

TOP NEWS OF J&K



JAMMU, FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2025

Daily Evening Newspaper

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Chahatt Khanna says 'people didn't want to work with her' after her divorces



Varanasi developed under PM Modi's leadership: Adityanath

US Energy Secretary lauds UAE as 'strategic partner' in energy, AI



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BRIEFLY

Body of third missing gujjar youth recovered in South Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Apr 11 (Agencies): The body of the third missing tribal Gujjar youth was recovered on Friday from a stream in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district, officials said.

The deceased, identified as Mukhtar Awan, had been missing since February 13, along with his cousins Riyaz and Showkat Bajad, all residents of Chandian Pajan village in Kulgam district. The trio had set out that evening to attend a relative's wedding in Mahgund village, around 10 kilometres away, but never reached their destination.

A month after their disappearance, the bodies of two brothers Riyaz and Showkat were found in a stream between the two villages.

While officials claim the two had drowned or died by suicide, the families refused to believe this version.

On Friday, the body of third missing youth Mukhtar Awan was recovered from a stream, which has further added to the tension already prevailing in the area.

"The body of the third missing youth was spotted by the locals Vaishow Nallah and they informed the police. The body was later shifted to District Hospital Kulgam for medico-legal formalities," official said.

BJP leader and former law maker Chowdhary Zulfkar Ali reiterated his demand to the State Government to institute a magisterial inquiry into the inexplicable deaths of three individuals.

"This silence is unacceptable, and it is essential that the government takes action as per the law of the land. The affected families are entitled to adequate compensation and relief," he said.

Suspected thief caught snatching earrings of lady, Head shaved, face blackened by locals in Jammu

JAMMU, Apr 11: A suspected thief was paraded semi-naked with shaved head and blackened face when he was caught red handed by the locals while snatching earrings of a lady in old city area here on Friday.

Sources said that the suspected thief, said to be a resident of Reasi, was caught by the locals

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Terrorist killed in encounter in Kishtwar; Combing Ops underway in Udhampur

JAMMU, Apr 11 (Agencies): One terrorist was killed Friday in an encounter with security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district, while a separate operation to track down a group of three militants is underway in Udhampur district, Army officials said.

The security agencies have expanded the scope of surveillance to the Bhaderwah area of Doda district to keep a track on terrorists potentially moving between different locations in the hilly districts of the Jammu region.

The officials said the encounter in Kishtwar broke out during an intelligence-based search-and-destroy operation launched jointly by the Army and the Jammu and Kashmir Police in the Chatru forest area of the district.

During the operation, the forces established contact with the terrorists. "The terrorists were effectively engaged, and a firefight ensued. One terrorist has been neutralized so far," the Army's White Knight



Corps, or 16 Corps, said in a post on X.

"Despite hostile terrain and adverse weather, our brave soldiers continue relentless operations," it added.

Special forces braved high-snow areas and treacherous terrains to track down one terrorist, while a few others are still on the move under significant pressure from security forces, the officials quoted above said.

A brief exchange of fire with terrorists occurred in the Naidgam area of Chatru on Wednesday resulting in launch of massive combing operation.

The slain terrorist reportedly was a part of the Saifullah module of Pakistan, but it has not

been officially confirmed. This is the module that ambushed an army team in Doda on July 15, 2024, resulting in the death of an officer and a rifleman.

Security forces have intensified surveillance in the high-altitude areas of the Bhaderwah area of Doda district, considering the melting snow in the higher meadows, a major factor contributing to infiltration during summer months.

Supported by helicopters and drones, troops are maintaining a high degree of surveillance in high-altitude areas connecting Kishtwar, Udhampur, and Kathua districts, they said.

There have been five encounters in the past

19 days in the mountainous terrains of Kathua-Udhampur-Kishtwar, in which three terrorists were killed. Four police personnel were also killed, while three other police personnel and a girl sustained injuries.

Search operations resumed Friday in the Jopher-Marta forests in Udhampur district, officials said.

Equipped with sniffer dogs and aerial surveillance, multiple security agencies are combing the entire forest area to track down three terrorists hiding in the area, they added.

The areas have been placed under night cordons to prevent terrorists from escaping, the officials said.

On Wednesday, during a search operation by police and other security forces, contact was established with terrorists in the Jopher-Marta belt in the Ramnagar police station area of Udhampur, leading to an encounter. "Two to three terrorists are believed to be trapped," said Senior Superintendent of Police

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One more constituent of Hurriyat denounces separatism: Home Minister Amit Shah

NEW DELHI, Apr 11 (Agencies): Another constituent of separatist amalgam Hurriyat Conference, Jammu and Kashmir Mass Movement, has rejected secessionism and declared complete commitment to the unity of the country, Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced on Friday.

He said with this, as many as 12 Hurriyat-linked organisations in Jammu and Kashmir have broken off from

separatism, resting trust in the Constitution.

"Under the Modi govt the spirit of unity rules J&K. Another Hurriyat affiliate organisation, Jammu and Kashmir Mass Movement, has rejected separatism, declaring complete commitment to the unity of Bharat. I sincerely welcome their move. Till now as many as 12 Hurriyat-linked organisations have broken off from secessionism, resting trust in the Con-

stitution of India. This is a victory of PM Shri @narendramodi Ji's vision for 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat,'" Shah wrote on X.

On April 8, Jammu Kashmir Islamic Political Party, Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Democratic League and Kashmir Freedom Front had disassociated themselves from Hurriyat Conference.

Among other groups which announced their

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J&K Police attach property worth Rs 1.2 Crore of drug peddler in Anantnag

SRINAGAR, Apr 11 (Agencies): Continuing its drive against drug trafficking to ensure adherence to the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, Anantnag Police have attached properties worth over Rs 1.2 crore belonging to drug peddlers in multiple cases across the district.

The Police said that in one significant action carried out under sec-



tion 68-F of the NDPS Act, Anantnag Police attached a single-storey residential house along with one kanal of land at Sallar, Anantnag. The

property is owned by Bashir Ahmad Wani, a resident of Sallar, who is involved in case FIR No 65/2018

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Army beefs up security along Jammu-Srinagar highway to curb terrorist activities



SRINAGAR, Apr 11 (agencies): To curb terrorist activities and secure critical transit routes, the Army has intensified its deployment and surveillance along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway. According to Army

officials, the initiative aims to disrupt terrorist logistics, including the transportation of war-like stores (WLS) and the unauthorised movement through the region.

"Day and night patrolling by Army units has been scaled up, cover-

ing vulnerable stretches and strategic choke points along the highway. In coordination with the Jammu and Kashmir Police (JKP), joint Mobile Vehicle Check Posts (MVCPs) have been established at multiple locations. These MVCPs serve as dynamic security checkpoints, conducting surprise checks and increasing operational unpredictability for potential threats," the Army said.

To further strengthen highway security, the latest surveillance and screening technologies have been deployed,

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Cops prevent PDP protest against Waqf (Amendment) Act 2025

SRINAGAR, Apr 11 (Agencies): Police here on Friday prevented a Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) march against the passage of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, barricading the party office and restricting the protestors within the premises.

Led by party general secretary Khurshid Alam, scores of PDP workers had assembled at the party headquarters near the Sher-

e-Kashmir Park here to protest against the passage of the act last week.

The PDP workers tried to march out of the party office and towards the city centre, but were met by a posse of police personnel who prevented them from moving out. Police had barricaded the gates which restricted the protestors on the premises.

The protestors carried placards with messages

like "we reject the Waqf Bill" and "NC's (National Conference) silence is criminal" and raised slogans for the repeal of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025.

Later, the protestors dispersed peacefully.

Speaking to reporters, Alam said they wanted to protest peacefully, but police prevented them.

"We wanted to protest against the Waqf bill. We understand that no

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10TH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Raj Mal S/o Dhasam Chand R/o Bari Brahmna.**

10TH DAY will be performed on 14th April Monday at our residence Pelli Morh opp. Sahib Bandagi Ashram.

GRIEF STRICKEN :

(Son & Daughter in law)

Mr. Jatin & Mrs. Tripta

Mr. Harish & Mrs. Asha

(Son in law & Daughter)

Mr. Suresh & Mrs. Suman

Smt. Mandeep Kaur (Wife)

(Grand Son & Grand Daughter)

Ayan, Ayush, Antriksh, Anadhya, Soham



SH. RAJ MAL
(Retd C.H.O Health Deptt)

Mob. 7889667001,
9697500560

10TH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother **Smt. Sham Rani W/o Late Sh. Soom Nath R/o Sagam Anantnag** Present Address Roop Nagar, Muthi.

10th Day will be performed at Muthi Ghat on Sunday (13/4/2025) 8.00 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh. Narinder Nath (Son)

Smt. Kanta (Daughter-in-law)

Sh. Rajinder Nath (Son)

Smt. Bunty Kher (Daughter)

Sh. Ravinder Kher (Son-in-law)

Smt. Pushpa Pandita (Daughter)

Sh. P. N. Pandita (Son-in-law)

(Grand Children)

Amit, Ayoushman, Preeti, Anu, Rohit, Rishab & Navneet

Sakshi (Grand Daughter-in-law)

Contact No. : 6005374003, 8713099969



Smt. Sham Rani

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 Shanka Vihar Sector 2 Lower Roop Nagar Jammu will be performed on 11th and 12th April 2025 respectively.

DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY

Smt Somwati (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

10TH DAY /13TH DAY / KRIYA / UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of **Sh. Anil Kumar S/o Sh. Chani Bham and Smt. Padma Devi R/o H.No. 180, near High Court Road, Jammu on 3-4-2025.**

Tenth Day will be performed on 12th April 2025 at 11:00 am at their residence.

13th Day Kriya will be performed on 15th April 2025

Uthala will be performed on 16th April 2025 at their residence.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Shashi Kaur - Wife

Son - Husband

Brother & Sister-in-law

Sh. Sudeep Kumar & Smt. Priya Kumar - 9140660040

Sh. Sudeep Kumar & Smt. Neha Devi - 9400000190

Sh. Mahesh Kumar & Smt. Sanjana - 7000207740

Sisters

Sh. Rajinder Kumar & Smt. Neetu Devi

Sh. Sunil Kumar & Smt. Jyoti Devi



Sh. Anil Kumar

KRIYA/ RASAM PAGRI/ UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform you the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Nirmal Sathia** wife of **Sh. S.K. Sathia BSc BEd** 107 Shanti Vihar Panna Palsura, Lane C/o. Piller No 02, Address Road, Jammu, who left us for heavenly abode on 31-03-2025.

KRIYA will be performed on 12-04-2025 at our residence at 12 Noon

RASAM PAGRI will be performed on 13-04-2025 at our residence at 1:30 P.M.

UTHALA will be performed on 13-04-2025 at Ganga Mandir, Sakshi Nagar, Jammu, from 4:00-5:00 P.M.

GRIEF STRICKEN

S.K. Sathia - Husband (Ex Cpt. Genl. S. P.)

Son & Daughter in Law

Dr. Anil Sathia & Dr. Priya Sathia

Deepak Sathia & Sonja Rani Lytle

Sanjay Sathia & Jasvira Jyoti (Shakti, California USA)

Babli & Soham

Brother & Sister in Law

Lata Chatur Singh Pathania & Shobha Pathania

Raghu & Nisha in Law

Dr. Sanjeev Pathania (MD) & Kamna Pathania

Randeep Pathania & Dr. Shashi Pathania



SMT. NIRMAL SATHIA

Grand Children:-

Arunali, Akamali, Anjali,

Amanali, Anusha, Anshika,

Sarthak, Shikhar, Saransh,

Saranshi, Adarsh

9419199047, 9419194148

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

UTHALA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE INFORM THE SAD DEVISE OF OUR BELOVED **SMT. LALITA DEVI R/O HOUSE NO. 68 SEC 14 NANAK NAGAR JAMMU.**

UTHALA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 12/04/2025 (SATURDAY) AT GORKHA MANDIR NANAK NAGAR JAMMU.

TIMINGS :- 3:00PM TO 4:00 PM

GRIEF STRICKEN:

LATE SH. JEET RAM GUPTA (HUSBAND)

SON AND DAUGHTER IN LAW

SH. RANAJ GUPTA AND SMT. RITU GUPTA

SONS-IN-LAW AND DAUGHTERS

SH. RAKESH GUPTA AND SMT. ARUNA GUPTA

SH. VARINDER GUPTA AND SMT. REKHA GUPTA

SH. PREM GUPTA AND SMT. RAJNI GUPTA

SH. SHIV GUPTA AND SMT. SONIA GUPTA

Ph No:- 97961 58786, 88250 57062



Smt. Lalita Devi

CHOUBARSI

Four years have passed since you left us, but your memories will remain ever bright in our hearts and your love continues to guide us. There is not a single moment when we have not missed you. It is to inform that **CHOUBARSI** of our beloved **Sh. Kamal Singh Chaurak S/o Lt. Mangu Ram** shall be held on 12 April 2025 at 12 Noon at our residence Chauri Hammat Sector-2, Jammu.

Deeply Remembered By:

Smt. Asha Chaurak - Wife

Son & Daughter-in-law

Sh. Ravinder Singh Chaurak & Ambika

Daughters & Sons-in-law

Smt. Alka & Devinder Singh Sathia

Smt. Seema & Rakeshwar Singh Darswal

Smt. Bandana & Randeep Singh Mandira

Smt. Sangita & Mahavir Singh Sambrayal

Grand Children: Sonia, Harini, Jatin, Priika, Nitin,

Anshika, Varun, Idhant, Samrat, Mayna, Vanya

Mob: 9797400461, 7889860813



Sh. Kamal Singh Chaurak
(Retd. Food Inspector)

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 Purkhoo Camp Domana Jammu who left us for heavenly abode on 07-04-2025. May Lord Grant peace to her divine soul.

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

Grief Stricken

Sh. Prithvi Nath Bhat - Husband

Sister & Brother-in-law

Sh. Poshkar Nath Bhat & Smt. Rupashri Bhat

Smt. Santosh 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

Nish Bhat - Son

Nitika Bhat - Daughter

All Nears & Dears

Mob. No. 9797534928, 9797439449



Smt Madhu Bhat
W/o Prithvi Nath Bhat

10TH DAY KRIYAKARAM

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

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

IRREPARABLY STRICKEN:

Smt. Sujeta Bhat (Wife)

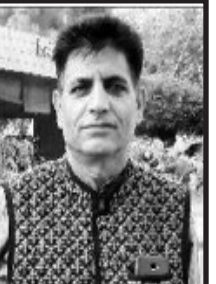
Sh. R.K. Bhat & Smt. Sonia Bhat (Brother & Bhabhi)

Smt. Rubi Tickoo (Sister)

Sh. Roop K. Bhat & Smt. Lovely (Brother-in-law & Sister)

Aakash Bhat, Shivam Bhat, Sagar Bhat, Rushank Bhat & Vikasta Bhat (Sons & Daughter)

CONTACT NUMBERS: 9697541881, 9149454098



Lt. Sh. Awatar Krishan Bhat
(Billu ji)

TENTH DAY & UTHALA

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

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

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

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

DEEPLY MISSED BY

Rahul Gupta (Chhotu) - Son

Daughters

Tamanna Gupta

Purvi Gupta

Whole Paba family & Kohli family

9796666485, 9796486380



Smt. Veena Gupta

TENTH DAY/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 Morh, 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

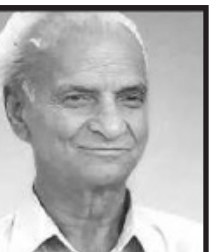
Mr. Rohit Sharma

Mr. Rajeev Sharma and Mrs. Rajni Sharma

Smt. Nirmal

Smt. Anju Sharma

Mrs. Isha Sharma & Kapil Jambwal - 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

EDITORIAL

CHOOSE HEALTH,
CHOOSE LIFE

In the fast-paced whirlwind of modern life, where deadlines blur into sleepless nights and convenience often triumphs over care, there lies a gentle yet powerful truth: health is not just the absence of disease, but the foundation of a meaningful, joyful life. The phrase “Choose Health, Choose Life” is more than a slogan—it is a wake-up call, a mantra, a soulful invitation to align our daily choices with the timeless wisdom of well-being.

