganganagar Jn.		—	13:20

Days of Run: 05636 Ex Guwahati on 21.05.2025 to 25.06.2025 (every Wednesday) and 05635 Ex Sri Ganganagar Jn. on 25.05.2025 to 29.06.2025 (every Sunday). Accommodation: General. Stoppages: Kamakhya, Goalpara Town, New Bongaigaon, Kokrajhar, Alipurdia Jn., Dalgaoon, New Jalpaiguri, Kishanganj, Kathiar Jn., Naugachia, Khagaria, Begusarai, Barauni Jn., Samastipur Jn., Muzaffarpur, Hajipur, Chhapra Jn., Siwan, Bhatni Jn., Deoria Sadar, Gorakhpur Jn., Mankapur Jn., Ayodhya Dham Jn., Ayodhya Cantt., Lucknow, Kanpur Central, Mathura Jn., Bharatpur Jn., Bandikui Jn., Gandhinagar Jaipur, Jaipur Jn., Ringas Jn., Sikar Jn., Churu, Sadulpur Jn., Tahsil Bhadra, Nohar, Ellensbadm Hanumangarh Jn. & Sadulshahr Stations.

05742/05741 New Jalpaiguri - Ayodhya Cantt. - New Jalpaiguri Summer Special Train					
Train No. 05742					
Arr.	Dep.	STATIONS		Arr.	Dep.
—	13:40	New Jalpaiguri		09:30	—
09:30	—	Ayodhya Cantt.		—	11:40

Days of Run: 05742 Ex New Jalpaiguri on 18.05.2025 to 29.06.2025 (every Sunday) and 05741 Ex Ayodhya Cantt. on 19.05.2025 to 30.06.2025 (every Monday). Accommodation: General. Stoppages: Aluabari Road, Kishanganj, Barsoi, Kathiar Jn., Naugachia, Khagaria, Begusarai, Barauni, Sahpur Paloree, Hajipur, Chhapra Jn., Siwan, Deoria Sadar, Gorakhpur & Mankapur Jn. Stations.

02525/02526 Kamakhya - Anand Vihar (T) - Kamakhya Summer Special Train					
Train No. 02525					
Arr.	Dep.	STATIONS		Arr.	Dep.
—	22:45	Kamakhya		03:40	—
08:50	—	Anand Vihar (T)		—	17:20

Days of Run: 02525 Ex Kamakhya on 11.04.2025 to 25.04.2025 (every Friday) and 02526 Ex Anand Vihar (T) on 13.04.2025 to 27.04.2025 (every Sunday). Accommodation: 1st AC, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General. Stoppages: Goalpara Town, Abhayapuri Asam, Bilsapara, Gaupur, Golakganj Tufanganj, New Coochbehar, New Jalpaiguri, Kishanganj, Barsoi, Kathiar, Naugachia, Khagaria, Begusarai, Barauni, Hajipur, Patliputra, Danapur, Ara, Buxar, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Prayagraj, Govindpur, Tundi & Aligarh Jn. Stations.

01705/01706 Jabalpur Jn. - Haridwar - Jabalpur Jn. Summer Express Special Train					
Train No. 01705					
Arr.	Dep.	STATIONS		Arr.	Dep.
—	15:45	Jabalpur Jn.		17:50	—
13:50	—	Haridwar		—	17:40

Days of Run: 01705 Ex Jabalpur Jn. on 16.04.2025 to 25.06.2025 (every Wednesday) and 01706 Ex Haridwar on 17.04.2025 to 26.06.2025 (every Thursday). Accommodation: 1st AC, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General. Stoppages: Katni Murwara, Damoh, Saugor, Lalitpur, Virangana Lakshmbai Jhansi Jn., Gwalior Jn., Agra Cantt. Jn., Aligarh Jn., Khurja Jn., Hapur, Meerut City & Roorkee Stations.

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EDITORIAL

Modernization of CADWM

Water is the soul of agriculture, and agriculture is the heartbeat of rural India. With over half of the country’s population depending on farming for their livelihood, the efficient management of irrigation systems is essential for economic stability, food security, and social equity. The modernization of Command Area Development and Water Management (CADWM) is a crucial step toward addressing the challenges of inefficient irrigation, water scarcity, and outdated infrastructure. It is not merely about upgrading technology—it is about transforming the way water is managed, delivered, and used across agricultural landscapes.

The concept of Command Area Development was introduced in India during the 1970s to bridge the glaring gap between irrigation potential created and actual utilization. Large irrigation projects were built, but much of the water failed to reach the intended fields due to poor canal systems, lack of maintenance, and absence of farmer involvement. Over time, this led to wastage of water, under-utilization of infrastructure, water-logging, and uneven distribution among farmers. This inefficiency has now become unacceptable in a time when water resources are becoming increasingly scarce and climate unpredictability is on the rise.

Modernization of CADWM addresses these shortcomings with a holistic approach. One of the first pillars of this modernization is the integration of advanced irrigation technologies such as drip and sprinkler systems. These methods deliver water directly to the roots of crops, reducing evaporation and runoff, and improving water-use efficiency significantly. Especially in water-stressed regions, such technologies can help save every drop and grow more with less.

Another transformative step is the automation of irrigation systems. Sensors, telemetry, and remote-controlled gates allow real-time data collection and regulation of water flow through canals and distribution networks. Combined with remote sensing and GIS mapping, these tools give irrigation authorities and farmers a clear picture of water distribution, crop health, and soil moisture levels—allowing more precise and timely decision-making.

An essential human element in the modernization effort is the active participation of farmers through Water User Associations (WUAs). These associations empower local farmers to manage water distribution, resolve conflicts, and maintain the infrastructure in their respective command areas. By involving the end users directly, transparency, equity, and efficiency can be vastly improved. This participatory model ensures that modernization is not just top-down but also community-led and sustainable.

Capacity-building programmes are equally important in this new model. Farmers and field staff must be trained in water conservation, use of new irrigation systems, and crop-water management practices. Education helps bridge the knowledge gap and builds a foundation for long-term behavioral change toward sustainable water use.

In addition, digital tools and mobile applications are being integrated into CADWM projects to assist in irrigation scheduling, weather forecasting, and information dissemination. These platforms allow farmers to access critical data on-the-go, empowering them to make informed choices that increase crop yield and reduce input costs. Such innovations represent the fusion of agriculture with modern digital technology—a key to transforming rural economies.

Soil health and moisture retention are also central to efficient water use. On-farm development measures like laser land leveling, bunding, mulching, and organic inputs are being promoted as part of CADWM modernization. These practices reduce runoff, prevent erosion, and help soils retain water longer—making irrigation more effective even with less water.

From a policy perspective, modernization requires a supportive ecosystem. Reforms in irrigation policies, such as incentivizing efficient water use, encouraging adoption of micro-irrigation systems, and rational pricing of water, are necessary to drive the change forward. In addition, public-private partnerships can bring in innovation, investment, and expertise, making the system more robust and adaptable.

The benefits of modernized CADWM are many. It enhances water-use efficiency, ensures equitable distribution of water, improves crop productivity, and reduces the risk of waterlogging and soil salinity. Farmers—especially those at the tail ends of canals—get better access to water, leading to more inclusive growth. Overall, it builds climate resilience, empowers rural communities, and contributes to national food security.

However, challenges remain. Institutional inertia, lack of technical knowledge, fragmented landholdings, and limited financial resources can hinder progress. To overcome these hurdles, there must be strong political will, coordinated action across departments, and continuous monitoring of outcomes.

Makeup Tips To Illuminate Your Look this Spring Look

By: Shahnaz Husain

Spring is here and we are ready to play with a little more colour in our makeup routines. As the chill of winter fades and the warmth of spring approaches, it’s a new season in full bloom.

With its longer sunlit days and vivid blooming flowers, a freshness hangs in the air which lightens up your mood.

Spring combines warmth with brightness in tune with rays of sunshine and blossoming nature.

Think of spring, and you immediately think of fresh florals and vibrant blooms. It’s all about embracing color in new and exciting ways .

Just like the blooming flowers, your beauty products need a seasonal update.

Spring is a great time to refresh and revive your makeup style and try new trends and looks that you have been eyeing for a long time.

1----Playful Eyes-----

It’s all about the eyes this spring. As soon as the sun comes out, it’s time to switch up makeup routine, especially when it comes to eyes.

Eye makeup deserves special attention , as our eyes remain our most expressive feature. Instead of using the typical black eyeliner/black liner, you must try slightly bold, colored liner to add a pop of color to the look.

Spring is favorite time to try all those colorful eye makeup looks and pick warm berries and nude eyeshadow.

Give darker, dramatic color palettes a miss and instead opt for playful combinations of textures that make your eyes pop.

“Primer is a must. Apply a tiny amount all over the lid, going up to the brow bone and allow it to dry naturally

It will prevent your eye makeup from creasing, feathering, smearing and looking like an unmade bed.

Apply a base color to the lids, preferably an eyeshadow that is close to your skin tone.

Take the Wet/Dry Eye Brush again and apply eyeshadow on the lid, taking it into the crease area.

Now, using the same blending brush, smooth out the edges by blending with eyeshadow.

Add some color by applying eyeliner. Take Eye Liner Pencil directly onto the upper lash lines. Next, smooth out the lines using the Eye Brush and wing the liner out.

Finish the eye look with some mascara. For dramatic lashes, apply 3 to 4 coats of Mascara.

Eye makeup in spring should reflect the season’s playful and light-hearted spirit. 2---Hair Color and Style

It’s time to start thinking about the best spring hair colors makeover . Give one of the trendy spring and summer hair colors from a smokin’ hot fiery red to a cool silvery blonde try this season.

Warmer weather is a good reason to consider a hair refresh.

A refresh can be a daring new color or a dramatic new cut , but it can also be a subtle enhancement to what you’re already working with—think adding a little fullness with extensions or playing with new hair accessories.

. Light hair colors with soft undertones, such as honey blonde or light auburn, can complement your spring palette. Hairstyles that embody the season’s breezy and carefree nature, like loose waves or casual braids, can add to the overall effect, creating a look that is both stylish and effortless.

This spring season is all about subtle but statement-making color that doesn’t require constant upkeep. That means low-maintenance color in extra eye-catching shades.

Off-black shades, like deep espresso or dark chocolate, provide a softer alternative to true black. These off-black shades retain the depth and richness of black hair while being less dramatic, making them easier to wear for many people. The result is a luxurious, velvety tone that’s just as striking but with a bit more softness and dimension.

Once you’ve achieved your new spring hair color, prevent it from fading by opting for a gentle shampoo and conditioner that has been specifically formulated to keep your color fresh and vivid for longer.

Mild shampoos work by deeply nourishing and protecting the hair shaft to keep your color locked in. It is also a good idea to limit how often you wash your hair because it speeds up color loss—

consider using a dry shampoo from time to time. Before styling, always apply a heat protection spray and lower the temperature of your styling tools, as too much heat can dull your color.

3---Lips-----The skin on the lips is thinner, delicate and sensitive than other parts of the skin. Because there is no sebaceous gland and there are many wrinkles on lips.

Due to these skin properties, it is easier to lose water than other parts of the skin. Severe thirst, dry air, product irritation, and even saliva can cause skin dehydration. And because it is a part of everyday use, such as eating, drinking and talking, it is also a slower on curing once you have a problem.

For most, lip balm is a worthy ally in the fight against chapped lips. But some people can’t take fragrances, flavours and preservatives found in popular balms.

Our lips are not protected from weather onslaught as they can not be covered with clothes, mittens, and toboggans like any other parts of the body.

Since our lips are always exposed to weather conditions and so we have to be extremely sensitive about our daily routine for lip care.

. Chapped lips are not only unsightly, but also a breeding ground for germs that can cause inflammation or a bacterial infection. The good thing is there are plenty of things that you can do to repair your lips and get ready for the warm spring weather.

Some ingredients like Castor seed oil, Shea butter, White petroleum jelly, titanium oxide / zinc oxide, Hemp seed oil, Ceramides and Dimethicone

can help maintain natural hydration level in the lips while ingredients like Camphor, Eucalyptus, Cinnamon, citrus, mint, Lanolin, Menthol, Phenol and Salicylic acid can be especially irritating to lips during spring time . Paperclips, jewelry, and other everyday products made of metal can irritate your already sensitive lips.

if you drink carbonated beverages or coffee instead of water, when you feel thirsty. It can be a source of dryness of your lips. It is advised to avoid carbonated bever-ages as much as you can!

We generally wipe our lips with a napkin after meals and snacks . How-

ever, because lips are very sensitive and fragile parts, applying strong friction will instantly evaporate to moisture and dry lips rapidly. Do not put the tissue directly on the lips, but you should roll the lip balm in your hand and gently wipe it off

When purchasing your lip product, look for ingredients such as shea butter, vitamin E or natural oils that will nourish your skin. Synthetic products will only lead to build-up on your lips that will make the problem worse. Chapstick, sunscreen and mild exfoliant will help you to fight off the effects of the weather. Look for a lip balm that includes an SPF of 30 or higher. (You will also want to use sunscreen on the rest of your face, so don’t forget to get a facial moisturizer with SPF 30 too!)

4---Jewelry-----

If you’re a jewellery fanatic and deep into current trends, you know that every season calls for something a bit different in your jewellery box.

Spring jewellery is all about embracing the beauty of the season. Spring calls for jewelry that is light and delicate, mirroring the gentle beauty of the season.It’s not just the season that’s changing—it’s the ideal moment to give your jewellery collection a little refresh as well .

During spring in India, jewelry trends lean towards light, airy pieces with nature-inspired designs, floral motifs, and pastel gemstones, reflecting the season’s fresh and vibrant energy. Opt for pieces in silver, white gold, or rose gold, which reflect the soft hues of spring. Mixing matching jewellery with out-fits is a trendy fashion game during the spring season. You can also go minimal with simple crystal or charms pendants with chains in rose gold plating to contrast the colourful spring outfits.

Dainty necklaces, thin bangles, and simple earrings with pastel gemstones like rose quartz, aquamarine, or moonstone can add a subtle sparkle that complements the freshness of your spring makeup.

(The author is international fame beauty expert and is called herbal queen of India)

Chains of Caste: Mental Slavery Even After Independence

By: Priyanka Saurabh

Faith makes one drink urine; caste does not even allow one to drink water.

How can people drink Baba’s urine as “prasadam” out of blind devotion, but in the name of caste, water is considered impure if a Dalit touches it? The roots of these problems are hidden in the role of religion, politics, education,, and media. Lack of wisdom in education, silence of media, arbitrariness of religious leaders,, and casteist mentality are pushing the society towards backwardness. This raises the question that if faith can consider a Baba’s urine ‘holy,’ then how can the water of a Dalit be ‘impure’?