Health is a silent companion—we rarely think of it when all is well, but its absence shakes the very core of our existence. Diseases don’t arrive overnight. They creep in slowly, nurtured by poor eating habits, a sedentary lifestyle, unmanaged stress, and neglect of routine care. The irony? Many chronic diseases like diabetes, hypertension, obesity, and even some forms of cancer are largely preventable. The solution lies in awareness and action—being informed about our bodies, making smarter choices, and nurturing our physical and mental ecosystems.

Choosing health starts with prevention. Regular health check-ups, a balanced diet, sufficient physical activity, and enough sleep are not luxuries but necessities. When we prioritize these elements, we not only avoid disease but also improve our productivity, emotional resilience, and overall zest for life.

“As the food, so the mind. As the mind, so the man.” This ancient wisdom captures the intimate bond between what we consume and who we become. In a world seduced by fast food and flashy packaging, choosing wholesome, unprocessed, and fresh food is a radical act of self-love. Fruits, vegetables, whole grains, nuts, and legumes provide the nutrients our bodies crave. Reducing sugar and salt intake, avoiding deep-fried and processed meals, and staying hydrated with clean water instead of sugary drinks can drastically shift our energy levels and inner chemistry.

Food is not just fuel; it is information for our cells. Every bite we take tells our body a story—of healing or of harm. When we eat consciously, we become co-authors of our health narrative.

True health rests on the three pillars of physical, mental, and social well-being. They form a triangle that must remain balanced for a life well-lived. You can eat all the kale in the world and do yoga daily, but if your mind is weighed down by stress, anxiety, or loneliness, your health suffers.

Mental health, often overlooked, is the unseen thread that holds everything together. Practices like meditation, mindfulness, deep breathing, or even engaging in hobbies and art can soothe the storm within. Talking to a friend, seeking therapy, or taking breaks from screens are small steps with profound impact.

Social well-being, too, is a key part of the equation. Humans are wired for connection. A strong support system, a kind word, a shared meal—all these nourish us in ways no medicine can. Community, compassion, and care are vital nutrients for the soul.

Healthcare should not begin when we fall sick; it should begin when we are well. The real revolution is in shifting from reactive to proactive health. This means not waiting for a diagnosis to take our health seriously. It means choosing stairs over elevators, vegetables over chips, deep breaths over panic, and rest over burnout.

Let us replace the mindset of quick fixes with one of long-term wellness. Let’s teach our children that exercise is not a punishment but a celebration of movement. That eating right is not about restriction, but about nourishment. That checking in on your mental health is as routine as brushing your teeth.

Governments and health institutions play a crucial role in creating access and awareness. But at the end of the day, each of us is the steward of our own body and mind. No doctor or policy can replace the power of daily discipline and intentional living.

Health is wealth, yes—but more than that, health is freedom. The freedom to walk without pain, to laugh without exhaustion, to dream without the shadow of disease. In every choice we make—in what we eat, how we move, how we rest, and how we relate—we are casting a vote for the quality of our life.

Let us not wait for illness to remind us of the gift of good health. Let’s begin today, with one small step: a walk in the sun, a fruit instead of a pastry, five minutes of silence, a kind word to a loved one.

By: Omkar Dattatray

The consistent and concerted efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his NDA government bore fruits the other day when a US Court gave its judgment and ordered the extradition of the mastermind of 26/11 Mumbai terror attack to India. Today 10th of April 2025 is really a great day of triumph for Modi’s diplomacy as on this day Tahawwur Rana was finally extradited to India and reached new Delhi. All the options had been exhausted and finally the mastermind of 26/11 attack has been handed to India .Now the terrorist will be tried as per the law of the land and centre government has constituted a special cell of NIA for handling this case. The accused will be produced before the judicial magistrate in Delhi which will order his remand to NIA. The people of Mumbai in particular and the Indians in general demand death sentence for him. While the US Court decision is the big diplomatic win for India ,it is a big slap on the face of Pakistan. So in a major win for India, a US appeals court has approved the extradition of the mastermind of the 26/11 Mumbai terrorist attack, David Coleman Headly ,and has links to Lashkar –e-Tabia and the ISI ,as per a 405 –page charge sheet.26/11 Mumbai attack accused Tahawwur Rana will be extradited to India .In a big win for India ,a US appeals court has approved the extradition of Tahawwur Hussain Rana ,a Pakistani-origin Canadian businessman accused of involvement in the 2008 Mumbai terror attack. ”The India-US treaty permits Rana’s extradition,”the court said in its ruling on August 15,2024.In a major setback to Pakistan –backed terrorist Tahawwur Rana, who is sought by India for his involvement in the 2008 Mumbai terror attack ,the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has ruled that he is extraditable to India under the extradition treaty between the two countries.” The –India –US Extradition Treaty permits Rana’s extradition ,”the court said in its ruling on August 15,2024.Ruling on an appeal filed by Rana

Landmark Diplomatic Victory for India

,a panel of Judges of the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit affirmed the District Court in the Central District of California’s denial of his habeas corpus petition challenging a magistrate Judge’s certification of his as extraditable to India for his alleged participation in terrorist attacks in Mumbai in November 2008.It is after a long gap of 20 years from the terror attack in Mumbai that the mastermind accused is being extradited to India, where he will face the punishment as per Indian laws. Today the dreaded terrorist who conspired the deadly serial terrorist in Mumbai in September 11,2008 has finally been extradited and handed over to India and he reached New Delhi. It is in fact a victory of Modi’s diplomacy. The extradition of the Rana is the result of the constant efforts of the Modi government and his extradition is the big diplomatic win for India .A US court approved the extradition of Chicago businessman Tahawwur Rana to India where he is wanted for his role in the 2008 terror attack in Mumbai. Rana was convicted in 2011 of supporting an Islamic militant group blamed for the attack on India’s financial capital Mumbai that killed 166 innocent and unarmed civilians. But he was cleared of the more serious charge of helping plot the attack. The businessman was arrested after an extradition request by India in 2020. Rana,who denied all the charges against him ,had challenged India’s extradition request which was also supported by the US government. But a court on charged Monday consented his extradition. The court said that Rana had been ,in India with criminal conspiracy ,committing terrorist acts and murder –all of which are extraditable offences as per the treaty between US and India .It ,however ,added that Rana will remain in US custody till the Secretary of state to India takes a final decision on his extradition .More than 160 people were killed in November 2008 when a group of 10 men stormed a train station ,hotels and cafes and a Jewish centre ,shooting and throwing bombs. Indian authorities accused Rana ,a Pakistani –born Canadian of conspiring with his childhood friend David Coleman Headely to assist Pakistani

militant group Lashkar –e-Tabia [LeT] ,which was blamed for the attack. Prosecutors in the case said that in 2006 ,Rana allowed Headely to open an office of his Chicago based immigration services firm in Mumbai ,which Headley then used as cover to scout sites for the 2008 attack. Rana was also accused of allowing Headley to pose as a representative of his firm in order to gain access to newspaper offices by feigning interest in purchasing advertising space. Headley ,who is serving a 35 –year jail term in the US for his role in the attacks ,testified against Rana in 2011.Rana’s defense team at the time said he was manipulated and misled by Headley ,an old friend from their days in a Pakistani military school .In 2011,jurors at the federal court in Chicago convicted Rana of providing support to LeT and for his role in an aborted plot against a Danish newspaper .But he was cleared of charges of direct involvement in the Mumbai attacks .In 2013,he was sentenced to 14 years in prison .In 2020 ,Rana was released from jail in the US on the compassionate grounds for testing positive for the Covid-19.He was arrested again after the extradition request by India . The US court agreed to extradite Tahawwur Rana to India for 2008 attacks ,marking a pivotal development in the 2008 Mumbai attacks case. Rana, linked with LeT ,played a significant role in orchestrating the attacks. After prolonged legal proceedings, the court ruled the evidence aligns with the India-US extradition treaty. Mumbai terror accused Tahawwur Rana approaches US Supreme Court to challenge extradition to India. Rana faces charges for his role in the 26/11 Mumbai attack and is known to be associated with Pakistani –Americian Lashkar-e-Taiba –LeT terrorist David Coleman Headley ,one of the main conspirators of the terror incident that hit India’s financial hub in 2008.Having lost his legal battle in all lower courts, Mumbai terror attack accused Tahawwur Rana, a Canadian national of Pakistani origin ,has now knocked on the doors of the US Supreme Court against his extradition to India .India has sought Rana’s extradition for his involvement in the 2008 Mumbai terror attack

.Rana has last reached out to the US Court of Appeals for the North Circuit in San Francisco after losing the legal battle in lower courts and several federal courts .On September 23,the circuit court threw out his petition to give a stay on the decisions of the other courts that approved the move of the Department of State to extradite him to India. On November 13,Rana filed a “petition for a writ of certiorari ”before the US Supreme Court. In a long battle,this was Rana’s last legal chance not to extradited to India .In his “petitions for a writ of certiorari to review the judgment of the United States court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit .”In this case ,Rana made the same argument that he was tried and acquitted in federal court in the Northern District of Illionis –Chicago on charges relating to the 2008 terrorist attack on Mumbai .India now seeks to extradite him for trial on charges based on the identical conduct at issue in Chicago case,” it says. The petition says that if the ‘elements’ standard applies ,he very likely will be sent to India to be put on trial a second time for the same conduct ,with conviction and death sentence ominously on the horizon for him ,’In addition ,resolution of this issue will have considerable and increasing impact ,as the growing globalization of criminal law enforcement and international cooperation ,which in turn has led to a dramatic rise in extradition ,will affect more and more individuals and nations going forward ,”it said .In brief now the US Court has approved Rana’s extradition to India who will face legal trial here and it is a big diplomatic win for India. The mastermind of Mumbai bombing attack called 26/11 has finally been handed over to India and it is the diplomatic win for India.

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

The game of the private system: Attack on the common man’s

By: Dr. Satyawan Saurabh

In India, basic rights like education and health have become a source of profit for private institutions. Private schools charge arbitrary fees from parents in the name of facilities—dress, books, uniforms, coaching—everything has been made expensive and compulsory. On the other hand, private hospitals charge huge amounts from patients by creating an atmosphere of fear and confusion. By declaring a normal disease as serious, pressure is created for expensive tests, medicines, and admission. There is political patronage behind these institutions, due to which no strict action is taken. The middle class is in the greatest crisis, which neither trusts government services nor gets relief from the private system. This is a warning that if the public does not raise its voice even now, education and health will remain mere privileges.

India is a country where education and health are considered basic rights. But when these rights take the form of a business, then these rights become a burden in the life of the common man. In today’s era, private schools and private hospitals have created such a system in the name of facilities that directly attacks the pocket of the common man. This attack is not only economic but also mental and social.

Education or business?

Talking about private schools, these educational institutions now seem less like schools and more like five-star hotels. Lakhs of rupees are collected for admission in schools in the name of different items like donation, admission fees, annual charges, dress, books, shoes, bus fees, etc. Books have to be bought from the school’s ‘authorized vendor,’ whose

price is double the market rate because the school’s commission is included in it. School uniforms also have to be bought from them, which are not available in the general market.

All this is not because parents demand these facilities but because schools have made it ‘compulsory.’ The thing called studies now happens less in the classroom and more in coaching institutes—and the interesting thing is that the owners of those coaching institutes are also often associated with the same school operators. The child goes to school all day, then coaching, then homework, and then tuition—no time for oneself, no thinking, no childhood.

The aim of all these is the same—‘get’ 99%.’ And when these marks are not achieved, the children suffer from an inferiority complex. Parents start comparing them with other children, and this whole process turns into mental harassment.

Health name, business work

Now if this is the situation in education, the health sector is even more horrific. The structure of private hospitals is now more focused on ‘earnings’ than treatment. As soon as you enter the hospital, a ‘slip’ is issued, then various tests, expensive medicines, ICU, and demand for ‘advance payment’—and that too without telling you what the condition of the patient is.

Doctors treat even a common cold, cough, or fever as if life is in danger. By scaring people, they are advised to take long-term medicines and get admitted. Even if the patient recovers, the family gets sick after seeing the bill. The medicine, which is available outside for Rs. 10, costs Rs. 200 to 300 in the hospital bill.

Even after death, the body is kept for a day or two, and money is collected till the last breath in the name of ‘mortuary charges,’ ‘freezer charges,’ etc. This is a

cruel joke on the family, which has already lost its loved ones.

Government’s silence—why?

The saddest aspect of this loot is that no one has to do it secretly—everything happens openly. Newspapers, social media, and news channels—this issue is raised everywhere. Every year there is a hue and cry over the fee hike of private schools and hospital bills, but every time this hue and cry is slowly suppressed.

Why? Because most private schools, colleges, and hospitals—there is some politician behind all of these. Whether he is from the ruling party or the opposition, most of the people sitting in the system are somehow involved in this game. Rules and laws are made, but they are not implemented.

RTE (Right to Education Act), CGHS (Health Care Scheme), and National Medical Council—these are all mere names used for publicity and not for providing relief to the common man.

The tragedy of the middle class

The government sometimes makes plans for the poor; the rich have no worries, but the middle class suffers the most. They are neither willing to be sent to a government school nor to a government hospital. Out of helplessness, they choose the private option and then get caught in the same trap—a trap in which there is no control, no accountability.

The middle class neither takes to the streets nor protests. Every month it cuts its pocket to pay EMI, pays school fees, pays hospital bills, and thinks only this: “There is no other way.”

Solution possibilities

If this problem is to be really tackled, some concrete steps will have to be taken. Transparency of private institutions—Schools and hospitals should publicly display information about their fees and services on websites and notice boards.

There should be an independent regulatory body that monitors fees and quality of service. A system where common citizens can register their complaints and they are resolved in a timely manner. It should be ensured that the interests of any political person or their family are not linked to these institutions. Unless the general public unites and raises its voice, this chain of loot will continue.

Education and health are no longer a ‘service’—it is now a ‘service’ whose price is determined by your pocket. This situation is shameful for any sensitive and democratic society. Unless we wake up, raise our voice, and demand accountability from the system, this private system will continue to rob us like this.

We have to understand that by joining the race of showing off, we are putting our children’s childhood, our family’s peace, and our future stability at stake. This is the time to ask questions, to show the mirror to the system—otherwise not only your pocket will be lost, but self-respect will also be lost.

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GDC Akhnoor organizes Documentary Screening and PowerPoint Presentation on sexual harassment awareness



Top News Report

AKHNOOR, Apr 11: The ICCASH (Internal Committee for the Prevention of Sexual Harassment) in collaboration with College Human Rights Committee of Government Degree College (GDC) Akhnoor organized an awareness program featuring a documentary screening and a series of PowerPoint presentations on Sexual Harassment: Prevention and Redressal Mechanisms under the guidance of Principal Dr. Romilla Malla Bhat on Friday.

The objective of the program was to sensitize students, faculty, and staff about the importance of maintaining a safe and respectful environment within the campus.

The session began with the screening of a thought-provoking documentary that high-

lighted real-life cases, psychological impacts, and the legal framework surrounding sexual harassment in educational institutions and workplaces.