India, which is called a country of spirituality and diversity, hides within itself a world of contradictions that sometimes surprises. On the one hand, we talk of science, technology, space,, and artificial intelligence, while on the other hand, medieval thinking is still deeply rooted in the social and cultural layers. In the same society, such scenes are seen where people drink the charanamrit of some Baba,, considering it as ‘amrit,’ and even consume cow urine and cow dung,, calling it medicine; and in the same society, drinking water from the hands of a Dalit person is considered a ‘sin.’ This is the irony that has been exposed with full force by this sharp sentence:”Aastha tak pee paani pila deti hai, caste tak paani nahi peena deti.” This line is not just a satire ut is the identification of two major diseases deeply rooted in Indian society—e is faith drowned in superstition,, and the other is caste discrimination. Both challenge the basic principles of humanity, reasoning,, and equality to some extent.

Faith: The thin line between belief and stupidity

Faith is the spiritual and cultural backbone of any society. It gives a purpose to a person, gives him morality and self-confidence. But when this faith crosses the limits of logic, science,, and human rights and turns into blind faith, it takes a dangerous form. There are many examples in India where religious leaders made their followers do acts like drinking cow urine, consuming feces or declaring themselves as ‘God,’ and people followed them

blindly. News of a baba making people drink his urine in the name of ‘miraculous water’ has also been coming out from time to time. Devotees drink it,, considering ia ‘blessing,’ and when the media raises questions on these incidents, it is accused of insulting religion. What kind of faith is this that forces a person to completely abandon his thinking and conscience? What kind of faith is this that turns those who raise questions into criminals?

Caste: Medieval Thinking in a Modern Society

Now let us talk about the second big social disease—casteism. In India, caste is a structure that determines a person’s social status, occupation, rights,, and even life-death chances on the basis of birth. The Indian Constitution may have outlawed casteism, but its roots are still as deep in the social psyche. Even today, in many parts of the country, Dalits are not allowed to enter temples, there are separate wells or taps for them, their children are made to sit separately in schools, and objects are considered ‘impure’ by their mere touch. Inhuman practices like manual scavenging have not ended even today. There are daily instances when a Dalit youth is killed for loving an upper-caste girl r when their houses are set on fire in a village just because they crossed the ‘limit.’ How tragic it is that the same society that can consider cow urine as medicine considers water impure by the mere touch of a human being.

The roots of the paradox

The roots of this contradiction are hidden nowhere else but in our social, religious, and political structure. In the name of religion, people’s thinking was controlled by using faith as a weapon. Through arbitrary interpretations of religious texts, one class was proved to be ‘superior’ and the other ‘lowly.’ Those who raised questions were declared ‘anti-religion.’

Politics also nourished this system a lot. Castes were converted into vote banks. Hatred was spread in the name of reservation, but no concrete efforts were made to end caste atrocities, nor was any will-power shown. The public was emotionally bound in the name of faith, and scientific thinking was rejected by calling it ‘Western ideology.’

Lack of education and wisdom

Education is the tool that makes society

rational and just. But in India’s education system, the education of logic and human rights is very limited. We teach science to children but do not inculcate a scientific approach in their thinking. We give them moral education but remain silent on questions of casteism and social justice. When a child sees in school that his classmate is being called ‘Chamar’ or ‘Bhangi,’ when the teacher himself asks the caste of the students, then this thinking gets deeply embedded in his consciousness. This same child grows up and discriminates in the same way, and once again the vicious cycle begins.

The hypocrisy of media and society

Media is called the fourth pillar of democracy, but when it comes to casteism or superstition, its attitude is either very superficial or it remains completely silent. It shows the miracles of babas in the name of ‘entertainment’ but ends the matter by running a two-minute report on the murder of a Dalit. It deliberately avoids issues that may anger any ‘particular class.’

The society also chooses sensitivity as per its convenience. The seller of cow urine is called a ‘modern sage,’ but no voice is raised on the death of a laborer cleaning a manhole.

What is the solution?

Expansion of rational education: Schools should include a curriculum based on scientific outlook and social justice. It is important to teach children from childhood that faith does not mean blind faith, and every human being is equal. Strict laws and their implementation: Laws made against caste-based discrimination have to be implemented not just on paper, but also on the ground. Change in society is possible only when the culprits are punished. Responsibility of the media: The media should start honest discussions on this subject. Strong reporting is necessary against Dalit issues, caste injustice, and superstition. Reforms in religious institutions: Religious leaders should give the message of science and social equality to their followers. If there is no change in religion, then there will be no change in society either. Participation of civil society and youth: Social organizations, students, and aware citizens will have to raise their voices together against this system. A movement can be started against casteism

and superstition by making social media a powerful medium.

Have we really become modern?

While India is celebrating its achievement of reaching the moon, a Dalit is beaten to death in a village for entering a temple. While on one hand the government campaign gives the slogan of ‘Clean India,’ on the other hand thousands of sanitation workers die by entering the gutter without protection. And while on one hand people drink Baba’s urine, considering it as ‘prasad,’ at the same time water touched by a Dalit is considered ‘dirty.’ This contradiction forces us to think whether development is limited only to buildings, mmetros and mobile networks, or does it also include thinking, equality, and humanity? The place of faith is important, but if it crushes humanity, then it is of no use. If the caste structure does not give anyone his human rights, then it must be broken. Therefore, the biggest need today is that we recognize this hypocrisy and speak against it. If faith can even make someone drink urine, then the society will have to be made so sensitive and rational that water is not denied in the name of caste. A person should be identified not by his caste but by his deeds and character—this is the real religion, this is the true faith.

Priyanka Saurabh
Research Scholar in Political Science,
Poet, freelance journalist,
and columnist,
Ubba Bhawan, Aryanagar,
Hisar (Haryana)-127045
(Mob.) 7015375570 (Talk + WhatsApp)
Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/PriyankaSaurabh20/>

Interaction-cum-Brainstorming Session on Monastery Security Protocols held at Dharma Centre Choglamsar



Top News Report

LEH, Apr 10: An Interaction-cum-Brainstorming Session with the newly appointed security personnel engaged for the protection of monasteries in Leh district was held today at the Dharma Centre, Choglamsar.

Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson, attended the session as the chief guest.

The initiative is part of LAHDC Leh's ongoing efforts to safeguard the cultural and spiritual heritage of Ladakh. Sixteen major monasteries across the district have been identified for enhanced security,

with trained personnel deployed and CCTV surveillance being introduced.

CEC Adv. Tashi Gyalson, in his address, underlined the need to preserve Ladakh's monastic institutions as living heritage sites. "Monasteries house not only spiritual traditions but also invaluable cultural and historical assets.

Ensuring their safety is a collective responsibility," he said.

He added that a systematic framework has been laid out, including the deployment of trained guards, installation of CCTV systems, and coordination with the district police. He

also mentioned that uniforms for the security personnel will be provided for both summer and winter seasons.

"The cooperation extended by the district administration led by DC/CEO Santosh Sukhadeve and the concerned officials has made this initiative possible. Monasteries must also stay vigilant and coordinate with the deployed teams to strengthen the security protocol," he added.

The CEC expressed gratitude to all involved and reaffirmed the Council's continued commitment to preserving Ladakh's sacred institutions.

CEC Adv. Tashi

Gyalson personally felicitated the newly appointed security personnel and handed over their appointment letters during the session, marking the formal commencement of their duties.

Executive Councilor Stanzin Chosphele extended his gratitude to the CEC for prioritising the safety of monasteries and taking tangible steps to address the issue.

He congratulated the newly appointed security personnel and emphasised the need for close coordination among all stakeholders. He appreciated the support of religious organisations and underlined the role of teamwork in sustaining such initiatives.

General Secretary of LBA, Dr. Ishey Namgyal, said timely action had helped prevent thefts and other risks, and thanked the CEC for prioritising monastery security, which has also created local employment opportunities.

CPO Tsewang Gyalson; President of the Ladakh Gonpa Association, Gyen Tsering Angdus; Deputy Secretary, Culture, Tsewang Paljor; Additional SP Leh, Regzin Sangdup also addressed the gathering, congratulated the security personnel, and expressed their gratitude to the LAHDC for extending their support.

Other dignitaries present at the session included Executive Councilor Stanzin Chosphele; Chief Planning Officer, Leh, Tsewang Gyalson; President of the Ladakh Gonpa Association, Gyen Tsering Angdus; General Secretary, LBA, Dr. Ishey Namgyal; Deputy Secretary, Culture Department, Tsewang Paljor; LBA Women's Wing President, Kunzes Dolma Jawo ; Vice President LBA Youth Wing ; LBA chief coordinator Tsering Stanzin; Additional SP Leh, Regzin Sangdup; Lama uchos of 16 major monasteries; Nambardar of concerned villages and the engaged security personnel.

GDC R S Pura participates in Foundation Day of Bhartiya Yoga Sansthan



Top News Report

R S PURA, Apr 10: NSS and NCC units of GDC R. S. Pura participated in the Foundation Day celebrations of Bhartiya Yoga Sansthan, held on April 10, 2025, under the able guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Preetpal Kour, Principal of the college. The event marks an important occasion for the promotion of yoga and well-being.

The event, which took place at the organization, saw enthusiastic participation from NSS Volunteers, NCC Cadets, local community members, dignitaries, and yoga practitioners. The Foundation Day was an opportunity for Bhartiya Yoga Sansthan to celebrate its contributions towards spreading

the practice of yoga across the country and fostering physical and mental health in communities.

R. S. Pura's delegation, which was led by local community leaders, expressed strong support for the organization's mission and emphasized the importance of yoga in today's fast-paced world. The celebration also featured performances of traditional yoga postures and wellness seminars conducted by renowned yoga experts. Further the event also provided a platform for individuals to engage in discussions about the benefits of yoga, with a focus on its role in enhancing physical health, reducing stress, and promoting mental peace.

Local participants

were encouraged to embrace yoga as part of their daily routines for a balanced and healthy lifestyle. "We are proud to stand alongside Bhartiya Yoga Sansthan in its pursuit to enrich lives through yoga," said Principal GDC R. S. Pura.

"Our region is deeply committed to promoting well-being, and events like these help strengthen the community's collective health. We look forward to more such collaborations in the future, she added. The event was coordinated by Surinder Gupta, Jila Parmukh, Bhartiya Yoga Sansthan and the NSS volunteers and NCC cadets of the college participated in the event under the supervision of Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch, HOD Dogri.

Lt Governor Ladakh holds meeting to discuss promotion of Ladakhi pashmina wool, its products



Top News Report

LEH, Apr 10: The Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) held a meeting with concerned officials and stakeholders at the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat to discuss the promotion of pashmina wool and products made of pashmina wool.

At the outset, the LG emphasised the promotion of pashmina in the Changthang area and the need to address all issues arising at every step, from the rearing of pashmina goats,

shearing and dehairing of wool up to the sale of pashmina wool-made products in the market. He stated that pashmina goat herders must get full benefits from pashmina practices and asked the concerned officials to provide relevant training to those who can help promote pashmina in Ladakh.

It was informed in the meeting that around 45 metric tons of raw pashmina wool is produced annually, out of which 9 metric tons of fine dehaired wool is obtained after the dehairing process. It

was also informed that Ladakhi pashmina, which recently got the GI tagging, is among the finest pashmina wool in the world at 12 microns.

There were deliberations on the need for standard operating procedure (SOP) to make dehairing plant sustainable, the need to give impetus to use fine pashmina wool in Ladakh itself after the required value addition, assisting self-help groups (SHGs)/societies and procuring equipment/machineries for them, the need to tackle operation and maintenance (O&M) issues of Common Facilitation Centres (CFC) and the establishment of yarn banks.

There was consensus among the attendees to make Ladakh's pashmina a brand.

Principal Secretary Sanjeev Khirwar, highlighted the need to focus on marketing and not just on production and to teach the younger generation about the importance of marketing and branding pashmina through capacity-building training to keep them engaged in this field.

The LG asked the concerned officials to identify stakeholders at different stages, provide relevant training and equipment/machines, and coordinate with them to promote pashmina.

He also asked Principal Secretary Sanjeev Khirwar to prepare a flow chart with a list of responsibilities at different stages of refining and making products out of pashmina wool.

He also highlighted the need to increase the number of pashmina goats in Ladakh and the steps required to keep the younger generation engaged in this field.

Chief Secretary, Dr Pawan Kotwal, Principal Secretary, Sanjeev Khirwar, I

Commissioner/Secretary to the LG, Dr L Franklin, Deputy Commissioner, Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve, Director, Industries and Commerce, Mohd Ashraf Bhat, President, All Changthang Pashmina Growers Marketing Cooperative Society (ACPGCMS), Lonpo Dorje; Secretary, ACPGCMS, Thinles Nurboo and other government officials were present in the meeting.

Junior Assistant aspirants from Kargil call on LG Brig Mishra

Top News Report

LEH, Apr 10: A delegation of aspirants for the post of Junior Assistant called on the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), to express their concerns regarding delays in implementing the Hon'ble High Court's order on the matter of appointments by the LAHD-SSRB Kargil.

Chief Secretary Dr. Pawan Kotwal, Commissioner/Secretary to the LG Dr. L Franklin, and Additional Secretary Law Shashi Kant Bhagat were present during the meeting.

The aspirants highlighted the issue about the 96 Junior Assistant posts advertised by LAHD-SSRB Kargil in 2024. Out of these, only 66 posts were filled through direct recruitment,



while 30 were filled through promotion, which they asserted was in violation of the direct recruitment quota.

This discrepancy was legally challenged by the aspirants in the High Court and the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), resulting in a favourable ruling for them.

During their interaction, the aspirants requested the LG's intervention to ensure the swift implementation,

tion of the court's order. They emphasised the need for timely action to resolve the matter in accordance with the judicial directives.

In response, the LG assured the delegation of his commitment to ensuring that the Court's directives are duly implemented. Furthermore, he advised the aspirants to meet with the Deputy Commissioner of Kargil for further discussions and follow-up on the issue.

Councillor Chushul-led delegation from Phobrang calls on LG Brig Mishra

Top News Report

LEH, Apr 10: A delegation from Phobrang led by Councillor, Chushul, Konchok Stanzin called on the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), at the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat. Executive Councilor, LAHDC Leh, Tashi Namgyal Yakzee; Chief Secretary, Dr Pawan Kotwal; Commissioner/Secretary, Dr Vasanthakumar N, Commissioner/Secretary to the LG, Dr L Franklin, Additional Secretary, Law and Justice, Shashikant Bhagat and Deputy Commissioner Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve, were present in the meeting.

Councillor Konchok Stanzin apprised the



LG of commercial properties established by residents of Lukung, Phobrang and Yurgo on the banks of Pangong Lake on the land provided by LAHDC Leh to around 110 families after their commercial properties were taken down in 2018.