Following the screening, members of the committee and student volunteers presented informative and visually engaging PowerPoint presentations.

The presentations covered key topics such as Understanding what constitutes sexual harassment; Rights and responsibilities of individuals; The role and functioning of the ICCASH Committee; and Reporting mechanisms and support systems available on campus.

The event was well-attended and concluded with an interactive session where participants shared their thoughts, asked questions, and discussed proactive

measures to prevent harassment.

The ICCASH Committee remains committed to fostering a campus culture of dignity, equality, and zero tolerance towards any form of harassment. The Coordinator ICCASH Committee Dr. Monika Malhotra encouraged everyone to stay informed, speak up, and stand together against misconduct.

The Convener College Human Rights Committee Dr. Shandilya Parminder Kour also highlighted the importance of protecting the human rights and equality and justice for all.

The committee members Dr. Deepali Mahajan, Dr. Rajiv Katoach, Dr. Pinki Manhas Prof. Anjeela Qureshi Prof. Vijay Kumar, Prof. Shreya Sharma, Prof. Suresh Kumar, Sonu, PTI also interacted with the participants.

GDC Marheen organises Parent-Teacher meet



Top News Report

MARHEEN, Apr 11: Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of GDC Marheen organized Parent-Teacher Meet for the students of semester 2nd, 4th and 6th in the college to mobilize the parents for the holistic development of college functioning, different facilities provided in the college, to discuss the problems, to aware about the performance of their wards in the college and to bridge the gap between the administration of the college and parents.

The programme was organized under the patronage of Principal of the college Prof. (Dr.) Anupama Gupta. In her address she discussed the objectives of the meeting such as attendance of the students, examination system, teaching methodology, admission criteria, college administration, co-curricular activities for improving the confidence level of students and she also highlighted that our teachers are always available for parents to answer their queries related to

children and are working hard on bridging the competency gap caused due to the different factors available in the society.

It was a great interaction between teacher and the parents for the development of their children where they discussed both the strengths and area of improvements.

Parents were given feedback about different facilities provided to their students in the college and they also suggest their view regarding the improvement of the college. It was come to an end with the conclusion that joint efforts, mutual understanding and cooperation of parents and teachers is very important for the proper nourishment and progress of students as well as for the improvement of functioning of the college.

The whole event was managed by Prof. Anoop Sharma (Convener IQAC), Dr. Balbir Singh, Dr. Munisha Devi, Dr. Shallu Rani, Prof. Manu Saini (Members IQAC).

Other faculty members presented were Prof.

Sandeep Chaudhary, Dr. Arun Dev Singh, Prof. Suman, Prof. Diksha, Dr. Meenu, Prof. Naresh, Prof. Naresh Kumari, Prof. Saquib, Prof. Amitika.

A formal vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Shallu Rani, Member, IQAC.

GDC Paloura celebrates Baisakhi with fervour

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 11: Department of Music in collaboration with NCC Girls wing of the GDC Paloura celebrated Baisakhi with great fervor and gaiety.

The college campus turned into a carnival of dance and music bonanza as 'Baisakhi Mahotsav 2025' drew a heavy crowd with stalls and presentation of traditional items relating to the rich culture of Jammu and Punjab were on display.

In the beginning of the function, students of the College resorted to impressive show of talent during various breathtaking performances.

The event began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp. Dr.

Kulvinder Kour, Principal of the College was chief guest of the colorful function.

While applauding the efforts of department of music headed by Dr. Chinmei Sharma in organizing the event, She wished all a happy and cheerful Baisakhi and briefed the audience about the festival of harvest and acquainted them with rich cultural heritage. She also reminded the audience of the sacrifices made by our freedom fighters in Jallianwala Bagh, Amritsar.

The faculty and students of the college were decked up in large numbers to witness the event.

On this occasion, the girl students performed Bhangra, Gidda and Folk dance.

The beats of the dhol brought



vibrancy to the environment. NCC girls mesmerised the audience with a beautiful traditional Punjabi couple dance, Bhangra and Giddha.

Janshi and Komal both stu-

dents of semester 4th conducted the proceedings of the event. The colourful event concluded with a formal vote of thanks Dr. Chinmei Sharma, Head, Department of Music.

GDC R S Pura hosts pledge ceremony to uphold Dr Ambedkar's vision of drug free India

Top News Report

R S PURA, Apr 11: Giving a heartfelt tribute to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on the eve of his birth anniversary, Drug De-Addiction Committee in collaboration with NSS unit of Government Degree College, R.S. Pura, organized a Drug-Free India Pledge Ceremony to reaffirm the collective resolve of the institution's staff

and students in building a society free from substance abuse.

All the faculty members, students, and NSS volunteers of the college were participated in the event with great zeal, enthusiasm and fervor.

The Principal of the college, Prof. (Dr.) Preetpal Kour, led the pledge-taking ceremony, invoking Dr. Ambedkar's ideals of social justice, equality, and moral responsibility.

Speaking on the occasion, she emphasized the urgent need to combat the rising menace of drug addiction among youth and highlighted the role of education in fostering awareness and resilience.

"Dr. Ambedkar dreamed of an empowered and enlightened India. A drug-free society is not just a social goal but a moral duty we

KCPS student to represent J&K in 68th School National Games

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 11: Jaideep Singh of KC Public School (KCPS) has been selected to represent the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory in the prestigious 68th School National Games (Football).

The prestigious event, organized by the School Games Federation of India (SGFI), is scheduled to be held at Imphal, (Manipur,) from April 15 to 21, 2025.

The School National Games, a premier sporting event in India, brings together talented young athletes from across the country to compete in various disciplines. Jaideep's selection is the outcome of his dedication, and hard work. He has been training under Moon Stephen, the football coach of the school.



"We are incredibly proud of Jaideep's achievement," said Amarendra Kumar, Principal of KC Public School. "His selection to represent J&K UT in the 68th School National Games is a reflection of his talent, perseverance, and commitment to excellence and the school's culture to provide its students with the best of the sports facilities."

It is pertinent to mention here that four Pickle Ball courts and a Box Cricket Court were recently inaugurated at KC Public School.

The school has the region's only flood lit cricket ground on its campus besides other world-class sports facilities.

KCPS management extended its best wishes to Jaideep for his upcoming tournament.

GDC Sidhra commemorates Ambedkar Jayanti



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 11: As a part of weeklong series of activities, NSS unit of Government Degree College (GDC) Sidhra commemorated 134th Birth Anniversary of the real architect of Indian Constitution, Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar.

Under the directions of Principal of the college Dr. G.S. Rakwal, the NSS unit of the college organized series of activities to commemo-

rate and spread awareness about the life and contributions of Dr. B R Ambedkar.

The programme included an awareness rally and the Preamble pledge to instill the constitutional values among the students. Students of all the semesters as well as faculty members participated in both activities with full enthusiasm.

The programme concluded with certificate distribution ceremony to all the participants by worthy Principal of the college, Dr. G S Rakwal who in his address encouraged the students to participate in various activities that took place in the college from time to time for their overall personality development.

He encouraged the students that they should get inspiration from the personality of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar, who tirelessly worked for nation building process and expressed pride in the students' enthusiasm and he appreciated the efforts of the staff and the volunteers.

The whole event was organised by Dr. Purvaia Hans, NSS Programme officer with the active support and coordination members of NSS Unit under the able guidance of Dr. G.S. Rakwal.

GDC Darhal commemorates Ambedkar Jayanti

Top News Report

DARHAL, Apr 11: Government Degree College (GDC) Darhal marked the celebration of Ambedkar Jayanti on Friday, an event that brought together students from various semesters and faculty members to honour the legacy of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, a pivotal figure in the fight for social justice and equality in India.

The event was meticulously coordinated by the college's Literary, Cultural Committee and NSS Unit, under the leadership of Dr. M. Saleem Wani. Principal Prof. Zameer Ahmed Mirza extended his patronage, supporting the initiative to celebrate the principles and contributions of Baba Saheb Ambedkar. The proceedings of the program were chaired by Dr. Ghulam Abbas, who emphasized the importance of recognizing Ambedkar's influence in shaping



ing modern India's constitutional framework.

A significant turnout of faculty members included Dr. Taseem Ahmed, Dr. Mohd Akhlaq, Dr. Anzar Ahmed, Dr. Sagir, Dr. Muzammil, Dr. Shahid, and Dr. Sumina, all of whom contributed to the vibrant atmosphere of the celebration.

The highlight of the event was a motivational address delivered by Dr. Atta ur Rehman, who

served as a resource person. He captivated the audience with insights into Dr. Ambedkar's monumental contributions, particularly his relentless advocacy for the rights of the marginalized and his instrumental role in drafting the Indian Constitution.

Dr. Rehman urged the students to embrace the values of equality, justice, and fraternity that Ambedkar stood for, underscoring the relevance of these

principles in today's society.

The celebration featured various activities, including speeches and discussions, which encouraged students to reflect on Ambedkar's vision for a more inclusive and equitable society. Attendees expressed their appreciation for the event, recognizing it as an opportunity to enhance awareness about social justice issues and the ongoing relevance of Ambedkar's thoughts and teachings.

As the event concluded, students and staff members left with a renewed sense of purpose to uphold the ideals of Dr. Ambedkar, fostering a culture of equality and empowerment within the college and the broader community.

The celebration of Ambedkar Jayanti at GDC Darhal not only honored a great leader but also inspired a new generation to advocate for justice and equality in their everyday lives.

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The celebration of Ambedkar Jayanti at GDC Darhal not only honored a great leader but also inspired a new generation to advocate for justice and equality in their everyday lives.

Here are some of the biggest onscreen clashes to look forward to in Bollywood films in 2025



From Sunny Deol fighting Ranveer Singh in *Jaat* to Ranveer Singh playing mind games with Vikrant Massey in *Don 3*, here are some of the biggest onscreen clashes to look forward to in 2025 Bollywood promises a thrilling year for moviegoers, with some of the biggest stars going head-to-head in action-packed blockbusters. Here are the most anticipated cinematic duels of the year.

The Jaat roars
Randeep vs Sunny in *Jaat*
Expect an intense and power-packed battle as Randeep Hooda and Sunny Deol clash in *Jaat*, a gritty action drama. Sunny plays

Bhaskar Singh 'Jaat', who takes it upon himself to rescue villagers from the terror unleashed by Randeep's character, Varadaraja Rana-tunga. With both actors known for their raw and realistic performances, this film is set to bring forth high-energy action sequences and intense confrontations. Fans of hardcore action will not want to miss this one.

Battle of wits
Jr NTR vs Hrithik in *War 2*
Two of Indian cinema's most electrifying action stars, Jr NTR and Hrithik Roshan, go head-to-head in *War 2*. Hrithik will reprise his role as Manoj Kabir Dhaliwal while Jr NTR

will be seen as Veerandra Ragunath, a South Indian ex-RAW agent who goes rogue. The sequel to the 2019 hit *War*, this film is expected to feature breathtaking stunts, sleek action choreography, and a battle of wits between the two powerhouse performers. With their impeccable screen presence, this clash is bound to be a spectacle.

Things get bloodier
Tiger vs Sanjay in *Baaghi 4*
The *Baaghi* franchise continues with its fourth installment and this time, Tiger Shroff faces off against Bollywood's evergreen superstar, Sanjay Dutt. In *Baaghi 4*, Tiger's character Ronnie

will be shown in a darker and bloodier avatar.

The first-look poster which shows Sanjay seated on a throne in blood-soaked clothes and holding a lifeless woman in his arms and the tagline, 'Every Aashiq Is A Villain', hints at the actor playing an antagonist. With Tiger's agility and martial arts skills pitted against Sanjay's menacing screen presence, *Baaghi 4* promises adrenaline-fuelled action and intense drama.

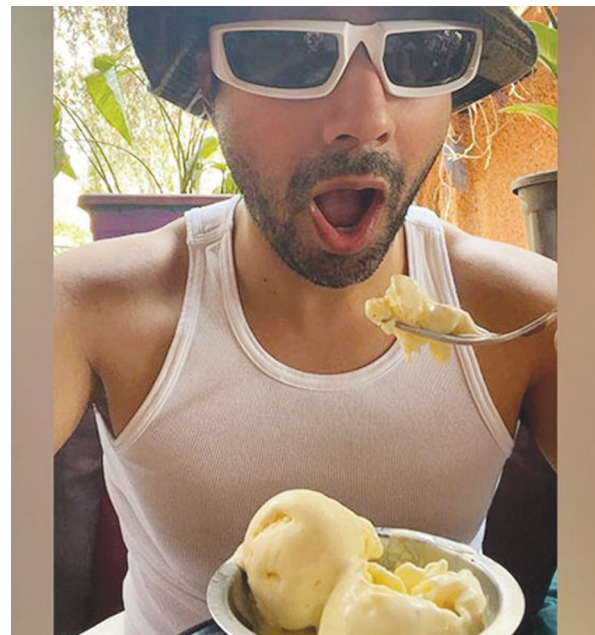
Mind games
Vikrant vs Ranveer in *Don 3*

In an unexpected but exciting pairing, Vikrant Massey takes on Ranveer Singh in *Don 3*.

Ranveer steps into the shoes of the legendary Don, while Vikrant brings his nuanced and gritty acting prowess to the battle as the antagonist. This modern take on the classic franchise will feature mind games, thrilling heists and a gripping battle of ideologies.

Spy thriller
Alia vs Bobby in *Alpha*
Alia Bhatt going head-to-head with Bobby Deol in an intense thriller. Alia plays a super spy. Alia, known for her powerful performances, takes on a role that sees her challenging Bobby's rugged and enigmatic antagonist in a battle of survival and mind games.

Bollywood actor Varun Dhawan enjoys a scoop of ice-cream for lunch



Summer has just begun, and Varun seems to be making the most of it. Taking to Instagram, the Bhediya actor treated fans to pictures that captured his sunny mood. The photos showed Varun chilling in the sun and enjoying 'ice-cream for

lunch'.

In the picture, Varun can be seen wearing a bright blue bucket hat and sunglasses while digging into the bowl of ice-cream.

"Who has ice-cream for lunch? Me," he wrote in the caption, clearly indicating that

he is enjoying the sweet break. Meanwhile, on the work front, the actor has a packed schedule ahead. He will next be seen in *Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai*, where he stars opposite Pooja Hegde.

He is also preparing for *Border 2*, which brings together a powerful cast, including Sunny Deol, Diljit Dosanjh and Ahan Shetty. Directed by Anurag Singh, the movie is a follow-up to the 1997 war film *Border*, a major hit that depicted the 1971 India-Pakistan war. In the coming months, Varun will also be seen sharing screen space with Janhvi Kapoor in *Sunny Sanskari Ki Tuli Kumari*.

Originally slated for release on April 18 this year, the makers have now postponed the release date.

Chhorii changed audience perception of me, says Nushratt Bharuccha

Actor Nushratt Bharuccha says her career took a significant turn with the 2021 horror film *Chhorii*, which has not only altered the audience perception of her but has also opened opportunities to do more female-led narratives. "After *Chhorii*, I've had Janhit Mein Jaari and Akelli, and now I've two-three other films, which I don't know how it happened, it's not like I'm going out there and choosing those films, I'm not. I'm very happy doing other films and other parts also.

"But somehow it's (*Chhorii*) changed audiences and trade perception of me, a mixture of that is bringing more scripts that way," the actress said. *Chhorii* is the remake of director Vishal Furla's 2017 Marathi film *Lapachhapi*, which revolves around a pregnant woman named Sakshi, whose unborn child is targeted by evil spirits.