He requested the LG's intervention in keeping the area out while conducting the rationalising boundaries exercise of Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary, as the livelihood of the people of all these villages is dependent on it.

The LG stated that the matter can't be raised in the Wildlife Board meeting due to the lack of proper documentation regarding the distribution of the land.

Delegation of LAHDC Leh Councillors calls on LG Brig Mishra

Top News Report

LEH, Apr 10: A delegation comprising Hon'ble Councillors from LAHDC Leh led by Councilor, Lamayuru, Dr Morup Dorjay, called on the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), at the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat. Chief Secretary, Dr Pawan Kotwal, Commissioner/Secretary to the LG, Dr L Franklin, Additional Secretary, Law and Justice, Shashikant Bhagat; Director, Finance, Dr Safdar Ali, were present in the meeting.

Dr Morup Dorjay apprised the LG of the issues faced by the people of Ladakh in availing loan benefits from J&K and Ladakh Finance Corporation

due to the alleged malpractices and the accumulated loss faced by the Corporation.

The delegates requested the LG to bifurcate J&K and Ladakh Finance Corporation into separate J&K Finance Corporation and Ladakh Finance Corporation for better transparency and better distribution of loans among the beneficiaries from Ladakh.

The delegates also raised the issues faced by the people in remote villages due to the delay in making BSNL mobile towers functional in their constituencies.

It was informed in the meeting that post-abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35-A, after which the J&K Reorganisation Act 2019 came into being, it was mutually decided between



the two governments of UT Ladakh and J&K to jointly operate J&K Finance Corporation by rechristening it J&K and Ladakh Finance Corporation. It was also informed that the move to bifurcate J&K and Ladakh Finance Corporation into separate Finance Corporations of J&K and Ladakh would need an amendment in Parliament. It was

further informed in the meeting that the Sindhu Infrastructure Development Corporation (SIDCO) has taken over the functions of the J&K SC, ST, OBC Development Corporation and other related entities, including the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) and National Backward Classes Finance and

Development Corporation (NBCFDC) and loans would soon be disbursed to beneficiaries.

The LG assured to take up the matter with the Ministry of Home Affairs. Regarding the BSNL mobile tower issue, the LG assured that necessary measures would be taken and instructions passed to BSNL officials to make the towers functional at the earliest.

Pratik Gandhi, who will be seen in the film Phule, wishes to surprise his audience with each outing

For a cause that Jyotirao Phule championed almost 200 years ago, we are still running a campaign in 2025 — Beti Padhao. The man who challenged cast and gender bias in society, and put a thrust on women's education in India, is coming alive on big screens now. And filling this big man's shoes is none other than brilliant actor Pratik Gandhi!

With an impressive body of work in theatre and films, Pratik finds the film Phule a story relevant to the current times. With Anant Mahadevan on the director's seat, this film highlights the journey of Jyotirao Phule and Savitribai Phule, who championed equality and education in India. "While we had all read about Mahatma Phule in school, getting the script from director Anant Mahadevan opened up lots of hidden truths for me," Pratik shares. He recalled how Satyashodhak Samaj (Society of Seekers of Truth) people came to his school to raise awareness. And how a society that was established by Phule back in 1873 continued to spread awareness for so many years. "The script became my source material and shooting in Satara was a great experience, especially as I had heard many stories from people there."

Interestingly, Pratik is also a part of the series Mahatma Gandhi, where he essays the titular role. "Getting back to



work with Hansal Mehta is like coming home; with him work doesn't feel like work. Gandhi is a big project and we are excited to bring it to people."

Stage presence

From a theatre background, Scam established Pratik's mettle as an actor. Despite having a number of film offers back-to-back, he has kept in touch with the stage. "I still try to do one play a month. During outdoor shoots, if there is an auditorium I like to take my plays there." It's only on stage that he truly values being an actor. "When my audience gives me the reaction that I am looking for, it feels like true magic. Each time, every time, that is my biggest high."

Now that he has couple films old does direction cross his mind? "I truly want it, but still have to get a grip on technical aspects.

When I see actors like Kunal Khemu doing a wonderful job as a director, the hunger to get behind the camera increases in me," says Pratik, who has directed four plays, including 7x3=21. Though he has broken through the mediums, merrily traversing theatre, cinema and OTT, he is hankering for an out-and-out actioner. "With each project and positive feedback, my quest to do different characters in different mediums grows, I want to surprise my audience with each and every outing."

April, his birthday month, is a busy one. Caught in shoot and promotions, he also performs in a play at Prithvi Theatre. Chandigarh features on his 'to be' list too. So far having seen it only on screen, he hopes for an extended stay to explore people, culture, food and people

in the region. "I wish to bring one of my plays to Chandigarh," he says.

Meanwhile, Phule is all set to hit theatres on the 197th birth anniversary of Mahatma Phule on April 11.

On his favourites' list

Movie: The Pursuit of Happiness. The complex emotions and how well they are put across by the brilliant actors makes it my favourite.

Actor: Sanjeev Kumar; he lived every character he played. His physicality never came into play, but the audience instantly connected to the characters he essayed.

Actress: Sridevi; for her amazing range. What a filmography she has. She was the same person who could do Sadma and Chaalbaaz too, and dance so effortlessly.

Play: Mareez, a Gujarati play based on the life of the phenomenal poet. The play, in its 25th year, would be staged at Prithvi Theatre soon.

Director: Hansal Mehta; he is a very simple, sweet human being. His approach is very organic. He exactly knows how to work with different actors. I call him an actor's director.

Web series: Black Warrant. Life around jails was a subject I hadn't seen much about; it was interesting to explore that and the series has been made so brilliantly.

'I'd rather check into mental hospital': Comedian Kunal Kamra turns down Bigg Boss offer



Comedian Kunal Kamra says he was approached to feature on the upcoming season of the popular reality series "Bigg Boss", an offer he turned down.

The comic on his Instagram Story shared a screenshot of his purported WhatsApp conversation with someone who claimed to be "handling the casting for this season of Bigg Boss".

According to the screenshot shared by Kamra, the casting professional said the comic's name came up as someone they might find interesting.

"I know it might not have been on your radar, but honestly, it's

such a mad platform to show your real vibe and win over a massive audience. What do you think? Should we talk about it?" the person wrote in the text.

In his response, the comedian said: "I would much rather check into a mental hospital..."

It's unclear whether Kamra, who is facing multiple FIRs for his comments, was offered the 19th season of "Bigg Boss" or the season four of its OTT version.

In 2023, there were reports that Kamra was in talks to join "Bigg Boss OTT 2".

The comedian, known for his anti-establishment views, is embroiled

in a controversy over his 'traitor' jibe against Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde in his latest stand-up show "Naya Bharat" which premiered on his YouTube channel last month.

Kamra wrote an open letter online ticketing platform BookMyShow requesting it to either not delist him or to hand over the contact information of audience members he has earned through his solo shows over the years.

Earlier this week, the comedian also moved the Bombay High Court, seeking to quash an FIR lodged against him by the city police for his alleged remarks against Shinde, with the Madras High Court extending his interim anticipatory bail in relation to the case till April 17.

Kamra also claimed he has been receiving death threats after the show and hence, requested the police to question him via video conference.

Jaat is an emotion, says Randeep Hooda

As the highly anticipated film Jaat is set for a release today, the star-studded cast, including Randeep Hooda, Viineet Kumar Singh and Sunny Deol, is gearing up to showcase their powerhouse performances in this high-octane action film.

Randeep Hooda, who plays the antagonist Rana Tunga, shared, "Actually, in the movie, Jaat is not just a community, an agent or an individual; it's an emotion. Jaat people are known for their patriotism, justice, action, truth, daring, soft hearts, anger and love. I am a Jaat myself and when I first heard of the movie, I thought why was I not playing a Jaat's role? But then I realised that Sunny Sir was doing that role, so I am happy to be part of this film in the role of Rana Tunga. At the end of the day, the film



glorifies the Jaat community or emotion, and

I'm grateful to be a part of it," he added.

Ekta Kapoor: Remake of 'Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi' in the works

Producer Ekta Kapoor has confirmed that she is set to remake her 2000 daily soap "Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi", teasing that show's lead star Smriti Irani, now a politician, may return.

The show, which ran for about eight years between 2000 and 2008, was co-produced by Shobha Kapoor and Ekta Kapoor under their banner Balaji Telefilms. It ran for a total of 1,833 episodes.

"Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi", which defined the dynamics of Indian family dramas in the early 2000s, revolves around Irani's character named Tulsi, who was the ideal daughter-in-law of the wealthy Virani family.

Kapoor, who tasted massive success with the Star Plus series, said she hopes to hit the 2000-episode milestone with the remake.

"I'm re-making the biggest show I ever made. It gave me an identity,



and then I had to fight a lot to make other things. But it became what I was known for. But because of my problems as a production house with another big corporate, the programme ended (with) 160 episodes less

before it completed its big 2000 (episode milestone).

"The love we have received for this programme has brought everyone who is attached to it back to complete just those epi-

sodes to reach that 2000 (number). The show deserves that," she said on day two of India Global Forum here.

What can fans expect from the remake version of "Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi"?

"We're bringing politics into entertainment or a politician," the producer said in an apparent reference to Irani, a former cabinet minister in the ruling BJP government.

Kapoor said the popular show had "an authentic nature", which was in stark contrast from the content being produced today.

"If we slip from our authenticity, we might not cater to anyone. So, let's do what we believe in, give it those episodes of nostalgia, not real action, but a nostalgic form of storytelling that people remember from their younger days, and come back just for that, and not make it a part of the number game, not make it struggle to be a

form of content that is being made today," she added.

The producer, who has also backed films such as "The Dirty Picture", "Once Upon a Time in Mumbai", "Shootout at Lokhandwala", and "The Sabarmati Report", said the dull performance of Hindi films at the box office is a "cyclical" phenomenon.

"When there were no movies in the theatre, old movies got a chance to (re)release, and music had worked because they were played so often in the last few years. People were like, 'Wow, what an amazing movie'," she said.

"Now, when the buyers have become fewer, people are again going to come into the market, make stories they believe in. Stars will charge lesser, eventually those movies will do well, the buyers will increase..." she added.

Statue of SRK-Kajol from 'DDLJ' to be installed at UK's Leicester Square

It will join the 'Scenes in the Square' movie trail in Leicester Square, the Heart of London Business Alliance announced

A bronze statue of Bollywood superstars Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol striking a pose from their 1995 super-hit "Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge" will be erected at the Leicester Square in London, in a first for an Indian movie.

It will join the 'Scenes in the Square' movie trail in Leicester Square, the Heart of London Business Alliance announced.

The statue from the film, commonly called "DDLJ", will be unveiled in spring this year, months ahead of its 30th release anniversary on

October 20, 2025.

"DDLJ" marked the directorial debut of Aditya Chopra and was produced by his filmmaker-father Yash Chopra under the Yash Raj Films banner.

The film, which was prominently shot in the UK, follows the love story of two young non-resident Indians Raj and Simran who fall in love during a vacation through Europe with their friends. It's around Leicester Square in the film where Raj and Simran first cross paths, albeit unbeknown to one another.

According to a press release, the new statue will be positioned along the eastern terrace, outside the Odeon cinema, honouring the scene from the film. Other London locations featured in "DDLJ" include Horseguards Avenue, Hyde Park, Tower Bridge and King's Cross Station.

Mark Williams, deputy chief executive at the Heart of London Business Alliance, said it's fantastic to have the opportunity to add "titans of international cinema" Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol to their trail.



"Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge" is one of the most successful and important Bollywood films of all time, and we're excited by the prospect of bringing to the trail the first film that actually features Leicester Square as a location.

"The statue is a fitting tribute to the global popularity of Bollywood and a celebration of London's rich diversity. We're in no doubt it will attract fans from all around the world to Leicester Square, the home of film and entertainment," Williams said in a statement.

When "DDLJ" released 30 years ago, the film became a defining moment for Indian cinema, capturing the hearts of everyone who saw it all over the globe, said Akshaye Widhani, CEO of Yash Raj Films.

"We're thrilled to be the first Indian film to be represented in 'Scenes in the Square'. It also marks 30 years of 'DDLJ', a film that has spread love and joy globally and shows the cultural impact it has had in UK.

"We are honoured that our superstars and our film are being recog-

nised on the world stage alongside the Hollywood elite, from Gene Kelly to Laurel & Hardy to Harry Potter. This statue will be a great way to express the international appeal of Indian movies and build bridges amongst communities through cinema," Widhani added.

Over the years, "DDLJ" has emerged as a pop culture phenomenon, with a new musical based on the film, "Come Fall In Love – The DDLJ Musical" set to premiere at the Manchester Opera House on May 29.

PM Modi to launch projects worth rs 3,880 cr during Varanasi visit on Apr 11

VARANASI, Apr 10 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit his parliamentary constituency Varanasi on April 11, where he will address a public gathering and inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for 44 projects worth Rs 3,880 crore.

Varanasi Divisional Commissioner Kaushal Raj Sharma said among the projects to be inaugurated are schemes focused on rural development, including 130 drinking water projects, 100 new Anganwadi centres, 356 libraries, a polytechnic college in Pindra, and a government degree college.

The prime minister will also inaugurate a transit hostel at the Police Lines and police barracks in Ramnagar and four rural roads, he said.

Focusing on urban development, Modi will inaugurate projects at Shastri Ghat and Samne Ghat, along with various beautification projects carried out by the Railways and the Varanasi Development Authority (VDA).

Among the projects for which foundation stones will be laid, 25 are worth Rs 2,250 crore, with a major focus on strengthening the city's electricity infra-



structure. This includes the construction of 15 new substations, installation of new transformers, and laying of 1,500 km of new power lines.

A new 220 kV substation will also come up near Chaukaghat, aiming to provide a 24-hour uninterrupted electricity supply.

Sharma said infrastructure projects related to the airport are also on the agenda, including the laying of a tunnel for its expansion.

The prime minister will lay the foundation stone for three new flyovers as well as various road widening initiatives and school renovation work and two stadiums in Shivpur and UP College.

Modi will also address a public meeting in Rohaniya's Mehndiganj.

Considering the summer heat and traffic, Modi's event will be held on the Ring Road, outside the city limits, to ensure ease of access for the rural population. The event will take place in the morning, allowing attendees to return home before afternoon, he said.

Police Commissioner Mohit Agrawal and ADG Security Raghuvver Lal informed during a pre-briefing at the Cantt camp office that six SPs, eight additional SPs, 33 COs, and around 4,000 personnel from police, PAC, and paramilitary forces

will be deployed for the prime minister's security.

Entry to the event venue will be strictly after proper checking and frisking, including on VIP routes. Temporary parking zones will be made near the event site.

Rooftop deployment will be ensured along the VIP route and surrounding areas, with surveillance through CCTV and drone cameras.

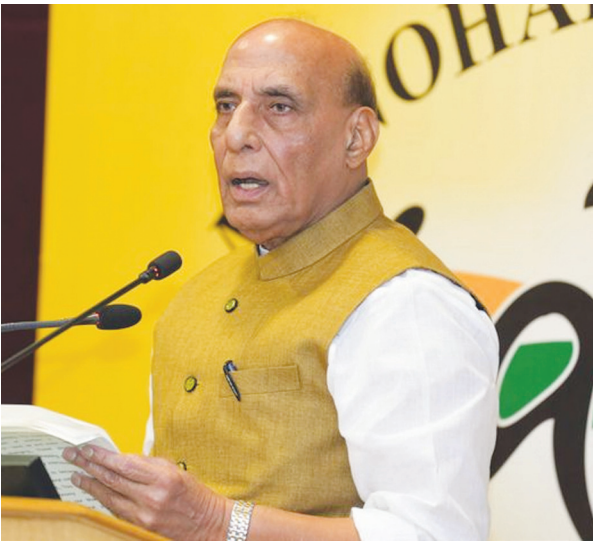
Police personnel have been instructed to avoid using mobile phones at duty points and to report in full uniform with ID and duty cards. Stringent adherence to PM's security protocol has been mandated, and ropes will be used to control the crowd.

The police have also been directed to maintain polite behaviour with attendees, officials said.

BJP City President Pradeep Agrahari said that the PM will stay in Varanasi for about two and a half hours.

"Party workers will welcome the PM with blowing of conches, drums and showering flowers at many places. Hoarding and posters have been put up in the city to welcome him," he said.

In era of 'grey zone,' cyber attacks tools to achieve politico-military aims: Rajnath



WELLINGTON (TAMIL NADU), Apr 10 (Agencies): Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday said that in the era of "grey zone" and hybrid warfare, cyber attacks and disinformation campaign are tools to achieve politico-military aims.

The ongoing conflicts and contemporary trends highlight the fact that traditional notions of warfare are being rewritten, he said in his address at the con-

vocation ceremony of Defence Service Staff College (DSSC) here.

"The ongoing conflicts and contemporary trends highlight the fact that the traditional notions of warfare are being rewritten. Emerging technologies are impacting the character of war with unmanned systems, and advent of AI forecasting, an era of Autonomous Warfare. The Warfare today has gone beyond the traditional battlefields of

land, sea and air," he said.

The Armed forces will increasingly need to operate jointly in a multi-domain environment where cyber, space and information warfare will be as potent as conventional operations.

"We are in the age of Grey Zone and Hybrid warfare where cyber-attacks, disinformation campaigns and economic warfare have become tools that can prosecute and achieve politico-military aims without a single shot being fired," the Defence minister said.

India and for that matter the world, faces a diverse range of security challenges.

"In our case, we face persistent threats along our northern and western borders. This is further compounded by the threat of proxy war and terrorism emanating from the epicenter of terrorism in our neighborhood," he added.

Bodies of interfaith couple found hanging from tree in UP: Cops

BARABANKI, Apr 10 (Agencies): The bodies of a young couple in a relationship were found hanging from a tree on the outskirts of Bihura village in Uttar Pradesh's Barabanki district, police on Thursday said.

The couple belonged to different communities and had been in a relationship for the past four years, they said.

The dead youth -- identified as Suraj (21) -- was a resident of Paharpur village, while the girl -- Nisha Bano (18) -- belonged to neighbouring Bihura village, police said.

The two had been in a relationship for four years but societal and religious constraints prevented their marriage, they said.

The couple had eloped a few days ago but returned under pressure from their families. Subsequently, Suraj's family arranged his marriage three months ago, police said.

"Both lived within half a kilometre of each other. Suraj used to work in farming with his father, while Nisha was pursuing her graduation," said Station House Officer (SHO) DK Singh.

"They often met in the same mango orchard where their bodies were found. The site of the incident is around 200

meters from Nisha's house and 300 meters from Suraj's home," he added.

Suraj's wife reported around 2 am on Thursday that he was missing from home, said the SHO, adding he could not be found despite extensive search by the family.

Early Thursday morning, some villagers heading to the fields found the bodies of the couple hanging from a mango tree using a 'dupatta' and a 'gamchha' (cotton towel) tied together to make a noose, said the SHO.

The police arrived promptly at the scene on being informed, he added.

The SHO further said the "bodies have been sent for postmortem and a thorough investigation is underway".

Circle Officer Jagat Ram Kanjia said, "Prima facie, it appears to be a case of suicide, but we are not ruling out possibilities of pressure, threats or even murder." "All angles are being examined. Since the matter involves individuals from two different communities, there is some tension in the village," he added.

A large police contingent has been deployed in the area to maintain law and order.

Five killed in rain-related incidents in UP; Adityanath directs officials to expedite relief measures

LUCKNOW, Apr 10 (Agencies): Rains accompanied by hailstorm and lightning lashed some parts of Uttar Pradesh on Thursday, leaving five persons dead in Firozabad, Siddharth Nagar and Sitapur districts, officials said.

State capital Lucknow was among the places, which received rains.

Firozabad Additional District Magistrate (ADM) Vishu Raja said that two people were killed due to lightning in the district.

A 30-year-old pregnant woman Lalita Devi was killed after being struck by lightning in Daulatpur village of Narkhi area, while a 32-year-old man identified as Padav Veer Singh was killed in Chinari village of Jasrana area.

The ADM said the



family members of the deceased will be given financial assistance.

Ghanshyam (40), a labourer, died after being struck by lightning in Siddharthnagar.

The incident took place in Gaura Mangua village when he was going for work in rains, officials said.

In Sitapur, two persons died in separate incidents due to heavy thunderstorms and lightning.

Harishchandra (25) died due to lightning in Moch Khurd village in Biswan Police Station area when he was working in his field, while 55-year-old Kusuma Devi died when a wall collapsed on her due to heavy rains in Rasoolpur village in Sakran Police Station area.

Taking note of the unseasonal rains, lightning and hailstorm, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed officials of

the affected districts to carry out relief operations with full urgency and preparedness.

The chief minister instructed district authorities to visit the affected areas, closely monitor relief efforts and ensure immediate assistance to those impacted by the adverse weather conditions, an official statement issued here said.

"In cases of loss of life or livestock due to lightning, storms, heavy rain or hailstorms, ensure immediate distribution of relief funds to the affected families," he said.

Adityanath also emphasized that those injured must receive prompt and adequate medical treatment.

Highlighting the ongoing government wheat procurement process, the chief minister direct-

ed that all necessary precautions be taken to ensure safe storage of wheat at procurement centers and mandis.

He also instructed officials to conduct a thorough survey of crop damage and submit a detailed report to the government for appropriate action.

In areas affected by waterlogging, Adityanath called for immediate drainage arrangements, ensuring the issue is addressed on a priority basis.

This will enable the administration to initiate appropriate follow-up action and support to the affected farmers.

The weather office said heavy rains and lightning are likely in Kaushambi, Varanasi, Jaunpur, Ghazipur, Azamgarh, Lucknow, Barabanki and Raebareli.

Bihar man kills daughter after she fled with boyfriend to delhi

PATNA, Apr 10 (Agencies): A man in Bihar's Samastipur has been arrested for allegedly killing his daughter after she fled to Delhi with her boyfriend, police said today.

The woman, 25-year-old Sakshi, was allegedly killed on April 7, and her body was recovered last night from a locked bathroom in their residence.

The accused, Mukesh Singh, had also reportedly gone after the man to kill him, but he was not in the village.

Sakshi's maternal uncle, Vipin Kumar, said she fled to Delhi on March 4 with her boyfriend, who was from another caste and lived near her house. Both went to college together, Mr Kumar said.

A week ago, Singh, said to be an ex-ser-



viceman, convinced her to return to Samastipur from the national capital. However, a few days later, she disappeared.

When her mother asked Singh, he said she had left the house again. She, however, later grew suspicious and informed the police.

The police then started an investigation and noticed a foul smell emanating from a locked bathroom at their residence. They then recovered her body.

When Singh was questioned by the police, he confessed to the crime.

Petrol pump manager shot dead for refusing to fill fuel in bottle in Uttar Pradesh

BULANDSHAHR, Apr 10 (Agencies): A petrol pump manager was shot dead in the Sikandrabad area here following a quarrel with two men who demanded petrol in a bottle, police said on Thursday.

The incident took place late Wednesday when the two motorcycle-borne men arrived at the petrol station to get their bike

refilled, they said.

The duo then asked a staffer to fill petrol in a plastic bottle who refused.

They approached pump manager, Raju Sharma, 30, and insisted on getting the fuel, police said.

When Sharma too rejected their demand, an argument ensued and the duo opened fire at him and fled

the scene, they said.

Sharma was rushed to a hospital where he succumbed to injuries during treatment, police said.

Senior Superintendent of Police Shlok Kumar said an FIR has been registered. "The accused have been identified with the help of CCTV camera footage. Efforts are underway to arrest them," he said.

Arms, ammunition, war-like stores found in two districts of Manipur

MPHAL, Apr 10 (Agencies): Arms, ammunition and other war-like stores were recovered in Kakching and Imphal West districts of Manipur, police said on Thursday.

The police also arrested a cadre of the banned militant outfit Kangleipak Communist Party (PWG) in Imphal West district. The police found two SMG carbines without magazines, one .303 rifle with magazine, one single barrel gun, two double barrel guns, one modified sniper rifle, one modified 9 mm pistol with magazine, three mortar shells, two improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and two grenades, besides ammunition, detonators and other items Tokpaching Moirangkhom Hill Range in Kakching district. Another cache of arms, ammunition and other war-like stores was recovered from Yaralpat area opposite a school in Imphal

East district, police said.

The items recovered from there include one .303 Rifle, 16 rounds of 303 live rounds, two Lathode 40 mm guns, ammunition, one .303. rifle magazine, one small carbine, one small carbine handmade magazine, one 9 mm pistol, seven detonators, two hand grenades, and other articles. The recovered items have been handed over to Porompat Police Station for legal action.

The recoveries from the two districts were made on Wednesday. Though over a month has passed after the two-week period provided to people for voluntarily surrendering looted and illegally held weapons in the ethnic strife-torn state ended on March 6, arms and ammunition are being found frequently in the state.

About the arrested 45-year-old militant cadre, the police said he was

picked up from Lamsang Bazaar in Imphal West district on Wednesday.

He was allegedly involved serving monetary demands to government officials in and around the state capital Imphal. Over 260 people have lost their lives since ethnic violence broke out between the Imphal valley-based Meitei and neighbouring hills-based Kuki communities in May 2023. The clashes began after a 'Tribal Solidarity March' organised in the hill districts to protest against an order of the Manipur High Court on the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe status.

President's rule in Manipur was imposed on February 13 after the then chief minister N Biren Singh resigned on February 9. The state Assembly, which has a tenure till 2027, has been put under suspended animation.

Bareilly man, 24, dies by suicide, allegedly over dispute with wife

BAREILLY, Apr 10 (Agencies): 24-year-old man from Bareilly's Izzatnagar area allegedly died by suicide at his home reportedly due to a marital dispute, police said on Thursday.

The dead, identified as Raj Arya, hanged himself inside his room on Wednesday. He took the extreme step allegedly due to harassment by his wife, Simran (23), with whom he had a love marriage in April 2024, family members said.

According to police, the couple had been working in private companies at the time of their marriage, but both had recently lost their jobs. The couple had a daughter just 45 days ago.

Family members told PTI that tensions had been building between Raj and Simran for some time. About 10 days ago, a serious

argument prompted Simran to leave for her parental home.

On Wednesday morning, Simran allegedly posted two Instagram status updates. In one, she claimed to have filed a police complaint against her husband, writing that "he will be in jail by 10:30 am." In a follow-up post, she wrote, "Now go to jail." Later that evening, Arya took his own life.

His mother told police that just before the incident, Raj had told her, "Maa, I'm going to sleep forever." Initially unaware of his intentions, she grew concerned moments later and found him hanging from the ceiling fan.

Police have sent the body for a post-mortem.

Circle Officer Ajay Kumar confirmed the incident and said further legal proceedings would be initiated upon receiving a formal complaint from the family.

Doors open for talks, but blackmail won't work: China after Trump's 125% tariffs

BEIJING, Apr 10 (Agencies): China said on Thursday it does not seek confrontation but will not flinch in the face of pressure after US President Donald Trump hiked tariffs on Chinese imports to 125 per cent.

"China's position is clear and consistent," said He Yongqian, spokesperson for the Chinese Ministry of Commerce. "If the US wants to talk, our door remains open, but dialogue must be conducted on the basis of mutual respect and equality."

He stated that "pressure, threats, and blackmail are not the right way to deal with China".

Reiterating that there are no winners in a trade war, she warned that if Washington "insists on its own way, China will follow through to the end".

Trump's latest move marked the sharpest escalation in the ongoing trade standoff between the world's two largest economies. While announcing a 90-day tariff reprieve from pun-



ishing tariffs for most nations on Wednesday, the US President excluded China from the relaxation, citing what his administration calls "escalation" by Beijing.

The escalation refers to China raising duties on US products to 84 per cent, up from its previously announced 34 per cent. While refraining from calling the tit-for-tat tariff exchange a trade war, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said they were a negotiation strategy aimed at

bringing Beijing to heel.

"It's about bad actors", Bessent said, adding that China is "the biggest source of the US trade problems."

Trump said the extra levies on Beijing were "based on the lack of respect that China has shown to the world's markets", while denying that he had made a U-turn on his tariffs policy.

"I did a 90-day pause for the people that didn't retaliate because I told them 'if you retali-

ate, we're going to double it' - and that's what I did with China," he said.

China has vowed to fight the measures "to the end" and so far has unveiled reciprocal tariffs each time Trump has upped the ante.

It also said it had filed a complaint with the World Trade Organization (WTO), citing "bullying" tactics by the Trump administration.

On the sidelines of trading fiery rhetoric with the US, China is also quietly working to form a coalition with other nations to pressure Washington to reverse course on the steep tariffs, but with limited traction so far.

Beijing said it had held talks with the EU and Malaysia on strengthening trade in response to the tensions, although Australia said it had rebuffed an offer from China, its top trading partner, to work together to counter the tariffs.

EU chief welcomes Trump's pause but quiet about the bloc's own retaliatory duty plan



BRUSSELS, Apr 10 (Agencies): European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on Thursday welcomed President Donald Trump's decision to temporarily halt most U.S. tariffs, but she did not say whether the European Union intends to press ahead with its own retaliatory measures.