The sequel, which will release on April 11 on Prime Video, will pick up the story of Sakshi from where it left off in the first film and will bring back some key characters as well as introduce new scares.

Known for massy entertainers like *Pyaar Ka Punchnama*, *Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweetie* and *Dream Girl*, Bharuccha said, "Chhorii is the most demanding movie in her career. "For me doing a film like this, I don't think it's just me headlining it but it's the scope I had as



an actor to do in that film which none of the other films before that gave me. It didn't give me so much space, and room. It didn't put me in those situations, which honestly were unreal for me as a person.

I don't know what a girl who's pregnant with eight months child goes through and who's stuck like that, and who's being traumatised and tortured by people and ghosts. So, it was a very unreal setting. It let me as a person, as an actor push boundaries that I hadn't even thought of."

Chahatt Khanna says 'people didn't want to work with her' after her divorces

Television actor Chahatt Khanna was very young when she first got married. However, her marriage didn't last long, and she parted ways within just four months. Her second marriage also ended in divorce. In a recent interview with agency, Chahatt opened up about her painful divorces and recalled people refusing to work with her because of them.

Chahatt Khanna talks about her difficult divorce

Chahatt said that divorces and separations are never easy, especially when one has children, and added, "My second separation was very difficult. My one daughter stays with Farhan and one stays with me, and we are on decent terms. We speak to each other for the kids because they are our responsibility. Any kind of divorce is painful. It's not easy. Plus, if you are a known



person, it becomes difficult to face others. There were a lot of times when I didn't want to go and face people because I knew they'd judge me. I haven't taken any alimony from either of my husbands. But people comment that I am a gold digger. I was like, where is the gold? People message me and DM me, saying that I am living on alimony. This is also a taboo."

Chahatt Khanna claims people refused to work with her

She further spoke about the stigma surrounding divorce in the industry and said, "Many people didn't want to work with me. Aapka naam bad light mein hain toh a lot of people don't want to associate with you. Aapke personal affairs itne media mein hain toh logon ko aapke saath kaam nahi karna hai (If your name is in a bad light, a lot of people don't want to associate with you. If your per-

sonal affairs are all over the media, people don't want to work with you). A-list production houses will not work with you. People at the manager level told me to my face that they want to skip it out because of the things in the press and media."

Chahatt Khanna's personal life

Chahatt met businessman Bharat Narsinghani when she was 16. The couple dated for six years before getting married in December 2006. However, four months later, they parted ways, with the actor alleging that Narsinghani and his family had physically and emotionally abused her.

In 2013, Chahatt married Farhan Mirza, the son of Bollywood writer Shahrukh Mirza. However, five years later, in 2018, Chahatt filed for divorce, citing sexual and mental harassment. They share two children from their marriage.

Pet Day 2025 | Alaya F: MJ knows he has a working mother, he's a chill guy

For actor Alaya F, her three-year-old Maltese, MJ — short for Magic Junior — is far more than just a pet. He's a tribute to her late dog, Magic, and undoubtedly the centre of her universe.

Having grown up surrounded by animals, Alaya always had a soft spot for pets. But when she moved into her own space four years ago, she decided to hold off on bringing one home. "When I moved into my own house four years ago, I decided I will not get a pet. They are like babies and it would be a big responsibility. I didn't want to take it up since I had to manage everything alone," the 27-year-old tells us.

However, once a friend who was heading out of town asked Alaya to look after his dog temporarily. "The pet was comfortable with me, so he requested me. I reluctantly agreed," says the actor, who made her debut in *Jawaani Jaaneman* (2020). She adds, "But I got so attached that, when he had to go, I told my friend, 'Either I steal yours or get my own'."

The connection the actor felt during that time led her to make a permanent addition to her home. "The first image I was sent was a photo of MJ, asking, 'Would you



like to take him?' I said, 'No one send me any more photos, I have found the love of my life!'"

Since then, MJ has been her ultimate source of joy. "He made the home come alive. He's such a badmaash! He's been a source of joy ever since for me and anybody who enters my home."

Balancing a packed work schedule with being a pet parent hasn't been without challenges, but Alaya has managed well and MJ seems to have adapted to her lifestyle. "He is used to seeing me go in and out of home. He has a working

mum and he knows that. But MJ is chill. He's a relaxed guy, I will give him credit for that."

While she often travels for shoots, Alaya makes sure MJ is never alone. "I have two caretakers at home and he is obsessed with them. He's also very happy when the house is crowded or when my teams come over."

Despite Alaya's hectic work schedule, the bond she shares with MJ stays strong. "I miss him so much when I'm away, and I know he misses me, too," she signs off.

Saugandh actor Shanthi Priya 'breaks beauty standards' as she shaves her head

Actor Shanthi Priya, who made her Hindi film debut with *Saugandh*, has shaved her head to sport a bold look. Taking to Instagram, Shanthi Priya posted a bunch of pictures giving fans a glimpse of her new look.

Shanthi Priya sports a bald look

In the photos, Shanthi Priya wore a brown blazer and black stockings. She gave different poses for the camera. Shanthi Priya said that the blazer belonged to her late husband-actor, Siddharth Ray.

Sharing the photos from her photoshoot, Shanthi Priya said, "I recently went bald, and my experience has been quite something. As women, we often set limitations in life, go by the rules and even keep ourselves caged."

Shanthi Priya remembers husband with a sweet gesture

"With this transformation, I have set myself free, free from limita-



tions and intending to break the beauty standards that the world has set upon us and I do it with a lot of courage and faith in my heart! Today, I also carry the memory of my late husband close, in his blazer that still

holds his warmth. (Red heart emoji) Sending power and love to all the women out there! (Sparkles emoji). (Camera emoji)- @portraitsatplaces #ShanthiPriya #BaldAndBeautiful."

Why did Shanthi Priya

shave her head

Speaking with Times of India, she spoke about her makeover. She said, "I made this decision a few weeks ago. It wasn't impulsive - it was on my mind for some time. There was an emotional buildup, almost like peeling away old layers to uncover something real and unfiltered. When the last strand of hair fell, I felt an unexpected sense of peace... By going bald, I am not rebelling, I am celebrating my self-liberation. In an industry where beauty standards are often set in stone, I'm rewriting the narrative."

About Shanthi Priya
Shanthi Priya started her career by starring in Tamil, Telugu, and Kannada films. Her Bollywood debut was Saugandh in 1991.

The film also marked the debut of actor Akshay Kumar. She has also been a part of the MX Player series *Dharavi Bank*.

‘Parivar ka saath, parivar ka vikas’: PM Modi takes dig at opposition parties

VARANASI, Apr 11 (Agencies): In a swipe at opposition parties, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said those hankering for power focus solely on promoting their own families, while his government works on the theme of inclusive development.

Addressing a gathering after laying the foundation stone of 44 projects worth Rs 3,880 crore here, he said, “Our guiding mantra in serving the nation has always been ‘Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas’. With this spirit, we continue to move forward for the betterment of every citizen”.

He said in contrast, those who are power hungry play political games day and night, driven not by national interest but by a single-minded focus on family-based support and family-centric development.

“Those who play games day and night only to grab power, their principle is ‘parivar ka saath, parivar ka vikas’ (family support, family development),” the prime minister said in his Parliamentary constituency.

Modi, who began his speech by greeting the people in Bhojpuri, also paid tribute to Dalit reformer Mahatma Jyotiba Phule on his birth anniversary, recognising his contributions to social equality and women's empowerment.

“Today, we are carrying forward their ideas with new energy,” he said while reiterating his government's focus to all round development.

Elaborating on his constituency's makeover over the last decade, he said, “Earlier, Purvanchal lacked health facilities but today Kashi is becoming the region's health capital.” “About 10-11 years ago, there were problems related to availing medical treatment in the region. Today, my Kashi is becoming the health capital too.” “Major hospitals from Delhi



and Mumbai have now not only become accessible for people in the region, but have also ensured dignity for patients,” he said referring to the opening of branches of several prominent hospitals here.

Highlighting the city's transformative journey over the past decade, he stated, “In the last 10 years, the development of Banaras has gained a new momentum. Kashi has always preserved its heritage and has taken steps towards a bright future. Today, Kashi is not just ancient, but my Kashi is also progressive.” Speaking on the region's contribution to development, PM Modi remarked, “Today Kashi is pulling the chariot of development of Purvanchal.” “Today, India is moving ahead with both development and heritage together and our Kashi is becoming the best model for this,” he said, adding, “The soul of India resides in its diversity and Kashi is its most beautiful picture”.

He also spoke about initiatives like the Kashi Tamil Sangamam that help strengthen national unity.

On the economic front, PM Modi underlined Uttar Pradesh's changing trajectory. “Uttar Pradesh is no longer just a land of possibilities, now it is capable and the land of resolution,” he said, noting how “Made

in India” products are gaining global recognition.

“Today, UP is number one in GI tagging in the whole country. That means our culture, our things, our skills are rapidly getting international recognition,” he said observing that dozens of products from Varanasi and its surrounding districts have received GI tags, including the city's famous tabla and shehnai, wall paintings and sweets like red peda and barfi.

Modi also said that his government is working to ensure that the 2036 Olympics take place in India.

Addressing the youth, the PM said, “There is also a lot of emphasis on the fact that the youth of Kashi should get continuous opportunities to progress in India and now we are working towards ensuring that the Olympics are held in India in 2036.” Urging the youth of Varanasi to work hard so that they “win medals” in the 2036 Olympics, PM Modi spoke about how the sports infrastructure in his constituency was being developed with an eye on the future.

“Today, new stadiums are being built in Banaras, new facilities are being created for the youth, a new sports complex has opened, hundreds of players from Varanasi are getting trained there,” he said.

He concluded with a call to

preserve the ancient soul of Kashi while advancing into the future.

“One who saves (sahejta) Kashi also saves the soul of India. We have to keep making Kashi strong. We have to keep Kashi beautiful and ensure that it becomes modern while preserving its ancient soul,” he said.

Among the projects inaugurated by Modi were 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, Varanasi Divisional Commissioner Kaushal Raj Sharma said.

The prime minister also inaugurated a transit hostel at the police lines and police barracks in Ramnagar and four rural roads.

Earlier on his arrival, the prime minister received a detailed briefing on the alleged gang-rape of a young woman in his constituency and asked officials to take the strictest possible action against those involved, according to a state government statement.

The prime minister was briefed by the police commissioner, divisional commissioner and district magistrate on the “recent criminal rape incident in the city,” the statement said.

“He instructed them to take the strictest possible action against the culprits and to implement appropriate measures to prevent such incidents in the future,” it said.

The case involves the alleged gang-rape of a 19-year-old woman by 23 individuals over six days.

This was Modi's 50th visit to Varanasi after becoming prime minister in 2014, according to BJP Metropolitan President of Varanasi Pradeep Aghari.

Varanasi developed under PM Modi's leadership: Adityanath



VARANASI, Apr 11 (Agencies): Devotees from all over the country are flocking to see the new Kashi which has developed under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the last 11 years, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Friday.

His remarks came after the prime minister inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of 44 projects worth Rs 3,880 crore in his parliamentary constituency.

“Everyone has seen Kashi changing in the last 11 years. This is the same Kashi, which was known for its narrow streets and traffic jams. Kashi has been an ancient centre of education, but along with the centres of education lying in disarray, projects worth more than Rs 50,000 crore have come here in the last 11 years for health, tourism, connectivity,” he said.

Adityanath noted that this was the first visit of the prime minister to Varanasi after the historic victory of the BJP in the Haryana, Maharashtra and Delhi assembly elections as well as the organisation of the Maha Kumbh. Kashi also became a

witness to this divine and grand Maha Kumbh, he said.

“Every devotee coming from the country and the world was eager to see this new Kashi and the holy land of Baba Vishwanath in a new form under the leadership and guidance of the prime minister in the last 11 years. On the occasion of this 45-day event, a grand gathering was also seen in Kashi and during this time more than 3 crore devotees came here and became a part of the virtue by visiting the holy abode of Baba Vishwanath,” Adityanath said.

He also said that after the Namami Gange project, every devotee who took a dip in the confluence of Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati felt overwhelmed.

“Due to the success of the Namami Gange project, the Maha Kumbh has also been successful,” Adityanath said.

The UP chief minister also said that efforts of the prime minister to provide national and international recognition to the products of Kashi and Uttar Pradesh have proved fruitful.

“Kashi and its neigh-

bouring districts have received the maximum number of GI tags so far and Uttar Pradesh is achieving the number one position in GI tags in the country. Certificates for 21 new GI tags are also being provided today by the prime minister. These efforts have been made to give a new identity to the products of local handicraftsmen and artisans at the national and international level,” he said.

The Ayushman Bharat scheme has also proved to be a milestone in providing health facilities to the poor, he said.

More than 50 crore people in the country and more than 10 crore people in Uttar Pradesh have directly benefited from this scheme.

Not only in Uttar Pradesh but across the country, now every senior citizen above the age of 70 years is being provided health facilities worth Rs 5 lakh through the Vaya Vandana Yojana card and till now more than 50,000 senior citizens in Kashi have got their cards made, he said.

Adityanath also said that innovative work has been done to connect the farmers and cattle rearers here through Banas Dairy, an important project related to the development of Kashi.

Under that programme, bonus is also being provided to those cattle rearers who have earned dividends through value addition by joining this unit of Banas Dairy in Kashi.

Delhi businessman shot dead in his SUV, cops suspect old rivalry

NEW DELHI, Apr 11 (Agencies): A 50-year-old property dealer was allegedly shot dead inside his car by unidentified assailants in outer Delhi's Paschim Vihar East on Friday morning, a police officer said.

The dead, identified as Rajkumar, was allegedly driving his SUV when the assailants surrounded him in different vehicles and fired at him, the officer said.

A purported video showing the victim lying in a pool of blood in the driver seat has gone viral on social media.

The officer said at around 7.15 am the police received a PCR



call informing them of multiple gunshots fired near SBI Colony.

Police, who reached the spot, rushed the injured man to the hospital but doctors declared him brought dead.

The officer said a forensics team has been called to inspect the spot.

“We are checking CCTV footage to identify the accused. A case has been registered and multiple teams have been formed to investigate the matter from every angle. Prima facie, we feel that the murder is the fallout of an old rivalry,” said the police officer.

‘Another jumla’: Rahul slams PM Modi over Employment Linked Incentive scheme

NEW DELHI, Apr 11 (Agencies): Attacking Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the government's ‘Employment Linked Incentive’ scheme, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday said while he creates new slogans every day, the youth are still waiting for real opportunities, and asked if it was “just another jumla”.

The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha said that after the 2024 election, PM Modi announced the “Employment Linked Incentive” scheme with much fanfare, promising to provide employment to our youth.



“It's been nearly a year since announcing the scheme, the government hasn't even defined it, and has returned the Rs 10,000 crores allotted to it. This shows how serious

the PM is about unemployment,” he alleged without elaborating the claim.

There was no immediate response from the government on it. Gandhi said jobs can't

be created by focusing only on large corporates, promoting cronies over fair-play businesses, prioritising assembly over production, and disregarding India's indigenous skills.

“The way to create crores of jobs is through large-scale investment in MSMEs, fair markets where competition can thrive, support for local production networks and youth equipped with the right skills,” he said.

“The PM won't agree with these ideas. But I must ask him directly: Prime Minister ji, you announced ELI with great showmanship – but where has this Rs

10,000 crore scheme disappeared? Have you abandoned our unemployed youth along with your promises?” “While you create new slogans every day, our youth are still waiting for real opportunities. What is your concrete plan to generate the crores of jobs India desperately needs, or is this just another jumla?” he said.