"I have authorized a 90 day PAUSE," Trump said, after recognizing the more than 75 countries that he said have been negotiating on trade and had not retaliated against his latest increases in tariffs. Countries subject to the pause will now be tariffed at 10%. The EU's rate was 20%, but it was not entirely clear how the 27-nation bloc would be impacted.

China was not included. Trump further jacked up the tax rate on Chinese imports to 125%.

Von der Leyen described the halt on reciprocal tariffs as "an important step towards stabilizing the global economy. Clear, predictable conditions are essential for trade and supply chains to function."

Before Trump's announcement on Wednesday, EU member countries voted to approve retaliatory tariffs on

\$23 billion in goods in response to his 25% tariffs on imported steel and aluminum.

The EU, the largest trading partner of the U.S., described them as "unjustified and damaging."

The tariffs are set to go into effect in stages, some on April 15 and others on May 15 and Dec. 1. The EU commission didn't immediately provide a list of the goods. The bloc's top trade official has shuttled between Brussels and Washington for weeks trying to head off a conflict.

But Von der Leyen gave no sign that the EU's timetable has changed. Spokesman Olof Gill noted that the commission "will now take the necessary time to assess this latest development, in close consultation with our member states and industry, before deciding on next steps."

Members of the EU – the world's largest trading bloc – repeated their preference for a negotiated deal to settle trade issues, and von der Leyen underscored that commitment, "with the goal of achieving frictionless and mutually beneficial trade."

Still, the head of the EU's executive branch – which negotiates trade deals and disputes on behalf of the member countries – said that Europe intends to diversify its trade partnerships.

She said that the EU will continue "engaging with countries that account for 87% of global trade and share our commitment to a free and open exchange of goods, services, and ideas," and to lift barriers to commerce inside its own single market.

"Together, Europeans will emerge stronger from this crisis," von der Leyen said.

South Korean opposition leader Lee opens presidential bid following Yoon's ouster

SEOUL, Apr 10 (Agencies): South Korean opposition leader Lee Jae-myung, widely seen as the front-runner in a presidential by-election triggered by the removal of Yoon Suk Yeol last week, announced his presidential bid Thursday, vowing to heal a starkly divided nation through economic growth.

Lee, who narrowly lost the 2022 election to Yoon, led the liberal Democratic Party's campaign to oust the former president over his December declaration of martial law.

Lee recently stepped down as the party's chairman to focus on campaigning for the June 3 election. He is considered the clear front-runner in party's primary. Kim Dong-yeon, the Democratic governor of Gyeonggi province and a longtime financial policymaker, also told reporters Wednesday that he intends to run for president.

Yoon's downfall has left

the conservative People Power Party in disarray, with roughly 10 politicians expected to seek the nomination, reflecting a split between Yoon loyalists, who still control the party's leadership, and reformists calling for a fresh start.

In a video message, Lee said that Yoon's martial law saga exposed the country's deep divisions and social conflicts, and argued that the root cause was a widening rich-poor gap. He promised aggressive government spending to jolt economic growth and ease income polarization.

"We have more than we did in the past, but wealth is too concentrated in certain areas," Lee said. "With economic growth rates declining worldwide, it has become difficult to maintain and develop an economy solely on the strength of the private sector. However, with government-led talent development and extensive investments in tech-

nological research and development, we can revive the economy."

Lee said it was crucial to maintain a robust alliance with the United States and to pursue three-way cooperation with Japan, but he stressed that South Korea's national interest should come first in "every decision."

Lee, who has served as a lawmaker, provincial governor and city mayor, is adored by supporters for his outspoken style and has long positioned himself as an anti-elitist. His critics view him as a populist who stokes division and demonizes conservative opponents while failing to offer realistic funding plans to achieve his ambitious goals.

Kweon Seong-dong, PPP floor leader and a staunch Yoon loyalist, said that if Lee becomes president, he will "ruthlessly wield the sword of dogmatism and retribution" and further deepen the country's divisions.

Lee also has his own



set of legal troubles, facing five different trials for corruption and other criminal charges.

Earlier this month, the Constitutional Court upheld Yoon's impeachment by the legislature and formally removed him from office over the martial law decree, triggering a presidential by-election within 60 days.

The next president will serve a full 5-year term.

Former PPP leader Han Dong-hoon, head of the party's anti-Yoon faction, announced his presidential bid Thursday, positioning himself as a conservative who opposed martial law

and appealing to centrist voters to stop the inauguration of a populist "monster government" led by Lee. Among the conservatives' presidential hopefuls, former Labor Minister Kim Moon Soo is considered to be the most pro-Yoon.

Kim, Daegu Mayor Hong Joon-pyo and senior PPP lawmaker Ahn Cheol-soo — a former computer software entrepreneur who finished third in the 2017 presidential vote — have declared their intentions to run for president. Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon is expected to enter the race later.

Egypt condemns Israeli closure orders to UNRWA schools in East Jerusalem

CAIRO, Apr 10 (Agencies): Egypt strongly condemned the Israeli occupation's closure orders for six schools operated by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) in East Jerusalem.

In an official statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said Egypt considered this move a blatant and unacceptable violation of international law and reaffirmed full support for UNRWA, its efforts, and the vital services it provides across all areas of operation, including in East Jerusalem.



The ministry further emphasised that the UN agency's vital services to Palestinian refugees cannot be replaced or undermined. It stressed Egypt's rejection of the ongoing systematic campaign targeting UNRWA and its man-

date.

The statement also underscored Egypt's insistence on safeguarding the rights of Palestinian refugees and the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including their right of return.

UAE honours search, rescue team for Myanmar mission



ABU DHABI, Apr 10 (Agencies): The UAE search and rescue team received an official welcome upon returning home following its humanitarian mission in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar after the recent devastating earthquake.

The team was welcomed by Brigadier Salem Abdullah bin Barrak Al Dhaheri, Director-General of Abu Dhabi Civil Defence Authority, the General Command of Abu Dhabi Police, the National Guard, and the Joint Operations Command, conducted search and rescue operations at six earthquake-hit sites in cooperation with Myanmar authorities and international teams. The mission was carried out under the directives of President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, reinforcing the UAE's principles of solidarity and rapid response to crises worldwide. The mission concluded after the completion of all phases of emergency response and rescue operations, showcasing the team's high readiness and reaffirming its standing among the world's leading rescue teams. The UAE's unwavering commitment to supporting those affected by disasters, wherever they may be, reflects its enduring humanitarian mission that transcends borders.

Al Dhaheri highlighted the team's professionalism, which reflects the UAE's strong commitment to humanitarian values and the leadership's ongoing efforts to support those in need around the world.

The team was commended by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein during an official farewell ceremony at Yangon International Airport. He expressed deep gratitude to the UAE for its swift response and effective humanitarian support, which helped save lives

and ease the suffering of those affected. He praised the team's professionalism and the significant value it added to international relief efforts.

The UAE Search and Rescue Team, representing the Abu Dhabi Civil Defence Authority, the General Command of Abu Dhabi Police, the National Guard, and the Joint Operations Command, conducted search and rescue operations at six earthquake-hit sites in cooperation with Myanmar authorities and international teams. The mission was carried out under the directives of President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, reinforcing the UAE's principles of solidarity and rapid response to crises worldwide. The mission concluded after the completion of all phases of emergency response and rescue operations, showcasing the team's high readiness and reaffirming its standing among the world's leading rescue teams. The UAE's unwavering commitment to supporting those affected by disasters, wherever they may be, reflects its enduring humanitarian mission that transcends borders.

France could recognise Palestinian state 'in June': Macron

PARIS, Apr 10 (Agencies): France plans to recognise a Palestinian state within months and could make the move at a UN conference in New York in June on settling the Israel-Palestinian conflict, President Emmanuel Macron said.

"We must move towards recognition, and we will do so in the coming months," Macron, who this week visited Egypt, told France 5 television.

"Our aim is to chair this conference with Saudi Arabia in June, where we could finalise this movement of mutual recognition (of a Palestinian state) by several parties," he added.

"I will do it (...) because I believe that at some point it will be right and because I also want to participate in a collective dynamic, which must also allow all those who defend Palestine to recognise Israel in turn, which many of them do not do," he added.

Such recognition would allow France "to be clear in our fight



against those who deny Israel's right to exist -- which is the case with Iran -- and to commit ourselves to collective security in the region," he added.

France has long championed a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict, including after the October 7, 2023 attack by Palestinian militants Hamas on Israel.

But formal recognition by Paris of a Palestinian state would mark a major policy switch and risk antagonising Israel which insists such moves by foreign states are premature.

In Egypt, Macron held summit talks with President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi and Jordan's King Abdullah II.

Pakistan: Baloch activist calls for unity, resilience in fight for freedom against government

BALUCHISTAN, Apr 10 (Agencies): Baloch pro-independence leader Allah Nazar Baloch has urged the Baloch people to remain united and resilient in their ongoing struggle for freedom, asserting that the Pakistani state has failed to suppress the growing movement, as reported by the Balochistan Post.

In his latest statement, Baloch said the continuing Baloch national liberation movement has pushed the Pakistani state into psychological disarray, with increasing signs of desperation evident in its actions.

According to the Balochistan Post, he said, "The Baloch have carried the bodies of their loved ones when they demanded water. They've shed blood for electricity and received corpses in return when asking for food. The ones who bury people alive are someone else."

Baloch emphasized that silence in the face of oppression was equiva-



lent to accepting a slow genocide. He stated that unlike earlier efforts, the present struggle has gathered strength over the past two decades and is now more inclusive than ever.

He also pointed to enforced disappearances and mass graves as evidence of the state's brutal tactics, underscoring the magnitude of suffering endured by the Baloch people.

"Despite all state terrorism, oppression and genocide, the Baloch nation has not bowed," Baloch declared.

He rejected recent claims by the Pakistani military that it had "changed the rules of the game," responding, "The Baloch had already

rewritten those rules long ago."

Baloch accused the Pakistani state--particularly the Punjab region--of exploiting Balochistan's resources while resorting to violence and disregarding human rights to maintain control. He appealed to the Baloch people to preserve unity and avoid infighting.

"Nations are not destroyed by war or famine, but by internal discord and superficial divisions. Unity, awareness and confidence are our guarantees of survival," he said.

The leader further reiterated claims that Gwadar port and the new airport are being used for military purposes, stating that Chinese submarines and People's Liberation Army personnel are already stationed there.

Baloch concluded by cautioning that greater international involvement could have grave consequences for Pakistan.

Darbar of Durga Mata Mandir (Dedhni) to open on April 13



Top News Report

DODA, Apr 10: In the serene folds of the Chenab Valley, where the mountains echo with the whispers of tradition and the winds hum sacred hymns, the holy Durga Mata Mandir of Dedhni is all set to throw open its divine doors on April 13, celebrating the sacred eve of Baisakhi with reverence and radiance.

Each year, this vibrant festival becomes the heartbeat of the region, as thousands of devotees from across Doda, Ramban, Udhampur, and Kishtwar make their way to the ancient shrine. Their footsteps carry the weight of faith and joy, their voices sing songs of unity, and their hearts beat with a shared rhythm of devotion.

This year's festival is especially significant—it

coincides with the Hindu New Year, a symbol of renewal, and the age-old Baishakh Mela, a beacon of communal harmony. In the sacred soil of Dedhni, Hindus and Muslims come together, hand in hand, hearts aligned, showing the world how traditions can be bridges, not barriers.

At the center of the celebration lies the Trishool Bhaint Yatra, a grand procession that

honors the reinstallation of the ancient idol of Mata Durga. The air will shimmer with the colors of devotion, as devotees chant and dance through the lush pathways of Dedhni, wrapped in the blessings of the Goddess.

Nestled just 30 kilometers from Doda, the village of Dedhni is a verdant jewel surrounded by emerald forests, fruit-laden orchards, and the wild call of leopards, bears, and songbirds. It's a place where the divine meets the natural, and every breeze carries the scent of something sacred.

Yet, amidst the joy and spiritual fervor, a silent plea echoes through the hills—the Hambal to Dedhni road, left incomplete for seven long years, remains a cause of concern. Despite

promises by leaders like BJP MLA Shakti Parihar and Dr. Jitendra Singh, the road continues to test the endurance of pilgrims and the patience of locals.

The management committee, while finalizing preparations for the festival, has earnestly called upon the district administration to ensure medical aid, security arrangements, and finally address the pressing road connectivity issue. In their words: "The spirit of the festival is undying, but it is time the infrastructure matches the devotion."

As the bells prepare to chime and the mandir readies to embrace the faithful, Dedhni stands as a glowing reminder: that faith unites, nature heals, and the call for progress must never be silenced.

Representatives from Karkitchoo call on LG Brig Mishra

Top News Report

LEH, Apr 10: Maqbool and Sajad Ali, residents of Karkitchoo village, Kargil, called on the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), at the Lt Governor's Secretariat to discuss and seek solutions for issues affecting their village.

The representatives brought forth key requests on behalf of the villagers, including the construction of an Ice Hockey Rink at Karkitchoo, the development of a Cricket Ground for the benefit of school children and the appointment of a Physical Education Teacher (PET) at the Government Middle School, Karkitchoo. In response, the LG assured the rep-



representatives of his commitment to addressing their concerns. He stated that the matter of the ice hockey rink and cricket ground would be taken up once the villagers provide suitable land for the purpose and ensure its proper fencing. Regarding the appointment of a Physical Education Teacher, the LG informed them that the concerned department will verify if

the post of PET is sanctioned for the school. If confirmed, necessary steps will be taken to assign a PET to the school at the earliest, he stated. Chief Secretary Dr Pawan Kotwal, Commissioner/Secretary to the LG Dr. L Franklin, Secretary School Education Bhanu Prabha, and Chief Engineer PWD Mutalib Hussain were present during the meeting.

Aam Aadmi Party holds protest in support of Mehraj Malik

If you kill one Mehraj, 25000 Mehraj Maliks will be born: Mehraj's father



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 10: Aam Aadmi Party leaders and workers on Thursday held a protest in support of the party's MLA from Doda, Mehraj Malik, outside the Press Club of Jammu and vented their anger against the BJP. They expressed their anger against the attack on Mehraj Malik by the

BJP MLAs outside the Assembly.

The protesters were raising slogans like stop liquor in the city of temples, stop politics in the name of religion, Mehraj Malik Zindabad.

On reaching the Press Club, Mehraj Malik was welcomed strongly by the party leaders and workers and they lifted him on their shoulders

along with raising strong slogans in his support.

A large number of party workers from various areas of Jammu had gathered to participate in this protest and express support with their leader.

While addressing the protesters, Aam Aadmi Party MLA and party's state president Mehraj Malik said that he had spoken about PDP's Mufti but why did BJP get offended for it. He further said that the DNA of the relationship between PDP and BJP should be investigated.

Mehraj Malik said that he is well aware of the scams in Jammu and Kashmir and he will expose them and expose BJP for it.