Gandhi further asked when will the PM shift his focus from enriching Adani and his “billionaire friends” to ensuring that young people from marginalised communities have equal access to employment.

Fire engulfs three floors of residential tower in Surat, 18 rescued

SURAT, Apr 11 (Agencies): A fire broke out at a residential tower in Surat on Friday morning, after which 18 persons trapped on its terrace were rescued, an official said.

The fire started around 8 am on the seventh floor of the multi-storey Happy Excellencia building located in the city's Vesu area and soon engulfed two more top floors, said Surat Mayor Daxesh Mavani. “The fire brigade helped residents climb down the building, and 18 persons trapped on the terrace, were rescued. The fire is now

under control. No one was injured in the incident,” said Mavani.

Gujarat Minister of State for Home Harsh Sanghavi, who lives opposite the building, rushed to the spot and supervised the rescue operation.

A rescued resident said many went to the terrace to save themselves from the smoke and flames.

“Due to thick smoke, it was impossible to climb down the stairs. Thus, we went to the terrace. Later, fire brigade personnel first doused the fire and then brought us down by wrapping

wet towels around our faces,” said the resident.

Sanghavi said he was jogging in the garden when he saw the fire near his residence.

He said the fire brigade first helped 40 residents climb down the stairs before rescuing the others from the terrace.

“Many of the residents are known to me. Nearly 50 fire brigade personnel and five firefighting vehicles reached the spot. They safely evacuated 18 persons who were trapped on the terrace. The fire brigade personnel did a commendable job,” added Sanghavi.

At least 10 injured after vehicles collide on Rajasthan highway



NEW DELHI, Apr 11 (Agencies): At least 10 people were severely injured after seven vehicles collided with each other on Friday in Rajasthan's Dudu.

The accident occurred on National Highway 48 after one vehicle lost control, leading to a chain collision involving six other vehicles. The impact caused significant injuries to several individuals.

Local residents rushed to help and assisted in taking the injured to a nearby hospital.

According to preliminary information, most of the injured are workers of a solar company based in Dudu. They were reportedly travelling from Padasoli to Dudu when the incident happened.

Couple held for killing nephew found in ‘objectionable condition’ with girl

BAHRAICH, Apr 11 (Agencies): The police here have arrested a man and his wife for allegedly strangling their 22-year-old visiting nephew to death after finding him in an “objectionable condition” with a girl from their family, officials said on Friday.

The body of Bhanu Pratap, alias Sudhir, was found on March 29 near a school outside Dharmanpur village in a sack with a rope tied around his neck.

Additional Superintendent of Police (Rural) Durga Prasad Tiwari told reporters on Friday that Bhanu, a resident of Aurahi village in

the district, was visiting his maternal uncle, Chetram Gautam, in Dharmanpur when the alleged incident happened.

Bhanu's father has accused Chetram and his family of the alleged murder, the ASP said.

Tiwari said that police investigation, which involved analysing CCTV footage, mobile records, call details, witness statements, and circumstantial evidence, pointed to Chetram and his wife, Sundari Devi, as the perpetrators.

“The couple allegedly took this step after finding Bhanu in an ‘objectionable condition’ with

a young girl from their family,” the officer stated.

“During interrogation, the accused (couple) confessed to the crime, admitting they stuffed Bhanu's body in a sack, tied a rope around his neck to mislead investigators, and disposed it off near a government school. They carried the body on a motorcycle,” the officer added.

ASP Tiwari said a post-mortem examination was conducted.

The police conducted a thorough investigation and arrested the couple on Thursday, subsequently sending them to jail.

Xi Jinping to visit three Southeast Asian countries in his first foreign tour after Trump's tariffs

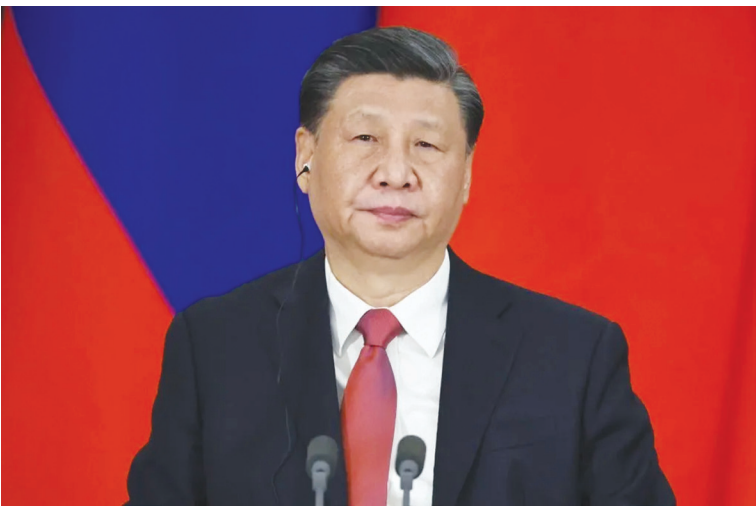
BEIJING, Apr 11 (Agencies): Chinese President Xi Jinping will visit three Southeast Asian countries early next week to strengthen regional cooperation in his first tour abroad after US President Donald Trump slapped 145 per cent tariffs against China's exports intensifying the trade war with Beijing.

Xi will pay state visits to Vietnam, Malaysia and Cambodia from April 14 to 18, the Chinese Foreign Ministry announced on Friday.

All three countries are part of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) grouping with which China had the largest trade amounting to USD 962.28 billion last year, with China's exports totalling USD 575 billion.

Many Chinese observers warned the competitive trade nature between China and its Asian neighbours — since they are all export-driven economies with the US being one of their key markets — could hinder Beijing's efforts to rally them, a dilemma further compounded by territorial disputes on both land and sea.

Though Xi's visits to these countries were on the cards for a while, the timing of the visits coincides with Trump's tariffs against Chinese goods while pausing levies against the rest



of the countries.

According to the latest US notification, the overall trade tariffs on China amounted to 145 per cent.

China retaliated with 84 per cent tariffs, imposed some restrictions on imports of some US films and expressed interest in holding a dialogue with Washington to resolve the issue.

China remained the only country which retaliated against Trump's tariffs.

Vietnam, Malaysia and Cambodia were too hit hard by US tariffs but sought time to work out bilateral trade tariffs.

As Trump's tariffs loomed large on China, Xi earlier this week sought to strengthen China's strategic relationships

with neighbouring countries by appropriately managing differences and enhancing supply chains.

In his first public speech after Trump's steep global hike of tariffs, Xi called for building a community with a shared future with neighbouring countries and striving to open new ground for China's neighbourhood work, state media reported.

Xi made the remarks at the high-level central conference on work related to neighbouring countries.

The two-day conference on Tuesday and Wednesday was attended by top officials from the ruling Communist Party.

China has been steadily recasting its neighbourhood

policies as its relations with the US become increasingly strained.

China recently scaled down border tensions with India and sought to improve its relations with other neighbours like Japan and South Korea, bracing for tough times under Trump's presidency on trade and strategic fronts.

The India-China relations, which have been frozen for over four years over the eastern Ladakh military standoff, showed signs of improvement after Xi met Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Kazan in Russia last October.

Since then, the two countries have held a series of high-level meetings to normalise relations. Recently, China held trade talks with South Korea and Japan, the first economic dialogue between the three countries in five years, to discuss regional trade facilitation as the countries braced for Trump's tariff announcement.

The trade ministers of the three countries discussed free trade agreements to promote regional and global trade.

China is also ramping up trade relations with several other countries in the neighbourhood under its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

China hits back with 125% tariffs on US goods, will 'ignore' any more Trump levies



BEIJING, Apr 11 (Agencies): China on Friday announced an increase in tariffs on US goods from 84 per cent to 125 per cent, shortly after President Donald Trump unveiled a steep hike in duties on Chinese imports, raising them to a staggering 145 per cent. However, it also noted that it would not retaliate any further.

"The US imposition of abnormally high tariffs on China seriously violates international and economic trade rules, the basic economic laws and common sense and is completely unilateral bullying and coercion," news agency quoted the Chinese finance ministry as saying.

The ministry also said that it would "resolutely take countermeasures"

and fight to the end if the US insisted on continuing to infringe on China's interests in a substantive way.

It also made it clear that the country would not retaliate any further even if the US continues to impose additional tariffs on Chinese goods. "If the US continues to impose additional tariffs on Chinese goods exported to the US, China will ignore it," the ministry said.

The hike followed sustained pressure from the White House on the world's second-largest economy and leading US import source, which was specifically targeted for an additional tariff increase — despite Washington easing similar 'reciprocal' duties on other nations.

The White House clari-

fied that Trump's 90-day tariff 'pause' excludes China, which will instead face a sharp increase in US tariffs, rising to 125 per cent.

In his first reaction to Trump's tariff onslaught, Chinese premier Xi Jinping urged the European Union to join forces with Beijing to resist what he called "unilateral bullying".

"China and Europe should fulfil their international responsibilities... and jointly resist unilateral bullying practices," state news agency Xinhua quoted Jinping as saying.

Earlier, China imposed tariffs of up to 84 per cent on US goods starting Thursday, up from the previously declared 34 per cent. China also filed a new complaint with the World Trade Organization, stating that US tariffs threaten global trade stability.

In addition, China added 12 US companies to its export control list and placed six others on its unreliable entities list in response to actions taken by Trump.

UN denounces Myanmar junta's attacks on minorities, rebels despite post-quake ceasefire

GENEVA, Apr 11 (Agencies): The United Nations rights office decried Friday attacks by Myanmar's military despite a ceasefire declared following last month's devastating earthquake, which killed more than 3,600 people.

"At a moment when the sole focus should be on ensuring humanitarian aid gets to disaster zones, the military is instead launching attacks," spokeswoman Ravina Shamdasani said in a statement.

UN rights chief Volker Turk, she said, "calls on the military to remove any and all obstacles to the delivery of humanitarian assistance and to cease military operations."

A multi-sided conflict has engulfed Myanmar since 2021, when Min Aung Hlaing's military wrested power from the civilian government of

Aung San Suu Kyi.

Following reports of sporadic clashes even after the March 28 quake that so far is known to have killed at least 3,645 people, the junta joined its opponents last week in calling a temporary halt to hostilities for relief to be delivered. But Shamdasani highlighted that since the earthquake, "military forces have reportedly carried out over 120 attacks."

"More than half of them (were) after their declared ceasefire was due to have gone into effect on 2 April," she said.

The UN rights office had determined that most of these involved aerial and artillery strikes, she said, "including in areas impacted by the earthquake."

"Numerous strikes have been reported in populated areas, many

of them appearing to amount to indiscriminate attacks and to breach the principle of proportionality in international humanitarian law."

Shamdasani pointed out that areas at the epicentre of the quake in Sagaing, particularly those controlled by opponents of the military, "have had to rely on local community responses for search and rescue, and to meet basic needs."

"Clearly these valiant efforts need to be further supported," she said, calling for "common efforts to assist those in greatest need."

"In this spirit we call on the military to announce a full amnesty for detainees it has incarcerated since February 2021, including State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi and President U Win Myint."

Taliban publicly executes 4 for murder: Afghan Supreme Court

KABUL, Apr 11 (Agencies): Four men were publicly executed in Afghanistan on Friday, the Supreme Court said, the highest number of executions to be carried out in one day since the Taliban's return to power.

The executions in three separate provinces brought to 10 the number of men publicly put to death since 2021, according to an agency tally.

Public executions were common during the Taliban's first rule from 1996 to 2001, with most of them carried out publicly in sports stadiums.

Two men were shot around six or seven times by a male relative of the victims in front of spectators in Qala-i-Naw, the centre of Badghis province, witnesses told an agency journalist in the city.

"They (the convicted men) were made to sit and turn their backs to us. Relatives from the victims' families stood behind and shot them with a gun," Mohammad Iqbal Rahimyar, a 48-year-old spectator, told agency.

The men had been "sentenced to retaliatory punishment" for shooting other men, after their

cases were "examined very precisely and repeatedly", the Supreme Court said in a statement.

The families of the victims turned down the opportunity to offer the men amnesty, it said.

"If the family of the victim had forgiven the men it would be better, otherwise it's God's order, and should be implemented," a 35-year-old man who gave his name as Zabihullah told agency outside the stadium.

Afghans had been invited to "attend the event" in official notices shared widely on Thursday.

A third man was executed in Zaranj in Nimroz province and the fourth was in Farah city in the western province of the same name, the Supreme Court said.

"It's good that the Islamic Emirate shows its politics and force. I am very happy with that," said another 30-year-old spectator named Javid, referring to the Taliban government's official name.

Eye for an eye

The previous execution was in November 2024, when a convicted murderer was shot

three times in the chest by a member of the victim's family in front of thousands of spectators, including high-ranking Taliban officials, at a stadium in Gardez, the capital of eastern Paktia province.

Corporal punishment -- mainly flogging -- has been common under the Taliban authorities and employed for crimes including theft, adultery and alcohol consumption.

However, all execution orders are signed by the Taliban's reclusive Supreme Leader Hibatullah Akhundzada, who lives in the movement's heartland of Kandahar.

Akhundzada ordered judges in 2022 to fully implement all aspects of the Taliban government's interpretation of Islamic law -- including "eye for an eye" punishments known as "qisas", allowing for the death penalty in retribution for the crime of murder.

Law and order is central to the severe ideology of the Taliban, which emerged from the chaos of a civil war following the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan in 1989.

One of the most infamous images from their first rule depicted the 1999 execution of a woman wearing an all-covering burqa in a Kabul stadium.

She had been accused of killing her husband.

The United Nations and rights groups such as Amnesty International have condemned the Taliban government's use of corporal punishment and the death penalty.

Amnesty included Afghanistan in countries where "death sentences were known to have been imposed after proceedings that did not meet international fair trial standards", the non-governmental organisation said in its annual report on death sentences published in April.

The report said Iran, Iraq and Saudi Arabia were responsible for 91 percent of known executions last year, with increases in death sentences in all three countries spurring a global rise.

The 1,518 executions recorded worldwide in 2024 did not include thousands of people believed to have been executed in China -- the world's leading executioner -- Amnesty said.

US Energy Secretary lauds UAE as 'strategic partner' in energy, AI

ABU DHABI, Apr 11 (Agencies): The US Secretary of Energy, Chris Wright, emphasised the strong and growing strategic partnership between the United States and the United Arab Emirates in the fields of energy, artificial intelligence (AI), and advanced technology during his visit to the UAE.

Wright, who is in the UAE as part of his first official international trip, described the bilateral relations with the UAE as witnessing "rapid growth" in investment and joint cooperation. His regional trip, which includes three countries, aims to strengthen ties with key geostrategic and energy allies.

During a visit to ADNOC HQ, Wright expressed his admiration for the UAE's early adoption of AI in its energy sector. "I think the UAE has been an early mover in AI. I saw incred-

ible progress today in applying AI to their own energy system, and a big vision for where their future is going," Wright told reporters. He predicted significant cooperation between the two nations in both energy and AI, involving significant investments in both directions, along with continued geopolitical cooperation between the two countries.

In response to a question about mutual investments, especially following the launch of the UAE's XRG company, Wright explained that there are major opportunities for Emirati investments in the United States, as well as American investments in the UAE. These include flows of capital and technology.

He added that artificial intelligence will drive the next phase of energy demand, particularly for natural gas and electricity.

Wright affirmed that his country is open to foreign investments and is working to empower the private sector and reduce costs, making it an attractive destination for investments in oil, gas, and advanced energy sectors.

He clarified that oil and gas prices are influenced by the forces of the free market and are not determined by any one party, noting that the US continues to produce oil at good levels, while natural gas production is growing rapidly, driven by rising domestic demand and increased export capacity.