He said that he does not target any religion and he is the elected representative of the

people and will not hesitate to raise people's issues in the House.

He said that BJP leaders say something else in the House and something else outside the House.

He said that he does not do this and whatever he says outside, he will not hesitate to raise the same issues inside the House as well.

Speaking about the liquor shops, Mehraj Malik said that when liquor shops were being opened like mushrooms, where were the BJP leaders at that time, why did they not protest against it before the Lieutenant Governor. Mehraj Malik's father also participated in this protest and while talking to journalists, he said that if these people kill one Mehraj Malik, then

25000 Mehraj Maliks will be born.

He said that every youth of Jammu and Kashmir is Mehraj Malik. He said that he is raising the issues of the public and will continue to raise them inside and outside the House.

Prominent among those who participated in the protest were Yasir Mattoo, Surinder Singh Shingari, Amit Kapoor, Jayesh Gupta, Engineer Harpreet Singh, Gurmeet Singh, Sandeep Sharma, Amrik Singh, Dixit, Dr. Thapa, Parminder Singh, Goldy Singh, Harnek Singh, Harbans Singh, Fancy, Harneet Singh Sandy and others including women. At the same time, a large number of policemen were also deployed during this time.

Manjit Singh expresses concern over assault on police personnel by suspected drug peddlers in Samba

Says, "The assailants must be nabbed and made to face the law of the land"



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 10: Former legislator and Apni Party's Provincial President for Jammu, Sardar Manjit Singh, on Thursday expressed deep concern and shock over the violent assault on a police team by a

group of drug peddlers in the Balol Khad area of Samba district on Wednesday late evening.

The attack left three policemen, including an SHO and a Sub-Inspector, seriously injured. The SHO Pushpinder Singh and Sub-

Inspector Abrar Mirza have been referred to a hospital in Amritsar for specialized treatment.

Expressing his concern over the incident, Manjit Singh said in a statement, "It is deeply alarming that drug peddlers have grown so bold and dangerous that they no longer hesitate to attack law enforcement officers. If left unchecked, the threat they pose to society could be far more severe."

He further said, "I urge the authorities, especially the police, to ensure

these attackers are nabbed as soon as possible so that they can be brought to justice."

Manjit Singh said, "The drug menace in our society is damaging the very core of our social fabric. The situation demands that we stand united to fight this menace so that the younger generation is protected from this vulnerability."

He said that he has met with the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) today and urged him to ensure immediate arrest of the perpetrators of this heinous crime.

EC Yakzee calls on LG Brig Mishra

Top News Report

LEH, Apr 10: Executive Councillor, LAHDC Leh, Tashi Namgyal Yakzee, called on the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), at the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat. Chief Secretary, Dr Pawan Kotwal, Commissioner/Secretary to LG, Dr L Franklin, and General Manager of BSNL Leh, Hariom Solanki were present in the meeting.

EC Yakzee raised the issue of BSNL mobile towers erected in Shachukul and Shayok villages in Durbuk area, alleging that despite making the tower functional, the towers have not been working for the last six months, causing a lot of inconvenience to the villagers.



highlighted the need to fill the vacant posts of Block Development Officers (BDOs) in Leh district. The LG asked Chief Secretary to take the necessary steps to fill the vacant posts of BDOs by conducting the departmental promotion

committee (DPC) at the earliest.

The LG highlighted the need to promote pashmina in the Changthang area and tackle the issue of the mortality rate of pashmina goats and their kids in the winter months.

Book titled 'Chos La Jug Pe Sgo' released

Top News Report

LEH, Apr 10: A book titled Chos La Jug Pe Sgo, a basic introduction to Buddhism written by the late Professor Jamyang Gyalson, was reprinted by the Alumina Association of CIBS in his memory.

The book was released today by Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson, in the presence of Executive Councillor Tashi Namgyal Yakzee. CEC extended his congratulations and appreciated the efforts of the Alumina Association of CIBS in preserving and promoting the region's literary and spiritual

heritage.

Also present on the occasion were Dr. Sonam Paldan, President of the Association; and its executive members.

The book will be distributed free of cost to the public starting tomorrow.

We, at LAHDC Leh, have also initiated the Tsomrik Yarsket Scheme to support local authors, scholars, and poets.

Through this scheme, we provide subsidies for book publications and aim to encourage literary expression while preserving the cultural heritage of the region.

FromPage No: 1

SHO, Sub-Inspector airlifted after violent assault by Drug Peddlers

been cordoned off and search operations are underway.

The Balol Khad incident has once again drawn attention to the growing presence and brazenness of drug cartels in the Jammu region. Recent reports suggest that hundreds of peddlers are active across several hotspots, particularly in Samba, Kathua, and Rajeev Nagar in Jammu.

Police raid houses of jailed Teh members in UAPA cases

disruption, or unlawful activities will face strict legal consequences under the law," the spokesman added.

PDP questions Statehood

delay, Assembly silence on Waqf

post-election environment, legislative matters, and the broader political situation. "The people have clearly rejected BJP and given a mandate to the NC. The same BJP was seen as pushing people to the wall. This vote was a reaction to that pressure," Beigh stated.

Questioning Omar Abdullah's silence on the restoration of statehood, he said, "We are not asking for conflict—we are asking for something the Prime Minister has also spoken about. If Omar Sahib cannot even demand a timeline for statehood, then what is the purpose of leading the government?"

He continued, "Why is the Omar Abdullah-led government silent? The Chief Minister should at least request a timeline from the Centre. If nothing else can be done, he should speak."

Referring to Home Minister Amit Shah's statement that militancy is under control but not completely eliminated, Beigh asked, "Does that mean the local government

should remain inactive? Should statehood be delayed indefinitely on that basis?"

He clarified that the PDP is not seeking confrontation but accountability. "We are not inciting any clash. We are asking questions that concern every citizen. Why are these questions seen as a threat?"

Firing resumes between security forces and terrorists in Udhampur

4 km inside the International Border.

The encounter spread to Safiyan Jakhole village, where two terrorists were killed, and four policemen died.

The joint forces extended the area under the 'seek and destroy' operation to higher reaches of the Kathua and Rajouri districts. There was a brief exchange of gunfire between the forces and the terrorists in the Billawar area of the Kathua district.

Reports said five terrorists had infiltrated into the Indian side of the

International Border, and the same group was engaged in a gunfight in Sanyal and Safiyan Jakhole villages. Two terrorists were killed in the Safiyan Jakhole area.

Recently, Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired the security review meeting in Srinagar. He gave clear orders to eradicate terrorism and restore complete peace in the union territory.

Scuffle n J&K Assembly Complex: AAP protests against PDP, BJP

led by Arif Amin, who were present outside the House, after they objected to his remarks against former chief minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, prompting the security personnel to intervene.

"I was raising issues concerning the people of Jammu and Kashmir. While the House was not allowed to function, thereby failing to represent the wishes of the people, the chief minister, despite the House being in session, was in Srinagar with them (Union Home Minister Amit Shah and others)," Malik told

reporters.

He vowed to represent the people and their aspirations, even if the House was disrupted. "I speak for all — Hindus, Muslims. If Prime Minister Narendra Modi can talk about Muslims, why can't I talk about Hindus?" Hitting out at the BJP, he questioned why the saffron party did not remove liquor shops near temples if they truly supported the causes of Hindus. "If I raise such issues, am I hurting Hindu sentiments? The BJP is playing the religious card to win elections." Malik also slammed Sayeed as "culpable" for bringing the BJP to power in Jammu and Kashmir.

"I stand by my statements on Mufti Mohammad Sayeed... They cannot scare me... He has betrayed the Muslim community. It is because of Mufti Sayeed that I am in this condition and the BJP is resorting to hooliganism. If my voice is being suppressed in the House and I am being attacked outside the House, it is because of him," the AAP lawmaker said.

On the other hand, BJP MLA Vikram Randhawa lashed out at Malik and demanded action, even calling for invoking the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) against

him.

"He used derogatory words. He is always abusing Hindus. We will not tolerate this....," Randhawa told reporters.

Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma said the AAP MLA had "lowered parliamentary standards by behaving like a ruffian".

"I moved a breach of privilege against him in the House regarding his remarks on Hindus but nothing was done," he said.

"If you hurt the feelings of Hindus now, you will not only be taken to task in the Assembly but confronted on the streets, too. No one will tolerate this nonsense," Sharma said.

Traffic suspended on Bandipora–Gurez road due to snowfall

suspended till further orders," the SDM said.

The general public has been advised to remain updated about the traffic movement on the road and avoid unnecessary travel.

Centre-of-excellence in cardiac sciences now at PARK Hospital Patiala



Top News Report

PATIALA, Apr 10: To create awareness on the rising trend of heart disease in the Indian population a team of doctors from Park Hospital, Patiala addressed media persons today. Present on the occasion were Dr Harsimranjit Singh senior consultant

cardiology and Dr Bramprakash vice president medical services from PARK Hospital Patiala. PARK Hospitals is North India's biggest super specialty hospital network with 19 hospitals, 3500 beds, 800 ICU beds, 14 cath labs, 45 modular OTs and over 1000 doctors. Speaking on the occa-

sion, Dr Harsimranjit Singh said that PARK Hospital Patiala has become center-of-excellence for cardiac sciences since all the facilities like primary angioplasty, complex angioplasties, biventricular pacemaker (CRT), combo devices, ICDs, carotid artery stenting, TAVR/TAVI, peripheral artery & below knee interventions, management of aortic dissections and aortic aneurysms are available under one roof.

Dr Harsimranjit also shared that in India, out of the estimated population of more than 1.44 billion dispersed across various geographical regions; about 30 million people suffer from coronary artery disease. India will soon have the highest number of cases of cardiovascular disease in the world. Also 27 % of deaths in India

are caused by cardiovascular diseases.

Dr Harsimranjit Singh further said that India tops the world in heart attacks among 35 plus men & cardiovascular diseases would be the largest cause of death and disability in India by next decade.

"The average age of people with heart ailments is coming down and these days we are getting patients as young as 25 years, who are coming to us with heart attacks.

Few years back children used to bring their parents to the doctor for heart related issues. Now it is not uncommon to see parents bringing their children in the 30s and 40s to doctor for heart related issues. Now a greater number of young Indians are suffering from coronary artery disease, owing to their poor lifestyle, and if

this continues the future looks even more dangerous."

Dr Brahm Prakash said, "In India, heart ailments have replaced communicable diseases as the biggest killer. According to recent data, approximately 30 percent of the urban population and 15 percent of the population living in rural areas suffer from high blood pressure and heart attacks. As the risk factors of heart ailments increase, so does the mortality rate.

Col Rajul Sharma, CEO Park Hospital Patiala said that PARK Hospital Patiala is now empaneled with ECHS, CGHS, ESI, Ayushman and all major corporates and all types of non-invasive & surgical treatment for cardiac problem is offered under one roof at Park Hospital Patiala.

Complete project in current season, Chief Secretary reviews Ladakh Land Records Management Agency

Top News Report

LEH, Apr 10: The Chief Secretary of Union Territory of Ladakh, Dr. Pawan Kotwal chaired the 12th Governing Body meeting of the Ladakh Land Records Management Agency (LLaRMA) at the Civil Secretariat, Leh on Thursday.

At the outset, the Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Leh presented a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation, detailing the milestones achieved under the DILRMP project.

The presentation highlighted several completed objectives and milestones while identifying areas that require additional resources and attention.

During the meeting, Assistant Commissioner Revenue informed that the digital survey with latest CORS network based on DGPS survey has been completed for 35 villages, number of villages which surveyed and completed for publication stands to 25, pending villages to be completed till the end of April 2025.

The meeting reviewed overall progress of the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP) in Ladakh, aimed to enhance the accessibility, transparency, and accuracy of land records in UT Ladakh.

The project, is a critical component of Ladakh's revenue management and public service infrastructure, includes comprehensive digital upgrades across multiple facets of land records management.

The officials from various departments



discussed in detail the physical and financial progress of the DILRMP project including the ongoing digitization of revenue records. While reviewing the project, the Chief Secretary emphasized that the project is significant for UT Ladakh, it should be completed in current season.

To speed up the survey process, Chief Secretary directed both the district magistrates of Leh and Kargil to engage lamerdars in surveys of the villages, engage them on honorarium basis.

The meeting addressed the bottlenecks and the pro-active measures to be taken to resolve the issues that impede the progress in digitizing village land records, ongoing surveys, requirement of man power GPS hardware's and the need for an effective Management Information System (MIS) to streamline and safeguard land records, and regularised newly formed colonies was discussed.

Chief Secretary Dr. Kotwal commended the team for their diligent efforts while underscoring the project's importance in ensuring accurate, accessible, and updated land records.

He emphasized that reliable land records are crucial for enhanc-

ing transparency, reducing land disputes, and facilitating infrastructure and development projects in Ladakh. He called for the timely and efficient implementation of the remaining tasks to ensure the project's completion in current season.

Dr. Kotwal highlighted the significance of these improvements in enhancing the efficiency of land-related administrative services for the people of Ladakh, thereby aligning with the region's long-term development goals.

The Chief Secretary urged the concerned departments to maintain close coordination and resolve project-related issues promptly.

The meeting was attended by Administrative Secretary, Housing and Urban Dev. Sanjeev Khirwar; Administrative Secretary, PDMD, Dr. Lalitkhuma Franklin; Additional Secretary Law Department Sashi Kant Bhagat; Addl Secy Finance Dr. Safdar; State Informatics Officer, Nic Ladakh, Directors from concerned departments, ACR Leh; District Magistrate Leh; Chief Planning officer, Stanzin Donsal, and other concerned officials, District Magistrate Kargil, EE CPWD, NIC official from pune joined the meeting virtually.

JKMGA welcomes swimmers after winning 19 medals at National Masters Games

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 10: In a heartwarming and inspiring ceremony today, the Jammu and Kashmir Masters Games Association (JKMGA) hosted a grand welcome for five exceptional swimmers from Jammu and Kashmir, who recently returned from the 7th National Masters Games in Mohali. T

These athletes brought home an impressive haul of 19 medals, including 7 gold, 9 silver, and 3 bronze, marking a proud moment for the state's sporting community.

The event took place at the M.A. Stadium in Jammu, where a large gathering of supporters, officials, and sports enthusiasts came together to honor the athletes. The swimmers were greeted with enthusiastic applause and admiration, and the atmosphere was filled with a sense of pride and celebration.

Among the distinguished attendees at the welcome ceremony were JKMGGA President Ranjeet Singh Chib, Secretary General Neete Kaur, Treasurer Ramesh Sharma, and several other key members of the asso-



ciation, including Joint Secretary Mousmi Verma, Prabal Sharma, Virender Sharma, Meetu Singh, Jyoti Sharma, and Mukesh Sharma. The leadership extended heartfelt congratulations to the swimmers, recognizing their exceptional achievements and dedication.