He pointed out that short-term price fluctuations are mostly due to market perceptions related to supply and demand, saying: "In the long term, I believe we will see a gradual decline in oil and gas prices in the United States, and we hope this will also happen globally."



Wright clarified that this decline in prices does not necessarily mean a drop in company profitability, affirming that energy companies will continue to reduce production costs and face fewer government burdens, which will positively impact the sector. He emphasised that

President Donald Trump's agenda focuses on lowering energy costs as a means to improve citizen's living standards, boost corporate competitiveness, and increase investments. He noted that the current US administration aims to support energy demand growth through

the expansion of artificial intelligence, reshoring of industries, and raising living standards.

He also highlighted new investment initiatives in the energy sector, including XRG, which focuses on investing in low-carbon energy, chemicals, enhancing technological innovation, and providing essential energy and products to improve the quality of life for individuals and communities worldwide.

He stressed that AI requires significant investments and advanced expertise, which provides fertile ground for strategic partnerships between the UAE and the United States.

Wright explained that capital and technology flows are moving in both directions, praising the level of technology used in oil and gas production, as well as the UAE's early investments

in artificial intelligence technologies.

He said the United States is preparing for a new phase of strong growth in demand for oil and gas in the coming years, in parallel with the expected increase in production, pointing out that artificial intelligence will be a key factor in this growth, particularly by driving up demand for natural gas and electricity.

He noted that President Donald Trump is leading a trade agenda based on the principles of achieving balance in international trade and revitalising the manufacturing sector in the US, which contributes to creating local job opportunities and raising wage levels.

He explained that while the US has long been open to imports, its trading partners have not shown similar openness toward its exports. He added that the US

administration is seeking to achieve reciprocity, as well as to stimulate local industries through tools such as tariffs.

He noted that these policies will contribute to strengthening economic growth in both the United States and globally, despite the challenges that may accompany the transition phase.

Regarding relations with China and Iran, he said preliminary negotiations are underway with China, expressing optimism about reaching an understanding that serves the interests of both countries.

He stated that the main objective regarding Iran is to end its nuclear programme, stressing the importance of serious negotiations and recognising the United States' commitment to preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon due to the threat it poses to the security of the Middle East and the world.

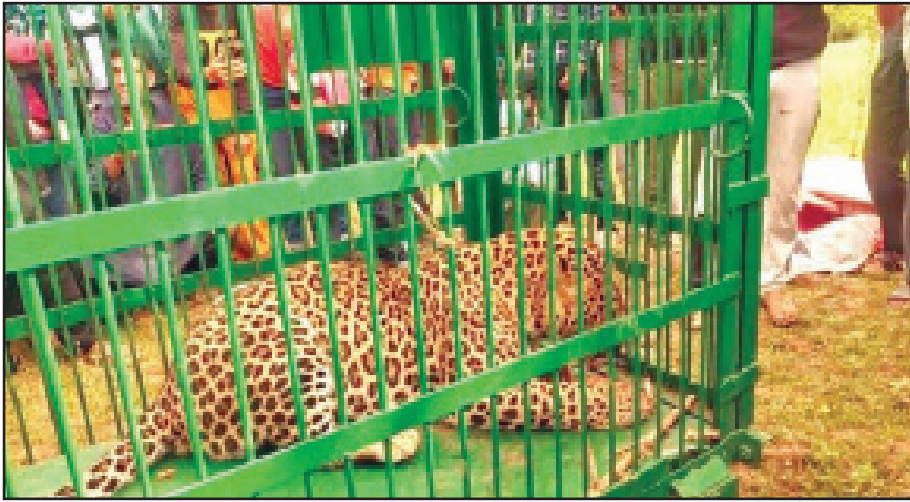
Leopard captured alive by Wildlife Department officials in Kulgam

Top News Report

KULGAM, Apr 11: A leopard was on Friday morning captured alive by officials of the Wildlife Department in Vednag oriel area of kund in South Kashmir's kulgam district.

officials of Wildlife Department told Top News JK Correspondent Gh Nabi khanday that the leopard was spotted in the area by locals and was captured alive by Wildlife department officials this morning were informed about it.

The official said that



the department has asked its men to remain alert at every hotspot to trap other leopards roaming in the area. The official said the leopard will be taken to a safe location where it will be set free.

Third body of Nomad found in Veshow Nallah at Kulgam



Top News Report

KULGAM, Apr 11 : The third dead body of Nomad was found in Veshow Nallah at Mah Bhan area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district on Friday, officials said.

An official told the body is believed to be that of the third missing nomad, who

had gone missing in the area recently. Locals informed the police after spotting the body in the stream.

A team from Kulgam Police reached the spot and recovered the body. It was later shifted to District Hospital Kulgam for medico-legal formalities.

Further identification and investigation are underway.

Pad Yatra organized at GDC Thathri on Dr. Ambedkar's 134th Birth Anniversary

Top News Report

THATHRI, Apr 11: To commemorate the 134th birth anniversary of Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, the NSS Unit of Government Degree College (GDC) Thathri organized a Pad Yatra under the guidance of Dr. Javed Iqbal Zargar, Principal of the College.

The event honored the legacy of Dr. Ambedkar, the principal architect of the Indian Constitution and a tireless advocate for social justice.

The Yatra witnessed enthusiastic participation from faculty, staff, and 35 NSS volunteers, who carried placards and raised slogans celebrating Dr. Ambedkar's contributions to social equality, justice, and the empowerment of mar-



ginalized communities.

The rally began from the college campus and traversed through various parts of Thathri town, aiming to spread awareness about Dr. Ambedkar's vision for an inclusive and equitable India. Along the route, students engaged the public with messages on constitutional rights, the importance of education, and the fight against social discrimination.

Faculty members also took the opportunity to interact with residents, discussing Dr. Ambedkar's relentless efforts to eradicate untouchability and promote the rights of women and the underprivileged.

The event concluded with a brief address by the NSS Programme Officer, who urged students to internalize the ideals of equality, liberty, and fraternity** in their everyday lives.

Awareness Programme on PMIS Scheme 2025 held at GDC Mahanpur



Top News Report

MAHANPUR, Apr 11: Government Degree College, Mahanpur organized an awareness programme on the PMIS Scheme 2025 for college students and faculty members on Friday under the guidance of the College Principal, Dr. Sangeeta Sudan. The session was conducted by the College Librarian, Nisha Kumari who delivered a detailed presentation on the PMIS Scheme launched by the Higher Education Department, J&K. The program covered important aspects such as eligibility criteria, registration process, key features, and benefits of the scheme.

A live demonstration of the official PMIS website was also given to students to help them navigate the platform confidently. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and staff members.

Shoolini scientist honoured as world's top 2 pc scientist

Top News Report

SOLAN, Apr 11: Prof. Shyam Singh Chandel, Professor of Eminece and Director, Centre of Excellence in Energy Science and Technology (CEEST) at Shoolini University, was honoured at the country's first-ever Research Enclave of the World's Top 2 per cent Scientists, as ranked by Stanford University, USA, and Elsevier.

The event witnessed the convergence of 25 eminent scientists from across India, all

globally recognised for their career-long contributions to research and innovation.

Prof. Chandel, who has consistently featured among the top 2 per cent scientists globally in the Energy and Sustainability domain for four consecutive years (2020-2024), was honoured by Mr. Arpit Agrawal, Vice Chairman, and Prof. Victor Gambhir, Vice Chancellor, JECRC University, Jaipur.

During the event, participating scientists engaged in insightful deliberations, shared their pioneering research journeys, and emphasised the importance of collaborative knowledge-building.

Prof. Chandel, while addressing the gathering, called for a stronger national focus on renewable energy technologies—including solar, wind, hydrogen, and hydropower—to curb greenhouse gas emissions and accelerate sustainability efforts. He stressed the need to strengthen the existing 32 energy centres in India and advocated for the establishment



of dedicated Centres of Energy Science and Technology Research in every institution.

The conclave concluded with a landmark resolution to draft a White Paper and Action Plan, incorporating key recommendations to promote research, foster institutional collaboration, and inspire the next generation of scientists.

Prof. Chandel carries over 45 years of experience in energy, innovation, and development. He is the former founder

Head of the Centre for Energy and Environmental Engineering at NIT Hamirpur, former Dean of Engineering and Technology at Shoolini University, and has served with various national and state-level institutions including MNRE, DST, MHRD, and the National Institute of Solar Energy. With over 120 research publications and 6 patents, Prof. Chandel continues to be a leading voice in India's clean energy movement.

GDC Katra celebrates Ambedkar Jayanti with enthusiasm



Top News Report

KATRA, Apr 11: Government Degree College (GDC) Kakryal, Katra celebrated Ambedkar Jayanti with great enthusiasm and reverence, in collaboration with Dept. of Sociology, IQAC and NSS Unit, marking the 134th birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the principal architect of the Indian Constitution and a champion of social justice.

The event commenced with the garlanding of Dr. Ambedkar's portrait by the Principal, faculty members, and students, followed by a brief address highlighting his immense contributions

to Indian society, especially in the fields of law, education, and social injustice. A debate competition was organized to honor the legacy of Dr. Ambedkar. Students delivered speeches, and participated in debate competition on themes Dr. Ambedkar's Vision for India: Equality and Justice in the India.

In her address, Dr. Rajni Bhagat, the Principal of the college emphasized the relevance of Dr. Ambedkar's ideals in contemporary times and encouraged students to uphold the values of equality, liberty, and fraternity.

Shivani Charak from Sem IVth, Anshika Sharma from Sem Vth and Sakshi Sharma from Sem IVth bagged first, second and third positions respectively. Prof. Nasar Ahmed and Dr. Manisha were the jury members for the event. Prof. Mohd. Younus also addressed the students and shared his views. The event was over all organised by Prof. Ashok Singh.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Usha Sharma acknowledging the participation of students and faculty in making the celebration a meaningful and memorable one. All the staff members were present during the event.

FromPage No: 1

Terrorist killed in encounter in Kishtwar; Combing Ops underway in Udhampur

Amod Ashok Nagpure.

While three encounters occurred in Kathua district, one took place in Udhampur district, and one in Kishtwar district.

The security was beefed up along Jammu-Srinagar national highway and people are being frisked and vehicles being checked as a part of this measure, they said.

One more constituent of Hurriyat denounces separatism: Home Minister Amit Shah

separation from Hurriyat include Jammu and Kashmir People's Movement, headed by Shahid

Saleem, Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Political Movement, led by advocate Shafi Reshi, and Jammu and Kashmir Freedom Movement, headed by Mohd Sharief Sartaj.

When the groups made the announcement on March 25, Shah had said the unifying policies of the Narendra Modi government have "tossed" separatism out of Jammu and Kashmir.

Two other constituents of Hurriyat — Jammu and Kashmir Tahreeqi Isteqlal and Jammu and Kashmir Tahreek-I-Istiqamat — had also announced their disassociation from the amalgam.

The J&K Tehreeqi Isteqlal is headed by Gulam Nabi Sofi and J-K Tehreek-I-Istiqamat is led by Ghulam Nabi War.

J&K Police attach property worth Rs 1.2 Crore of drug peddler in Anantnag

registered at Police Station

Srigufwara related to the recovery of a considerable quantity of poppy straw. The seized property is estimated to be worth over Rs 70 lakhs.

In another major development under case FIR No 35/2025 U/S 8/20-29 NDPS Act at Police Station Bijbehara, the police also attached a residential house and a vehicle (Regd No JK02AV-1235) belonging to Tajdar Amin Khan, resident of Goriwan Bijbehara (presently residing at Karewa Colony Bijbehara). According to police, they also attached a shopping complex owned by Bilal Ahmad Itoo, resident of Gund Nasir, Bijbehara.

Additionally, under case FIR no 213/2024 U/S 8/15-29 NDPS Act of Police Station Bijbehara, a vehicle (Regd No. HR16L-3657) belonging to Harjinder Singh, resident of Mubarak Pur, Kapurthala (Punjab), was also attached.

The combined estimated market value of the properties seized in these cases stands at ₹1.2 crore. "These decisive actions reflect Anantnag Police's firm resolve to dismantle the financial networks of drug traffickers and ensure accountability by seizing proper-

ties acquired through illicit means. Such measures send a strong message and serve as an effective deterrent to those involved in the drug trade," police said.

"Anantnag Police urges the public to remain vigilant and share any information related to drug peddling in their areas. The identity of informants will be kept strictly confidential," it added.

Army beefs up security along Jammu-Srinagar highway to curb terrorist activities

including advanced vehicle scanners, AI-based facial recognition and identification system, and Automatic Number Plate Recognition Systems at key junctions and entry-exit points.

"These technologies provide real-time data and enable prompt identification of suspicious vehicles and individuals, significantly boosting the capability to intercept threats before they materialise,"

officials said. They added that the "multi-layered approach has already shown promising results, with several suspicious movements thwarted in recent weeks."

"The enhanced presence and technology infusion have created a strong deterrent effect, making it increasingly difficult for terrorist elements to exploit NH-44 for their operations. The Indian Army's proactive posture, in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Police and aided by cutting-edge technology, underscores its commitment to maintaining peace and thwarting insurgent designs in the Union Territory. These measures are expected to further isolate and neutralise terrorist networks attempting to use the region's infrastructure for unlawful activities," officials said.

Cops prevent PDP protest against Waqf (Amendment) Act 2025

section of the society accepts the bill. They way it was passed in parliament in the dead of the night, we

reject that," he said.

The PDP general secretary said while the BJP's approach towards Muslims of the country is condemnable, "the criminal silence of the NC on the issue is regretful".

"We condemn the role of NC on the passing of the Act," he said, adding the NC was "befooling" people.

Suspected thief caught snatching earrings of lady, Head shaved, face blackened by locals in Jammu

when he snatched the gold earrings of a lady in busy Link Road, in the heart of the old city.

An eyewitness said that he was thrashed on the spot following which his head was shaved and the face was blackened.

He was later paraded semi-naked to the Police Station Pacca Danga.

Police, however, said that a case has been registered and the matter is being investigated.

UT Ladakh recognized as best performing UT for mandatory biometric updates of children at Aadhaar Samvaad 2025



Top News Report

LEH, Apr 11: The Union Territory of Ladakh was recognized as the Best Performing Union Territory for carrying out

Mandatory Biometric Updates (MBUs) of children during Aadhaar Samvaad 2025, held on Tuesday in New Delhi. Hosted by the Unique Identification Authority of

India (UIDAI), Aadhaar Samvaad is UIDAI's annual flagship event that celebrates innovation, excellence, and collaboration among stakeholders across the

Aadhaar ecosystem.

The event serves as a platform to acknowledge outstanding contributions toward the effective implementation and strengthening of Aadhaar-related services.

This award highlights UT Ladakh's exemplary performance in ensuring timely and comprehensive biometric updates for children—an essential measure to maintain an accurate and up-to-date Aadhaar database and to ensure that every child's identity is securely recorded and authenticated.

The award was received by Shashanka Ala, Secretary, Information Technology Department, UT Ladakh, who represented the Union

Territory at the event.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Secretary IT, Shashanka Ala said that we are deeply honoured by this recognition. This achievement is a result of dedicated teamwork and our commitment to inclusive digital governance.

Facilitating biometric updates for children, especially in a geographically challenging region like Ladakh, reflects the resilience and dedication of our teams on the ground.

UIDAI commended Ladakh's efforts, emphasizing the significance of MBUs in safeguarding children's identities and enabling their access to essential services linked to Aadhaar.

Army hosts symposium honouring General Zorawar Singh



Top News Report

NEW DELHI, Apr 11: The Indian Army's Jammu and Kashmir Rifles, in collaboration with the Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS), hosted a prestigious symposium titled "General Zorawar Singh: Up, Close and Personal" at the Manekshaw Centre, Delhi Cantonment, on Friday.

The event aimed to commemorate the remarkable life, military campaigns, and enduring legacy of General Zorawar Singh, one of India's most celebrated military leaders.

General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The symposium witnessed participation from esteemed veterans, serving officers - partic-

ularly from the Jammu and Ladakh Scouts - their families, and distinguished scholars from academia.

The event brought to the fore General Zorawar Singh's strategic brilliance, mastery in high-altitude warfare, and his pivotal role in shaping the formation of the modern-day state of Jammu and Kashmir and the Jammu and Kashmir Rifles Regiment of the Indian Army.

A highlight of the symposium was the unveiling of two significant books by General Dwivedi: "The Warrior Gurkha" by Madhulika Thapa daughter of Lieutenant Colonel Dhan Singh Thapa, PVC who was from First Battalion of Eight Gorkha Rifles (now 3rd Battalion the Mechanised Infantry

Regiment) , and "A Kashmir Knight and the Last 50 Years of the Princely State of J&K" by Lieutenant General Ghanshyam Singh Katoch (Retd). These literary works add depth to the understanding of India's military history and the enduring heritage of the Indian Army.

In addition, General Dwivedi felicitated the winners of the Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw Essay Competition-2024, organised by CLAWS under the theme "India's National Security and Emerging Challenges."

The symposium served as a fitting tribute to General Zorawar Singh's indelible contributions to Indian military history and underscored the importance of preserving military heritage through scholarly dialogue and literature.

Ladakh's women feel fearless, ensure their full well-being, promote child care protection initiatives: Chief Secretary

Top News Report

LEH, Apr 11: The Chief Secretary of Union Territory of Ladakh, Dr Pawan Kotwal chaired a meeting of Program Approved Board (PAB), for Mission Shakti and Mission Vatsalya for the FY 2025-26 at the Civil Secretariat Leh.

The meeting aimed to discuss and approve Annual Program Implementation Plan (APIP) for the following scheme under the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) GoI.

At the outset, the Administrative Secretary of Social and Tribal Welfare UT Ladakh, provided a comprehensive Power-Point presentation on Mission Shakti and Mission Vatsalya. The presentation covered the important milestones achieved under the schemes, and discussed their existing structure, objectives, status of Child Care Institutions and non- Govt run CCI's, staff details, observation homes, women and child



care helpline, initiatives of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Agawadum-creches, functioning of one stop centres, Sakhi Niwas, etc.

Under these schemes, the Secretary informed that all the initiatives are being taken to address socio-economic challenges, domestic violence related issues, sexual harassment, child care protection, and also helpline numbers have been issued to deal with all kinds of emergencies.

Hailing the collaborative endeavours of the officials, the Chief Secretary said that women in Ladakh should feel fearless, empower them at all

levels by implementing these centrally sponsored schemes.

He also said that One Stop Centres which are operational in both Leh and Kargil should be properly functional, terming it as first platform in addressing domestic violence against women. The Chief Secretary further instructed to check the feasibility of opening a creche centre in Civil Secretariat Leh, aimed to empower employed women here.

Ensuring the well-being and holistic development of specially-abled children in UT of Ladakh, the Chief Secretary said that no stone shall be left

turned to make schools for specially-abled well functional. He said that UT Ladakh is planning to engage separate doctors and physiotherapists including speech therapists, well trained teachers in such schools, aimed to overall well being of these students.

The Chief Secretary Ladakh emphasised that rising drug menace is another concern here, he directed concerned officials of Drug de addiction centers and District Magistrate Leh and Kargil to initiate rigorous campaign in schools, colleges and other institutions to curb it with practical measures.

It is pertinent to mention that Mission Shakti and Mission Vatsalya are two key umbrella schemes under the Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) aimed at holistic development, with Mission Shakti focusing on women's safety, protection, and empowerment, and Mission Vatsalya on child protection and care.

Army conducts Amity Meet with Sarpanch, locals at Sindarah

Top News Report

POONCH, Apr 11: In a continued effort to foster strong Civil-Military relations, the Indian Army organised an Amity Meet with the Sarpanch at Sindarah village in Poonch.

The primary objective of the event was to enhance communication and build deeper trust between the Indian Army and the local population. Sindarah, a village located close to the Line of Control, faces unique challenges due to its strategic location.

The meeting witnessed active participation from local representatives, including the Sarpanch, Chairman and Panchayat members from Sindarah and neighbouring villages. This initiative reflects the Indian Army's commitment to maintaining a constructive and continuous dialogue with civil society.

During the interaction,



the Indian Army shared various opportunities available for the local youth and community under the Sadbhavna initiative, focusing on personal and professional development.

A significant part of the discussion revolved around the collaborative efforts of the Indian Army and locals in countering terrorism and maintaining peace in the region.

The Indian Army emphasized the critical role of community cooperation in ensuring long-term stability and

security.

The event succeeded in strengthening the bond between the Indian Army and the Awam, providing an open platform for local leaders to share their views, concerns, and suggestions. The villagers appreciated the Indian Army's continuous support and welcomed the initiative.

They conveyed a strong desire for such engagements to be held regularly, recognizing them as essential for maintaining a harmonious and secure environment.

MD JJM, J&K directs Jal Shakti divisions of Jammu province to speed up pace of pipeline mapping



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Apr 11: Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), J&K Khurshid Ahmad Shah on Friday convened a review meeting of Jal Shakti (PHE) Divisions of Jammu province through virtual mode.

The meeting was attended by Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Department Jammu, and Executive Engineers of Civil and Mechanical divisions besides Superintending Engineers of respective circles.

The, MD enquired about the pace of pipeline mapping in respective divisions. The chair

was assured that the targets in this regard will be achieved soon. The chair urged the officers concerned to speed up the process so that the backlogs regarding them are cleared and new targets given are achieved within set timelines.

The Mission Director also directed the divisional officers to complete the ongoing schemes were 80-90 percent works stand completed.

Expenditure reconciliation, Dump data and overall progress in the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission in Jammu Province was also discussed in the meeting.

SMVDU Architecture student earns offers from five prestigious US Universities

Top News Report

KATRA, Apr 11: Pradnya Pradeep Jogdand, a final-year B.Arch. student at the School of Architecture & Landscape Design (SoALD), Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), has earned admission offers from five prestigious universities in the United States of America for postgraduate studies in architecture.

The institutions include University of Texas, Austin for M.Arch (Advanced Architectural Design); University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) for MS in Architecture and Urban Design; University of Michigan, Ann Arbor – Master of Urban Design (MUD); Columbia University, New York for MS in Urban Planning and University of Southern California (USC), Los Angeles for M.Arch.

In an email to him, she wrote, "Your guidance played a crucial role in shaping my interests and preparing me for this next chapter, and I deeply value everything I've learned under your mentorship."

During her B.Arch. studies, Pradnya completed a dissertation titled Morphogenic Membranes in Parametric Architecture under the guidance of Ar. Vinod Kumar and also she presented a research paper titled Revisiting Sacred Geometry: The Dialogue between Parametric and Religious Architecture at an international conference on religious architecture hosted by NIT

Patna. The same paper was later co-authored with him and published in a peer-reviewed journal, showcasing her dedication to academic research even at the undergraduate level.

Her academic achievements, innovative research ability, and passion for architecture played a key role in securing offers from globally acclaimed universities.

Pradnya extended her appreciation to the entire SoALD faculty for their guidance and encouragement from her first to final year at SMVDU. Vice-Chancellor of SMVDU, Prof. Pragati Kumar, Head of SoALD Ar. Abhinay Gupta, and other faculty members congratulated Pradnya on her outstanding accomplishments and wished her continued success in her academic and professional journey.



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Poonch Premier League 2025 begins

Top News Report

POONCH, Apr 11: With a vision that transcends the boundary lines of a cricket field, the 5th Edition of Poonch Premier League 2025 began with grandeur, energy, and a powerful message at its heart.

The tournament was inaugurated in a festive ceremony that brought together athletes, dignitaries, and community members to celebrate not just the love of cricket, but a collective commitment to youth empowerment and national pride.

The event was graced by Chief Guest SSP Poonch Shafkat Hussain Bhat. He was accompanied by Guests of Honour Mohan Lal Sharma (Additional SP Poonch), Mohammad Sayed

(ACR Poonch), Khaliq Hussain Choudhary (DySP DAR), Tariq Khan (Chairman Shaheed Manjit Singh Volleyball Club Poonch), Priyanka Singh (Centre Administrator One Stop Centre Poonch) and Dr Muhammad Waseem Bhat.

They were also accompanied by Pervaiz Malik Afridi (Chairman Rahul Dravid Cricket Club Poonch), Vijay Kumar Sharma (PEM), Pawan Kumar Mannu (PEL), Sayed Imran Hussain Shah (Chairman Khidmat Foundation), Abass Malik (Chairman HHWS) Sated Zakir Hussain Shah, Zamir Sheikh, Ajaz Malik REK, Sajjad Rather REK, Aman Sharma REK, RJ Bashir Broadcaster (State Sport Live) Imtiaz Lone, Syed Talit Waseem (REK) and Er. Kamran Ahmed Qadri (Management PPL).

Timely treatment crucial in Parkinson's disease: Expert



Top News Report

BATHINDA, Apr 11: "Parkinson's disease is a progressive neurological disorder that affects motor and non-motor systems.

The symptoms usually emerge slowly and as the disease progresses, non-motor symptoms such as cognitive impairment, mental health disorders, dementia, sleep disorders, pain, and

sensory disturbances become more common and affect the quality of life."

Speaking on World Parkinson Day, Dr. Pallav Jain neurologist at Max Super Specialty Hospital, Bathinda said that the treatment of Parkinson's disease usually involves a multidisciplinary approach, but, exercise and speech therapy, play a crucial role in managing

Parkinson's symptoms and improving overall health, medication, physical therapy, and lifestyle changes also plays a crucial role in the betterment of lifestyle.

However, in advanced cases, deep brain stimulation (DBS) surgery has proven effective in controlling motor symptoms and improving patient mobility.

Dr. Pallav Jain, further said, "Timely treatment

is extremely crucial in the neurological disorder diseases like Parkinsons, if not detected timely, the disorder may hamper the entire nervous system which can change a person's walk, talk or thinking process. The treatment of Parkinson's disease includes medication and surgery along with the lifestyle modifications though it varies based on the patient's symptoms."

Desperate SRH aim to press reset button against Punjab Kings

Despite presence of seasoned campaigners like Pat Cummins, Mohammed Shami, and Harshal Patel, SRH have struggled to make early inroads

HYDERABAD, Apr 11 (Agencies): Desperate to arrest a worrying slide, Sunrisers Hyderabad will be eager to effect a turnaround when they host a power-packed Punjab Kings in their next IPL engagement here on Saturday.

Last season's finalists, SRH began their 2025 campaign on a thunderous note, racking up a mammoth 286 to dismantle Rajasthan Royals by 44 runs. With an explosive batting line-up at their disposal, the 'Orange Army' seemed poised to become the first team to breach the 300-run mark but their ultra-aggressive approach has since backfired spectacularly.

In their last three matches, their attack-at-all-costs strategy with the bat yielded underwhelming totals of 163, 120, and 152 resulting in crushing defeats, and leaving them languishing at the bottom of the points table. They have worst Net-Run-Rate of -1.629 as of today.

With the bat, Sunrisers Hyderabad need far more from their big names like Travis Head, Abhishek Sharma, Ishan Kishan, and Heinrich Klaasen.

Head and Sharma, who played a crucial role in delivering explosive starts last season, have failed to find their rhythm this year. In fact, SRH's best opening stand so far is a paltry 15. Head's performance has



tailed off dramatically, returning scores of 67, 47, 22, 4, and 8. Abhishek, too, has struggled for consistency, with a top score of just 24 across five innings.

Kishan, after his unbeaten ton in the opener, has looked a shadow of himself, while SRH's middle-order mainstay Klaasen is yet to set the stage on fire.

Yet, the team appears committed to sticking with their aggressive blueprint. Head coach Daniel Vettori stressed on the need for better game awareness rather than a shift in philosophy after their last defeat.

"I think we know the style is going to work, but we have to respect conditions, and we have to assess really well and that's probably something we haven't done," Vettori said.

While SRH's misfiring batting

line-up has dominated post-match discussions, their bowling unit hasn't exactly lit up the tournament either.

The pace attack has failed to make any meaningful impact. Despite the presence of seasoned campaigners like Pat Cummins, Mohammed Shami, and Harshal Patel, SRH have struggled to make early inroads. The struggles continue into the middle overs, where they've failed to build pressure or claim key breakthroughs.

In stark contrast, Punjab Kings are riding a wave of early season momentum under the fresh leadership of Shreyas Iyer.

The Indian star has led from the front with the bat and displayed impressive tactical thinking, guiding his team to three wins in four games as they sit

at the fourth spot on the points table.

Adding to their firepower is young sensation Priyansh Arya. The rookie opener stunned fans and critics alike with a breathtaking century against CSK where most struggled to get going.

Meanwhile, Arshdeep Singh, Lockie Ferguson, Yuzvendra Chahal and Marco Jansen have done well in the bowling department.

Teams:

Sunrisers Hyderabad: Pat Cummins ©, Ishan Kishan (wk), Atharva Taide, Abhinav Manohar, Aniket Verma, Sachin Baby, Heinrich Klaasen, Travis Head, Harshal Patel, Kamindu Mendis, Wiaan Mulder, Abhishek Sharma, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Mohammed Shami, Rahul Chahar, Adam Zampa, Simarjeet Singh, Zeeshan Ansari, Jaydev Unadkat and Eshan Malinga.

Punjab Kings: Shreyas Iyer ©, Yuzvendra Chahal, Arshdeep Singh, Marcus Stoinis, Nehal Wadhwa, Glenn Maxwell, Vyshak Vijaykumar, Yash Thakur, Harpreet Brar, Vishnu Vinod, Marco Jansen, Lockie Ferguson, Josh Inglis, Xavier Bartlett, Kuldeep Sen, Pyla Avinash, Suryansh Shedge, Musheer Khan, Harnoor Pannu, Aaron Hardie, Priyansh Arya, Azmatullah Omarzai
Match starts: 7.30pm.

“Can’t see him play in immediate future...”: Key on Stokes’ white-ball career



LONDON, Apr 11 (Agencies): Speaking on star all-rounder Ben Stokes' future in white-ball cricket, England team's managing director Rob Key said that "he cannot see him playing it in the immediate future," he said the focus currently lies on Test cricket and restoring his full workload as a pace-bowling all-rounder.

Speaking on the podcast, as posted by the Sky Sports Cricket X handle, Key said, "I cannot see him playing in the immediate future. So the whole point with

Ben is now he just actually Neil Colleen, our bowling coach (Neil Killeen, elite pace bowling coach), was working with him last week or a few days ago, and he started his bowling at 75 percent. And that's the focus."

Key also acknowledged that newly-appointed white-ball captain Harry Brook is keen on having someone of Stokes' level white-ball cricket but asserted for that, he will have to be in the "best condition physically and be able to get through". "You know, he has not

played a game (Since the 2023 WC, tournament for which he returned from his ODI retirement taken during 2022). So our focus with Ben is that Zimbabwe test (May 22 onwards at Trent Bridge) and him getting ready and playing as that full role that he does. Not only is a brilliant captain, but batsman also being able to play as that fourth bowler, you know, play in that proper all-rounder role."

Key also said that if it all goes well, there is T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka next year and he could have a chance at it as well.