In his address, President Ranjeet Singh Chib expressed how the performance of the swimmers at the National Masters Games was a significant milestone, not only for the athletes themselves but also for the state of Jammu and Kashmir. "Your dedication and hard work are an inspiration to all of us. You have shown that with perseverance, we can excel on the national

stage. We encourage you to continue your journey and participate in future events," Chib said.

The athletes, overwhelmed by the warm reception, took the stage to share their experience. They expressed immense satisfaction with the arrangements made for the event and their delight at the opportunity to compete.

"After a long time, we had the chance to participate in such a prestigious event. The support and encouragement from our family, friends, and the JKMGGA has been invaluable," said one of the swimmers. "This experience has motivated us to make sports an integral part of our

lives and to continue improving our fitness."

The success of these athletes is a testament to the growing culture of sports in Jammu and Kashmir, especially for older athletes who have embraced the Masters Games as a platform to showcase their skills and passion for physical activity. The swimmers' impressive medal tally serves as a beacon of hope and inspiration for other athletes in the region, proving that age is no barrier to achieving greatness.

The JKMGGA's efforts to promote sports and fitness at all ages have undoubtedly made a positive impact, and today's celebration is just the beginning. As the athletes look forward to future events, the community continues to rally behind them, fostering a spirit of resilience and determination that will drive the next generation of sportspeople in Jammu and Kashmir.

This achievement has not only put the swimmers on the map but has also sparked a renewed enthusiasm for sports in the region, encouraging individuals to pursue their athletic dreams, regardless of age.

SSP Kulgam, SP NHW visit SHO Kund's residence to offer condolences

Top News Report

KULGAM, Apr 10: In a heartfelt gesture, SSP Kulgam Shri Sahil Sarangal (IPS) and SP National Highways Shri Mumtaz Bhatti visited the residence of SHO Kund, Dilbar Hussain, at Keegam in Shopian district to offer their condolences on the demise of his beloved mother.

The officers extended their deepest sympathies to the grieving family and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul. They also assured SHO Dilbar Hussain of their unwavering support during this difficult period.



This compassionate visit exemplified the sense of camaraderie and unity within the Jammu and Kashmir Police, where fellow

officers stand in solidarity during moments of personal loss, reinforcing the bond of brotherhood that underpins the police fraternity.

GDC Mahanpur celebrates 7th Edition of Poshan Pakhwada

Top News Report

MAHANPUR, Apr 10: NSS Unit In collaboration with Sociology Department of GDC Mahanpur celebrated 7th Edition of Poshan Pakhwada from 8th April to 23rd April, 2025.

In this connection, a awareness program conducted on 10 April, 2025 within campus. Through Poshan Pakhwada 2025, the government is encouraging greater participation from families as well, ensuring that beneficiaries have access to the app to monitor their own nutritional progress.

It was organised by Dr. Sapna Devi under the guidance of Dr. Sangeeta Sudan, Principal of the College. Through PPT Dr. Namita (Sociology) elaborated about Poshan Pakhwada 2025, it is a step towards building a nutritious Bharat with the main focus on women and children.

The staff members who were present in the Programme were Dr. Mohinder Nath Sharma, Nisha Kumari, Dr. Babli, Dr. Anju Bala, Dr. Yograj, Dr. Nishu, Dr. Suhail Ahmed Dar, Prof. Sameeksha Sharma, Prof. Monika Devi, Prof. Pooja Sambyal, Prof. Shivani Panooch and Prof. Abinash Sharma.

families, and the broader community. She called for collective action from all stakeholders to eliminate the growing menace and build a drug-free society.

Prominent resource persons including Mohammad Shafi Wagay, Dr. Abdul Rashid, Ghulam Mohiud-Din Lone, and Sameena Akhter delivered insightful talks, educating the audi-

ence about the physical, mental, and social consequences of drug addiction.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from members of Traders Federation Hajin, Wahab Transport, Gousia Sumo Stand, Civil Society Hajin, students, and senior citizens, reinforcing the spirit of community engagement against drug abuse.

IEC Campaign Against Drug Abuse: Municipal Committee Hajin organises awareness programme



Top News Report

HAJIN, Apr 10: As

part of the ongoing Information, Education and Communication

(IEC) campaign under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, the Municipal Committee Hajin organized a comprehensive awareness programme on Thursday at the Town Hall Hajin, focusing on the rising challenge of drug abuse in the region.

The event was presided over by Executive Officer Farhana Showkat, who underscored the devastating impact of substance abuse on individuals,



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 10: In a momentous achievement, the students of Cluster University of Jammu (CLUJ) have secured the 5th position out of 27 national universities at the 3rd All India University National Women Students Parliament, held at Centurion University of Technology and Management, Odisha. Representing the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Aakrida Mahajan, Ridham, and Aayushvi Sharma made history by showcasing remarkable debating skills and leadership prowess at the prestigious national platform.

The event was inaugurated by Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati, Governor of Odisha, and witnessed participation from over 100 women student leaders representing 27 universities across India, including renowned institutions such as Chandigarh University, Manipur University, and Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University.

The team from Cluster University was mentored and led by Dr. Shubhra Jamwal, Assistant Dean, DSW, and Dr. Raj Shree Dhar, Dean Student Welfare. Their exceptional guidance and encouragement played a vital role in the students' success.

Vice-Chancellor Professor K.S. Chan-

dershekhar commended the team for their stellar performance, stating, that this remarkable achievement reflects the academic strength, eloquence, and debating prowess of our students. He extended his heartfelt congratulations to the team and their mentors for bringing laurels to the university.

Dr. Raj Shree Dhar, Dean DSW CLUJ, on this achievement added, added that the spectacular performance by our students on a national platform is a testament to the unwavering talent, rigorous training, and determined spirit of both our students and faculty.

The three-day event featured intense debates on pressing national issues such as One Nation One Election, the Telecommunication Bill, and the Uniform Civil Code (UCC). The students of Cluster University stood out with their eloquence, intellect, and leadership, successfully reaching the semi-finals.

In recognition of their outstanding performance, Dr. Shubhra Jamwal and the student participants were felicitated with mementos and participation certificates.

The event concluded on a high note with a vibrant cultural night, celebrating the rich folk traditions of India.

This remarkable accomplishment not only highlights the rising talent from Jammu and Kashmir but also marks a proud chapter in the journey of Cluster University of Jammu.

Los Angeles 2028 Olympics: Cricket to feature 6 teams, 90 players on Games return

NEW DELHI, Apr 10 (Agencies): Cricket will return to the Olympic Games for the first time in 128 years, featuring six teams in both the men's and women's events, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has confirmed. A total of 90 players will participate in each event. The sport will be played in the T20 format at the world's biggest multi-sport spectacle, set to take place in Los Angeles in 2028.

Cricket is one of five new sports that will be included in the Los Angeles Olympics, alongside squash, flag football, baseball/softball, and lacrosse. The qualification criteria for cricket at the Olympics are yet to be finalised. Unlike Test and ODI formats, T20 International cricket is played by nearly 100 nations, making the qualification process an interesting challenge.



As hosts, the USA might receive a direct entry into the tournament.

The event programme for the Los Angeles Olympics was approved by the IOC Executive Board. The 2028 Games will feature a total of 351 medal events-22 more than the Paris Olympics. The core athlete quota remains at 10,500, with an

held in Hangzhou, 14 men's teams and 9 women's teams participated, with India securing gold in both categories.

The process to include cricket in the Los Angeles Games began in August 2021, when the International Cricket Council (ICC) formally announced its intent to campaign for its inclusion. This led to a collaborative effort between the ICC and the LA28 Organising Committee, culminating in October 2023 when cricket was officially proposed as one of five new sports.

ICC Chairman Jay Shah is already working on a long-term strategy to ensure cricket's presence in future Olympic Games, including Brisbane 2032. The former BCCI secretary played a key role in the campaign to bring cricket to the Olympic stage in 2028.

Rajasthan Royals skipper Sanju Samson fined Rs 24 lakh for team's slow over-rate



AHMEDABAD, Apr 10 (Agencies): Rajasthan Royals skipper Sanju Samson has been asked to pay a hefty fine of Rs 24 lakh after his team maintained a slow over-rate during their match against Gujarat Titans in the Indian Premier League on Wednesday.

"Rajasthan Royals captain Sanju Samson has been fined after his team maintained a slow over-rate during Match No. 23 of the TATA Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 against Gujarat Titans at the Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad," the IPL said in a statement on

Thursday.

"As this was his team's second offence of the season under Article 2.22 of the IPL's Code of Conduct, which pertains to minimum over-rate offences, Samson was fined INR 24 lakhs.

The rest of the members of the playing XI, including the Impact Player, will be fined either INR six lakhs or 25 per cent of their respective match fees, whichever is lesser," it added in the statement.

Currently, GT lead the pecking order with four wins and a solitary loss in five matches, while RR are placed way down at seventh position with two victories and three defeats in five games.

Indian women's hockey team set to tour Australia for five-match series

NEW DELHI, Apr 10 (Agencies): The Indian women's hockey team is all set to embark on an exciting tour of Australia for a five-match series scheduled from April 26 to May 4. India will open the series with two matches against Australia A, followed by three encounters against the senior Australian team.

The tour will begin with back-to-back matches against Australia A on April 26 and April 27, followed by three high-intensity encounters against the world No.5 ranked Hockeyroos on May 1, May 3 and May 4. All fixtures will be held at the Perth Hockey Stadium.

Currently ranked ninth in the FIH World Rankings, the Indian team will look to build on their recent momentum and continue their strong performances on the international stage. The tour will serve as vital preparation ahead of their European leg of the FIH Pro League 2024-25, which kicks off in June.

India entered the series on a high after a spirited performance

against world No. 1 Netherlands. They secured a 2-2 draw and clinched the bonus point in a thrilling shootout in Bhubaneswar, marking a confident end to their home leg of the Pro League.

India also has recently had success against Australia in drawing confidence from them. In their last encounter during the FIH Pro League 2023-24, India emerged 1-0 winners. Notably, they had scripted history at the Tokyo Olympics 2021, defeating the three-time Olympic champions 1-0 in the semifinals to reach the bronze medal match. Despite a close battle in the 2022 Commonwealth Games Semi-Final that ended in a 1-1 draw during regulation time, Australia clinched the win in the shootout.

However, historically, Australia has the upper hand, having won 10 out of the 16 matches played between the two sides since 2013. India has registered three wins, while three matches have ended in draws.

Speaking on the tour,

Harendra Singh, Head Coach of the Indian Women's Hockey Team, said, "This tour is an important step in our preparations for the European leg of the FIH Pro League. Playing against a strong side like Australia will test our players and give us valuable insights into where we stand. We've seen how this team can rise to the occasion, like we did against the Netherlands recently, and we want to build on that momentum."

"Our matches against Australia have always been competitive, and while they've had the edge historically, we've shown in recent years that we can go toe-to-toe with them. The team is motivated and working hard in camp to fine-tune key aspects of our game before we head to Perth," he added.

Ahead of the tour, the Indian players are undergoing intensive training at the ongoing Senior Women's National Coaching Camp at SAI, Bengaluru, working to sharpen their strategies and enhance on-field synergy.

Time running out as strugglers CSK, KKR face off in IPL 2025

CHENNAI, Apr 10 (Agencies): A beleaguered Chennai Super Kings will have their task cut out against Kolkata Knight Riders as they look to break a frustrating run of defeats in front of their loyal but success-deprived supporters in the ongoing Indian Premier League on Friday. Heading into the critical game, in which a loss could spell more trouble for CSK, the home team is taking some solace from the batters' impressive show in the last match against Punjab Kings, which they lost by 18 runs after being set a stiff target of 219 in Mullanpur.

CSK are now hoping for a change in fortune at Chepauk, which has so far this season not afforded them the advantage it has been know to give in the past, something that has also forced longtime coach Stephen Fleming to express his frustration after a massive loss against Royal Challengers Bengaluru some days back.

CSK did not enjoy home advantage at Chepauk, which has been a significant factor in their previous success. The pitch has changed significantly, making it harder for them to read and adapt to.

For CSK to change the tide, they have no option but to try and get acclimatised to the conditions here, and their spinners



will have to find ways to succeed at a venue in which they have dominated for a prolonged period.

CSK will have to do course correction in order to get back to winning ways and as has been the case in last couple of weeks, a lot of the focus will again be on veteran Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who smashed a 12-ball 27 against PBKS with three sixes and a four.

The likes of Devon Conway, Rachin Ravindra and Shivam Dube will be entering the match on the back of some welcome runs, and that is one positive for CSK in these difficult times.

After his failure against PBKS, skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad will however look to fire on Friday while hoping for useful contributions from his colleagues in the top and middle-order.

krish Raghuvanshi, Andre Russell and Rinku Singh to fire and lead their resurgence.

CSK are placed ninth in the standings after four losses and a solitary win, while KKR are in sixth position with two wins and three defeats in five matches.

Teams: Kolkata Knight Riders: Quinton de Kock (wk), Sunil Narine, Ajinkya Rahane (c), Angkrish Raghuvanshi, Venkatesh Iyer, Rinku Singh, Manish Pandey, Andre Russell, Randeep Singh, Harshit Rana, Spencer Johnson, Varun Chakravarthy, Anrich Nortje, Vaibhav Arora, Anukul Roy, Luvnith Sisodia, Moeen Ali, Rovman Powell, Mayank Markande, Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Chetan Sakaria.

Chennai Super Kings: Ruturaj Gaikwad (c), MS Dhoni, Ravindra Jadeja, Shivam Dube, Matheesha Pathirana, Noor Ahmad, Ravichandran Ashwin, Devon Conway, Syed Khaleel Ahmed, Rachin Ravindra, Rahul Tripathi, Vijay Shankar, Sam Curran, Shaik Rashid, Anshul Kamboj, Mukesh Choudhary, Deepak Hooda, Gurjanpreet Singh, Nathan Ellis, Jamie Overton, Kamlesh Nagarkoti, Ramakrishnan Ghosh, Shreyas Gopal, Vansh Bedi, Andre Sid-darth.

Match starts at 7.30pm.

ESFI's Lokesh Suji re-elected as Asian Electronic Sports Federation South Asia VP

NEW DELHI, Apr 10 (Agencies): In a significant boost for Indian esports, Lokesh Suji has been re-elected unopposed as Vice President for South Asia in the Asian Electronic Sports Federation (AESF) during its recent online Electoral General Assembly in Hong Kong for a four-year term.

Holding this position since AESF's inception, Suji's re-election highlights India's growing influence in international esports, reinforcing the Esports Federation of India's (ESFI) role in shaping the region's competitive gaming landscape.