"But there is no point me sitting here now and saying that he will definitely be in that because there is so much cricket to go from it. But as far as we are concerned, no one's really out of it. If you are in if you are playing as well as you possibly can, if you are one of the best players in the country and you are fit and in the best condition possible, there is no reason why you cannot come in and you can do those things that Harry has sort of said, then anyone can come in," he concluded.

Dhruv-Tanisha exits marks end of Indian challenge at Badminton Asia C'ships

NINGBO, Apr 11 (Agencies): The pair of Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto, India's last remaining representatives at the Badminton Asia Championships 2025, bowed out in the Mixed Doubles Quarter-finals on Friday.

As per a press note from Badminton Association of India (BAI), the pair lost 22-20, 21-13 to Hong Kong's fifth-seeded Tang Chun Man and Tse Ying Suet on Friday.

This marked the end of the Indian challenge at the Badminton Asia Championships, which will continue till Sunday. Earlier, PV Sindhu (Women's Singles), Kiran George and Priyanshu Rajawat (Men's Singles), and Hariharan Amsakarunan/Ruban Kumar Rethinasabapathi (Men's Doubles) reached the Round of 16 before exiting the tournament.

In a clash of two former world champions, Sindhu, the world number 17, succumbed to Japan's Akane Yamaguchi, the world number



four, in the round of 16 by 22-21, 21-16, 16-21 in one hour and six minutes, as per Olympics.com.

This marked Sindhu's 12th defeat to the Japanese in 26 matches and the third successive against her as well. Sindhu had defeated Yamaguchi in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics quarter-finals.

In men's singles, Priyanshu Rajawat lost to fifth seed Kodai Naraoka in two successive games by 14-21, 17-21. Also, Kiran George made a promising start against third-seed Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand, but lost by 21-19, 13-21, 16-21.

Vitidsarn is the current

world champion and men's silver medalist from the 2024 Olympics.

Ashith Surya and Amrutha Pramuthesh lost 21-11, 21-14 to top-seeded Jiang Zhen Bang and Wei Ya Xin of China in the women's doubles, while in men's doubles, Hariharan Amsakarunan and Ruban Kumar Rethinasabapathi went down 21-15, 21-14 to Malaysia's sixth-seeded team of Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik in just over half an hour.

In the men's singles, top stars and Paris 2024 Olympians Lakshya Sen, HS Prannoy were knocked out in the first round itself.

We asked for good pitches but got challenging ones; need to talk to curator: RCB's Karthik

BENGALURU, Apr 11 (Agencies): Royal Challengers Bengaluru mentor Dinesh Karthik conceded that his side has received a "challenging" pitch at the Chinnaswamy Stadium this season despite asking for a batting friendly surface, adding that the management will have a chat with the curator soon.

RCB's power-packed batting line-up was rendered ineffective on a sluggish deck in their two home games while getting restricted to 169/8 and 163/7 against Gujarat Titans and Delhi Capitals respectively, losing both the fixtures.

Karthik thinks the 22-yard strip has deprived RCB of the home advantage at a venue where matches have traditionally been high-scoring.

"In the first two games, we have asked for good pitches. But it's turned out in this way where it's been challenging to bat on. So, we try to do the best with whatever we get. But we will obviously



ly have a chat with him (curator). We trust him to do his job," said Karthik in the post-match press conference.

"So, definitely, this is not a pitch that's helping the batters too much. It's a challenging pitch. So, that has been the case so far in both the games that we have played," he added.

Karthik said big hits and boundaries are an essential part of T20s, palatable to all stakeholders.

"I think the way T20 cricket is, the more runs there are, the better it is for the broadcaster, the better it is for the fans. They all like to see boundaries. And we will try and do the best of

what we can," he said.

The former India wicketkeeper batter said that while they try not to follow any particular template in a match, pitches such as the one at the Chinnaswamy made it tough for batters to even rotate the strike.

"I think with every pitch, we'll try and understand what's the best way to play. I don't think we have one set template that is how we want to go out there and play. It's important to adapt and understand what the pitch is."

"But it's been hard to, at times, rotate strike. And the big shot has been really hard as well. But in the end, it's a T20. You have to play

some shots and that has gotten the wicket of a few batters," he detailed.

Karthik said the slight drizzle mid-way during DC's innings helped the pitch settle down, which made the visitors' job that much easier.

"It was a bit sticky, the pitch. After the first four overs, and up until the 13th over, we were very much in the game. With the bat, we did have a wobble, but we found a way to get to a very decent score. They were struggling at 50 for 4."

"In the first game (vs GT), there was dew. So, it got a lot better to bat in the second innings. Today, there was not as much dew. Then, unfortunately for us, a little bit of rain came."

"And then you could see the difference in the pitch. The shots that they played definitely weren't possible in the first innings," he explained.

Thus Karthik joins the likes of Lucknow Super Giants and Chennai Super Kings

coaches Zaheer Khan and Stephen Fleming in expressing displeasure over the nature of pitches at their home stadiums.

After LSG's defeat to Punjab Kings, Zaheer had said the curator could have been from Punjab, while Fleming said CSK have not been able to read the pitch correctly for the last two seasons and his side has lost the home advantage.

Young leg-spinner Suyansh Sharma had a good 4-0-25-1 spell, and Karthik saw a bright future for him.

"Suyash, obviously, his average speed is probably slightly higher. But it has helped the wrist spinners in both the innings today."

"Suyash is one that is bound to play some higher cricket very soon with the skill sets that he possesses. I also feel the more revolutions you've given on this pitch, the better it has been for the bowlers," he said.

Ellyse Perry inks deal with Hampshire, available for T20 Blast, One Day Cup

HAMPSHIRE, Apr 11 (Agencies): Australian all-rounder Ellyse Perry signed with Hampshire for a stint in the T20 Blast and One Day Cup tournaments.

Taking to their official website, Hampshire County Cricket Club announced, "Ellyse Perry Signs For Hampshire. The Australian, widely regarded as one of the greatest female cricketers of all time, will play for Hampshire this July in what is viewed as a significant moment

in women's domestic cricket in the country."

The all-rounder will be available for six T20 Blast fixtures as well as two One Day Cup matches. Should Hampshire qualify for the T20 Blast Finals Day, Perry will be available to play.

Perry is the world's top-ranked women's all-rounder, boasting numerous accolades, including two-time ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year, named ICC Player of the Decade in 2020 and winning Aus-

tralia's Women's International Cricketer of the Year on three occasions.

The youngest ever cricketer, male or female, to represent Australia, Perry has been at the top of the game for the best part of twenty years and is one of the most decorated athletes in the world.

The 34-year-old has won the T20 World Cup on six occasions, is a two-time ODI World Cup winner, Commonwealth Games gold medallist, double Women's Big



Bash champion, won 11 Women's National Cricket League titles and

is the undisputed Women's Ashes champion as a five-time winner,

the all-time leading run-scorer and wicket-taker.

"I am really looking forward to joining the Hampshire team this summer. The Club has been a leader within the women's game for the last ten years and I'm excited to have the opportunity to join the team at such an exciting time for domestic cricket in England. There's always a great atmosphere at Utilita Bowl and I cannot wait to walk out as part of the home team for the first

time on Sunday, July 6," said Perry.

Paul Prichard, Hampshire Women's Head Coach, also said as quoted by the club's website, "Ellyse is one of the world's best cricketers and we are looking forward to welcoming her to the team this summer. Her record across all formats speaks for itself and she will add a tremendous amount of value on and off the pitch. Our group of young players will learn so much from

Ellyse and I know our fans will be incredibly excited to see her in a Hawks shirt."

Perry is set to make her Hampshire debut at Chesterfield on Friday, July 4, against The Blaze, before making her Utilita Bowl debut for the Hawks against Somerset on Sunday, July 6. There will be six further opportunities to watch Ellyse Perry in Hampshire colours during the month, with four home matches and two away games.

Italy's Education Minister calls on Dr Jitendra, signs MoU of cooperation



Top News Report

JAMMU/NEW DELHI, Apr 11 : In a significant move to enhance bilateral cooperation, Italy's Minister of University & Research, known in India as Higher Education Minister, Anna Maria Bernini, currently on India visit, called on Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Earth Sciences, and Minister of State for PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions, Dept. of Space, Dept. of Atomic Energy, at North Block here for a high-level meet-

ing, accompanied by a senior delegation.

The hallmark of the meeting was the signing of an MoU of cooperation by the two Ministers.

The discussions between the two dignitaries centered on advancing joint initiatives in quantum technologies, artificial intelligence, biotechnology, and other emerging sectors.

Dr. Jitendra Singh recalled the bilateral discussions between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni held on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Brazil, which culminated in

the announcement of a Joint Strategic Action Plan 2025-2029. The plan outlines a shared vision for collaborative innovation in science and technology.

As part of this vision, both nations signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation in the field of scientific research and agreed to implement the 2025-2027 Executive Programme for Scientific and Technological Cooperation, aimed at fostering collaboration in critical technologies like AI and digitalization.

Reaffirming India's commitment to bilateral research, Dr. Jitendra Singh announced the signing of the Indo-Italian Executive Programme of Cooperation (EPOC) for 2025-2027 on 10th April 2025 during the Joint Science & Technology Committee Meeting. Under the EPOC framework, both countries have successfully implemented over 150 joint research projects to date.

The current programme includes joint funding for 10 research mobility proposals and 10 significant collaborative research initiatives

across a wide range of scientific disciplines.

Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted India's robust progress in areas such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), High-Performance Computing (HPC), Big Data, and biotechnology. He noted that India's strategic investments and policies are steering the nation toward becoming a global hub of emerging technologies.

Sharing key achievements, Dr. Jitendra Singh mentioned about India's pioneering development of a DNA-based COVID-19 vaccine, which was later gifted to many countries in need. The development and launch of the HPV vaccine and Nafithromycin, an indigenous antibiotic for respiratory infections. The country's first-ever gene therapy trial, which has been a success. The creation of a national genome data bank to support personalized medicine and public health research.

Dr. Jitendra referenced India's vibrant startup ecosystem, now the third largest globally, with significant contributions from agrobiotech startups. Initiatives such as the Aroma Mission (also known as the Purple Revolution) exemplify innovation in agriculture and floriculture.

He also highlighted the impact of technology-driven schemes like the Soil Health Card and Swamitva Yojana, which have revolutionized agriculture through drone technology.

Reflecting India's commitment to preserving ancient wisdom through modern science, Dr. Singh spoke of the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) — a unique initiative that digitizes and protects traditional Indian knowledge using cutting-edge technology.

Dr. Jitendra, also the Minister of Earth Sciences, briefed the delegation about India's ambitious Deep Ocean Mission, which aims to send an Indian submersible 6,000 meters deep into the ocean.

The trial dive up to 500 meters is set to commence next year.

Both countries reiterated their commitment to long-standing cooperation in fields such as Infectious diseases, Quantum technologies, Green hydrogen and renewable energy, Cultural heritage preservation technologies and Sustainable Blue Economy.

They also agreed to explore new collaborative areas such as Industry 4.0, Clean energy.

Dr. Jitendra also identified other mutual sectors, including academic and industrial partnerships involving SMEs and startups from both nations.

Dr. Rajesh Gokhale, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology and Prof. Abhay Karandikar, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology were also part of the high-level meet.

Dimple demands restoration of J&K Statehood



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 11: The streets of Jammu once again echoed with the fervent cries of identity, justice, and reclamation as Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood Jammu & Kashmir, led a protest rally on Friday.

Dimple demanded the immediate restoration of Jammu & Kashmir's statehood, its special constitutional status, and the scrapping of over 84,000 domicile

certificates issued to non-residents. Protesters decried what they described as a calculated effort by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to alter the historic Dogra fabric of the region.

"The state subject laws must return. The domicile regime must go. We will not stand by as our lands, culture, and employment are sold off like commodities," Dimple declared.

He accused the BJP government of disregarding the will of the people, claiming that the party has handed over "lakhs of canals of land" to around 200 non-local investors for business purposes, fundamentally changing the demography of the erstwhile princely state. Citing survey reports, Dimple alleged that five lakh outsiders from states like Punjab, Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Maharashtra have already settled in J&K, purchasing land and flats after the abrogation of Article 370.

Further lambasting the government's silence, Dimple criticized the Home Minister's recent visit, saying it bore "no promises, no roadmap, and no commitment" toward statehood. He accused RSS-BJP leadership of being the

"enemy of Maharaja Hari Singh's legacy," branding their actions a threat to Jammu's cultural soul. Dimple rejected the recently passed Waqf Bill, alleging it was a divisive ploy to stir communal tensions across India. He painted a stark picture of the current socio-political climate, accusing the BJP of behaving like the East India Company, exploiting J&K's natural resources, including mining and power sectors.

With youth unemployment rising, Dimple called attention to 32,000 vacant government posts, claiming local talent is being ignored. He demanded the immediate waiving of electricity bills, 200 units of free power, and double rations including 12 LPG cylinders annually for every household. He urged LG Manoj Sinha and former CM Omar Abdullah to resume the traditional Darbar Move this April.

The protest also condemned the chaos in the legislative assembly, with Dimple accusing BJP, PDP, and AAP MLAs of engaging in "gang war-like" behavior, a "murder of democracy," and ignoring the burning issue of state restoration.

Randhawa inaugurates new infrastructure at GHS Channi Rama



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 11: In a significant step towards strengthening educational infrastructure, MLA Bahu, Ch. Vikram Randhawa, inaugurated multiple newly developed facilities at Government High School Channi Rama, including three additional classrooms, a state-of-the-art science laboratory, a modern examination hall, and a secure boundary wall, all completed at an estimated cost of Rs 1.17 crore.

The inaugural event was attended by enthusiastic students, school staff, and members of the local community.

Present on the occasion were ZEPO Rashid Alam, Vice Principal Ramesh Sharma, and dedicated teaching staff including Rewa Bakshi, Veena, Jyoti Nargotra, Ashu Gupta, Anamika, and Kavita.

Local leaders and prominent citizens also marked their presence, including Surjeet Singh (Mandal President), Gardhari Lal, Ashwani Khajuria, Pt. Hansraj, Sushil, Mohinder, Arif Choudhary, and others who appreciated the development initiative.

In his address, Randhawa reaffirmed his commitment to upgrading educational infrastructure in the region. "Education is the backbone of a pro-

gressive society. We are committed to providing our students with the facilities they deserve, so they can compete with the best across the country. This is just one step towards our vision of a well-educated and empowered Jammu," he said.

The students and faculty expressed immense

joy over the upgraded facilities, which are expected to significantly enhance the teaching-learning process.

The science lab, in particular, will give students hands-on experience in experiments, while the new examination hall will ease logistical challenges during board exams.

AICC member Shamsheer Chand meets with MP Nasir Hussain

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 11: AICC member Bharat yatri Shamsheer Chand had a crucial meeting with the MP Rajya Sabha & In-charge of Jammu and Kashmir (JK) & Ladakh UT Nasir Hussain regarding the future of Scheduled Castes (SC) and Other Backward Classes (OBC) minorities in politics, several key points might be discussed.

He urged MP for reviewing and updating policies to ensure they are inclusive and supportive of SC and OBC minorities; Ensuring adequate representation of SC and OBC minorities in political processes and decision-making bodies; Providing training and resources to enhance the political capabilities of SC and OBC minority leaders; Implementing



measures to combat discrimination and promote equality for SC and OBC minorities in political spheres; Engaging with community leaders to understand their needs and develop strategies

for their political empowerment. These discussions aim to create an environment where SC and OBC minorities can participate effectively and equitably in the political landscape.

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