The AESF Electoral General Assembly, chaired by outgoing President Kenneth Fok, convened representatives from 38 member nations and OCA Deputy Director General Vinod Tiwari. Thailand's Santi Lothong secured the AESF Presidency with a simple majority, alongside new Vice Presidents for different Asian zones.

"I am deeply grateful

for the continued trust placed in me and extend my sincere thanks to Kenneth (Fok) for his leadership and guidance over the years. I also look forward to working closely with Santi (Lothong) for this next phase. This re-election is not just a personal milestone but a testament to the remarkable growth of esports in India and South Asia. Esports in Asia is entering a defining era, and I am committed to ensuring that our players, federations, and stakeholders receive the recognition, opportunities, and platforms they deserve," said Lokesh Suji, Vice President of South Asia of AESF and Director of ESFI.

As Asia's esports governing body, recognised by the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA), AESF has been instrumental in getting esports included in Asian Games and hosting major tournaments like the Asian Esports Games 2018 and the Asian Games 2022, featuring top titles such as Dota 2,



Street Fighter 6, and FIFA Online. AESF has also been selected as the Technical Delegate for Esports at the 20th Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026.

Commenting on Suji's re-election, Santi Lothong, the incoming AESF President, said: "Having worked alongside Lokesh for years, I have witnessed his unwavering dedication to developing esports in South Asia and beyond. His leadership, vision, and relentless efforts have helped shape the region's competitive landscape. I look forward to continuing our collaboration and strengthening esports across Asia under this

pionship and Asian Esports Games and strong performances in the Asian Games 2018 and 2022, where Indian athletes proved their mettle against the world's best. ESFI is further cementing India's esports dominance with the WAVES Esports Championship (WESC) --a pioneering initiative that fosters homegrown talent and provides Indian players with an international platform to compete at the highest level.

WAVES Esports Championship is one of the 'Create in India Challenge' as part of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting's marquee event 'World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit' (WAVES) to be held from May 1 to May 4 2025, in Mumbai.

Recognized by and a Member of the International Esports Federation, Asian Esports Federation, and Global Esports Federation, ESFI remains dedicated to strengthening India's position on the global esports stage.

"The facilities here are very good": Thailand's Mananchaya Sawangkaew at Billie Jean King Cup 2025 in Pune



PUNE, Apr 10 (Agencies): Mananchaya Sawangkaew of Thailand has been making big waves in the Billie Jean King Cup Asia-Oceania Group 1, having won both of her matches so far at the prestigious tournament, organised by MSLTA in association with AITA and PMDTA, at the Mhalunge Balewadi Tennis Complex in Pune.

On the first day, Mananchaya helped Thailand in their 3-0 win over Hong Kong, China. She came from behind to win her tie 3-6, 6-3, 6-1 over Hong Yi Cody Wong to help her side begin their campaign on a strong note.

She then carried on her momentum on the second day as Thailand took on the host, India. Mananchaya faced Sahaja Yamalapalli, whom she defeated 6-3, 6-7, and 1-0 in a closely contested match. The Thai sensation won the first set 6-3, but Sahaja replied well and took the second set after winning the tie-breaker. Unfortunately for the Indian, she had to retire from the match due to an injury in the third set.

About her experience playing in India, Mananchaya said, as quoted from a press release by Billie Jean King Cup, "I've

played in India since I was a junior, and I really love it. Sometimes, it's tough to play because it's humid, but I am getting used to it. The Indian players are getting really better, and I like playing here."

Mananchaya recently played the WTA Mumbai Open 2025 in India, which was also organised by MSLTA and added, "The facilities here are very good, just like the WTA Mumbai Open. It's getting better than before, and I am always happy to come to India."

Reflecting more on the weather conditions, she said, "I have been playing the second match in the evening, so it has helped me a lot. I saw my teammates play the first match in the afternoon and noticed that the ball was very flat. When the sun is down, it's not that hot, and the ball stays on the court more, so it is better."

Mananchaya also highlighted the importance of her team and the role they play in the tournament and said, "There is a lot of pressure in this tournament because we are playing for our country, but we support each other a lot and help each other get relaxed. When representing the country, it is mostly about mental strength, and the coach has helped me a lot in that. Everyone makes me smile, and I love this team."

About her opponent, Sahaja, Mananchaya stated, "She played really well and has improved a lot from before. She fought hard for her country, but it was unfortunate that she had to retire. We didn't want to finish like this, but I hope she gets better and keeps fighting tomorrow."

Principal Secretary Sajeev Khirwar reviews functioning of CFCs in Changthang Region



Top News Report

LEH, Apr 10: The Principal Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Ladakh Sanjeev Khirwar, chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat to review the functioning of Common Facility Centres (CFCs) in the Changthang region. The meeting began with a formal introduction of all participants. This was followed by a lively and interactive session where attendees actively voiced their concerns, shared personal experiences, and proposed thoughtful suggestions. The core theme of the discussion centered around devising effective strategies to retain individuals, especially the younger generation, in traditional livelihoods—specifically, the age-old practice of pashmina rearing. During the deliberations, Sanjeev Khirwar

highlighted a critical issue: the diminishing interest in these traditional occupations due to inadequate financial incentives. He underlined the urgent need to improve the remuneration and economic conditions of farmers and herders who are engaged in pashmina production. He said that unless, these communities are provided with sufficient earnings and a sense of economic security, they may be compelled to abandon their ancestral trades in pursuit of more lucrative, modern alternatives. He emphasized that ensuring better economic returns is not only essential for the sustainability of this heritage-based livelihood but also crucial for encouraging the youth to take pride in and continue these time-honoured practices. The challenges faced by local entrepreneurs

were also thoroughly discussed. One of the major areas of concern was the need for stronger branding and marketing of Ladakh pashmina. The Principal Secretary highlighted the importance of obtaining certification and a Geographical Indication (GI) tag to ensure the authenticity and uniqueness of Ladakh pashmina. He further stressed the need for quality checks and standardization to enhance trust and recognition in wider markets. He also emphasized that value chain should as far possible be captured in Ladakh. Councillors from the region actively participated in the discussion, sharing on-ground realities and offering suggestions. Key focus areas included the need to increase productivity, aggregate local demand for dehaired pashmina, fulfil the requirements for

spinning machines, and standardize the quality of pashmina products. A significant decision taken during the meeting was the formation of a dedicated committee under the leadership of the Deputy Commissioner, Leh. This committee will work closely with local entrepreneurs, experts, and stakeholders to thoroughly assess and identify the existing gaps in the entire pashmina value chain—from herding and raw wool collection to dehairing, spinning, weaving, marketing, and export. The objective is to streamline processes, improve infrastructure, and address quality control and certification challenges. The committee was asked to submit a comprehensive report outlining practical solutions and strategies to strengthen the sector within 10 days. The broader aim is to enhance the viability and visibility of Ladakh pashmina in both domestic and international markets, ensuring it remains a sustainable source of livelihood. By professionalizing the sector and building and retaining a robust value chain, the initiative seeks to inspire and enable the younger generation to take pride

in and continue this culturally significant and economically valuable tradition, thereby bridging the generational gap and securing the future of Ladakh's iconic pashmina heritage. Secretary Tourism was also asked to explore experiential tourism in the Changthang region as has been done in part of India where 'Rural living' of tourists for a brief period has been systematically promoted. The administration has assured full support and committed to implementing necessary measures so that people continue working in this valuable sector. The overall objective remains to enhance the livelihood of pashmina herders and ensure the economic and cultural sustainability of this traditional profession in the Changthang region. The meeting was attended by Lalitinkhuma Franklin, Administrative Secretary, Planning Department and Monitoring Department, Vikram Singh Malik, Administrative Secretary, Tourism Department, Santosh Sukhadeva, Deputy Commissioner Leh and the Councillors of the region, local entrepreneur and concerned officials.

SMVDU conducts orientation session for honors and minor specialization



Top News Report

KATRA, Apr 10: An orientation session for B.Tech. 2023, Batch students was organized by the Academic Affairs Section, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) at the Matrika Auditorium, SMVDU. The session aimed to familiarize students with the wide range of Honors and Minor Specializations offered by various engineering departments, enabling them to tailor their academic paths according to their interests and industry trends. The event commenced with opening remarks by Prof. (Dr.) Balbir Singh, Dean, Academic Affairs. Dr. Balbir Singh extended his heartfelt gratitude to the Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU, for his unwavering support and for making the event possible through his continued encouragement and guidance. He acknowledged the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor's farsighted vision towards holistic student development and the overall growth of the institution, which continues to inspire and shape the university's academic initiatives. He encouraged students to pursue academic excellence and take full advantage of the diverse specialization options. The orientation high-

lighted a rich bouquet of Honors and Minor specializations designed to equip students with domain-specific expertise and interdisciplinary knowledge. The students will be able to choose Honors or minor specialisation in various cutting-edge technologies like Artificial Intelligence and Information System Security, VLSI Design, Multimedia Technology Millimetre Wave Technology, Structural Engineering, Environmental Engineering, Power Electronics & Drivers, System & Control, Robotics & Automation, and 3D Printing & Technology. The orientation session proved to be a significant step in empowering students to make informed decisions about their academic trajectories and enhance their readiness for future industry and research opportunities. Dr. V. K. Dogra, Head, School of Civil Engineering, Dr. Sunanda Gupta Head, School of Computer Science & Engineering, Prof. Kumud Ranjan Jha, Head School of Electrical Engineering and Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Dr. Anil Kumar Bhardwaj Head SoECE and Dr. Yatheshth Anand, Head, School of Mechanical Engineering presented the students with Honors and Minor

Specialization areas available in the respective schools. An interactive session provided students with the opportunity to clarify doubts, gain clarity on eligibility, curriculum structure, and career prospects, and understand the scope and structure of each program. Dr. Shafaq Rasool, Associate Dean, Academic Affairs delivered the formal vote of thanks. She expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the Honourable Vice Chancellor for his constant support and visionary leadership, which played a pivotal role in the successful organization of the event. She extended her gratitude to all Heads of the Schools, Dean Academic Affairs, Associate Dean Academic Affairs, Dr. B.B. Jindal, Academic Affairs Section for their support in the conduct of this event and NSS volunteers who diligently managed logistics and helped ensure the smooth execution of the program. She also encouraged students to take advantage of such events in making an informative decision regarding their careers and strive for excellence. The event was moderated by Amook Sharma and Samragyee, M.Sc. Biotechnology final-year students.

Kheerbhawani Mandal holds program at Laxmi Vihar, highlights Union Govt's achievements



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 10: Kheerbhawani Mandal (KDD) organised a program at Laxmi Vihar on Wednesday, in which a large number of Mandal level active members, BJP activists and supporters participated. Former Mandal President and senior BJP leader Chand Bhat graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Speaking on the occasion, Chand Bhat highlighted the achievements of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government in a nationwide outreach. From India's "rising" global stature to emphasis on national security, reducing child sex ratio, enhancing women empowerment while eliminating gender-based inequalities, education of girl, welfare measures like housing and toilets for the poor, boost to piped water supply, launching of ambitious and far-reaching proposals for military modernization, infrastructure growth and efforts to ramp up the manufacturing sector were among the initiatives cited by Bhat. Also speaking, BJP Activist R.L.Kaith said India is doing very well in many sectors. The strides made by India in the digital sector is helping it shine in sectors such as industrial, health and education. India has surprised many countries of the world by becoming a cashless country with digitization, he said. Modi has made India shine in the last decade by bringing in amazing

projects for the country. Projects such as PM Anna Yojana, Ujjwala Yojana and Awas Yojana have been implemented keeping in mind the masses at the centre. All these have taken India towards development, he said. The Mandal President Neha Pandita headed the program and also conducted the proceedings. J Other prominent Mandal Karyakarta, Booth presidents and Booth karyakarta were A.K.Pandita, M.L.Koul, C.L.Pandita, Ramesh Wangoo, Anita Sharma, Rattan Lal Koul, Sharan Tickoo, Subedar Baldev Chand (Retd), Ajay Sharma, Rohini Pandita, Preeti Raina, Pushpa Wangoo, A.K.Tickoo, Vinod Pandita, Sandeep Dhar, Rajni and Sheetal.

ment formed by the Janata Party. During his long career in politics, he held many important posts in government such as the chief minister of Bombay State, the home minister, the finance minister, and the deputy prime minister.

NSF pays tribute of 30th Death Anniversary of Morarji Desai

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 10: National Secular Forum (NSF) paid tributes to Morarji Ranchhodji Desai on his 30th Death Anniversary at University Campus, who laid his life for the country. Dr. Vikas Sharma Coordinator Jammu District and Zonal Secretary JKNC was the chief guest while, Dr Sukhdev Singh State President NSF presided over the function and Vikshay Vashist state Secretary NSF, was the guest of honour. Speaking on the occasion Dr. Vikas Sharma appreciated the initiative taken by the University Unit NSF to remember the death anniversary of those who have contributed their lives for the Country. Dr Vikas threw light on the life and supreme sacrifices of "Morarji Ranchhodji Desai". Sharma also said Morarji Ranchhodji Desai was an Indian politician and independence activist who served as the prime minister of India between 1977 and 1979 leading the gov-

ernment formed by the Janata Party. During his long career in politics, he held many important posts in government such as the chief minister of Bombay State, the home minister, the finance minister, and the deputy prime minister.

Visionary Academy and Anti-Crime Special Volunteer Club honours Dr. Uppal for exemplarily guidance, support

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 10: Dr. Rajinder Kumar Uppal, an eminent Emeritus Professor and acclaimed academician, was recently honored by the Visionary Academy and Anti-Crime Special Volunteer Club in recognition of his exceptional guidance and unwavering support to the organization. The award was presented by Mr. Prince Banal, Chairman of the Club, acknowledging Dr.

Uppal's inspirational role in mentoring the institution and strengthening its social mission. The Visionary Academy and Anti-Crime Special Volunteer Club is devoted to empowering youth through special coaching and skill development programs, particularly targeting rural and remote communities. Dr. Uppal's commitment and expertise have significantly contributed to advancing the Club's objectives of educational inclusion and social

upliftment. Dr. Uppal currently holds the position of Professor-cum-Principal at Guru Gobind College of Management and Technology, Gidderbaha, Punjab. In addition, he serves as MTC Global Chair Professor of Banking and Finance and Research Professor at the Indian Institute of Finance, New Delhi. Internationally recognized for his transformative research in Banking and Finance, Dr. Uppal has earned several

national and international patents and accolades. As a prolific author and thought leader, he has contributed extensively to academic literature and continues to serve the scholarly community as a reviewer, discussant, and session chair at prestigious academic forums. His visionary leadership, deep scholarly insight, and commitment to societal progress remain a beacon of inspiration for educators and researchers alike.

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