

TOP NEWS OF J&K



ENTERTAINMENT

| 6

Manish Malhotra recalls winning his first Filmfare Award in 1995



NATIONAL

| 7

PM Modi greets people on Baisakhi

Daily Evening Newspaper

INTERNATIONAL

| 8

UAE leader emphasise unity among politicians, businessmen, faith leaders to ensure peace



e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-12 Issue-101 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

BRIEFLY

J&K Police working hard to ensure people live peacefully: IGP Birdi

SRINAGAR, Apr 13 (Agencies): Inspector General of Police Kashmir, V K Birdi, on Sunday said that Jammu and Kashmir Police are working hard to ensure that the people live their lives peacefully and away from the threats of drugs or terrorism.

Talking to reporters after paying obeisance at Chatipadshahi Gurdwara here on the occasion of Baisakhi, IGP Birdi said, "J&K Police are committed to ensure safety and security of people.

We have been relentlessly fighting against drug abuse and terrorism and the battle will continue. Won't allow anyone to disturb peace or ruin lives of youth."

He prayed for peace and prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir. "Festivals bring us together and provide all of us with an opportunity to seek blessings," he added.

8-year-old boy drowns while taking bath in Rajouri

RAJOURI, Apr 13 (Agencies): An 18-year-old boy drowned while bathing in the Manwar Tawi river near Bagnoti Nallah in Rajouri district on Sunday afternoon.

Officials told news agency JKNS that the deceased has been identified as Nitesh Verma, son of Vijay Kumar, a resident of Chak Jaralan.

The incident occurred when the boy was taking a bath in the river and suddenly drowned. Soon after the incident, local police reached the spot and summoned the SDRF team to launch an operation, official said.

Efforts were underway to retrieve the body, officials said.

One killed, another injured as tractor plunges into gorge in Bandipora

BANDIPORA, Apr 13 (Agencies): One person lost his life and another sustained injuries after a tractor plunged into a deep gorge in the Duban area of Onagam in north Kashmir's Bandipora district on Sunday.

An official said that the deceased has been identified as Mohammad Yaseen, a resident of

■ Turn to page 9

Security forces recover huge cache of Arms, Ammunition from slain terrorists in Kishtwar

JAMMU, Apr 13 (Agencies): The joint security forces have recovered a large cache of arms and ammunition from the three terrorists killed during the three-day anti-terror operation in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district. Jammu travel guide

Officials said, "The joint forces recovered 1 M4 Rifle, 2 AK 47 Rifles, 11 Magazines, 65 Bullets M4 and 56 bullets AK 47



along with caps, medicines, first aid material and socks. This is the arms and ammunition that was recovered from three terrorists killed by the Army in the Chatroo Naidgam Kishtwar encounter on Saturday."

The security forces had started an intelligence-backed operation in the Chatroo area of the Kishtwar district.

On the second day of

■ Turn to page 9

Around 20% posts lying vacant across departments in Kashmir University, Reveals RTI reply

JAMMU, Apr 13 (Agencies): Nearly 20 per cent of the 2,859 sanctioned posts in the University of Kashmir were lying vacant as on February 29, 2024, Central Public Information Officer of the University of Kashmir, Ghulam Mohammed Wani said in his response.

The application filed by Jammu-based RTI activist Raman Kumar Sharma in February this year revealed that majority of the vacancies are at the faculty level. This includes over 200 key posts of professors, associate professors and assistant professors, besides 110 junior assistants.

Against the sanctioned strength of 2,859 posts, 570 posts were vacant as on February 29, 2024, Central Public Information Officer of the University of Kashmir, Ghulam Mohammed Wani said in his response.

Wani, who is also Assistant Registrar at the university, said there are 56 sanctioned posts of professors but 47 are vacant, while 91 out of 120 associate professor posts are unoccupied.

Similarly, only 291 posts of assistant professors are filled, leaving 80 other posts vacant, he said, adding that against the sanctioned posts of seven directors, five remained vacant.

As many as 110 junior assistant posts, against sanctioned strength of 180, are without staff, he said.

The RTI also revealed that the posts of dean of college development council, dean of students' welfare, academic coordinator, research fellow, editor-cum-lecturer, documentation officer, editor-cum-research assistant, additional controller of examination and assistant estates officer are also lying vacant.

The university also awaits the appointment of professor-cum-principal (nursing), two assistant professors (nursing), three tutors (nursing), two deputy directors and three

■ Turn to page 9

Sakeena Itoo visits SKIMS, SMHS Hospital in Srinagar

Meets injured students of Handwara road accident



in the tragic Handwara road accident.

During her visit to SMHS Hospital, Sakeena Itoo interacted with the family members of injured student undergoing treatment at the facility.

Interacting with the Principal GMC, Medical Superintendent and other doctors on the occasion, the Minister asked them for constant monitoring of injured student's recovery process. She directed the hospital authorities to ensure that

■ Turn to page 9

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Apr 13: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena

Itoo, today visited the Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) Soura and SMHS Hospital Srinagar to enquire about the condition of students injured

Indian Army downs Pakistan Drone along LoC in Jammu Using indigenous Anti-Drone System

NEW DELHI, Apr 13 (Agencies): The Indian Army recently brought down a Pakistan Army drone using the indigenously designed and developed 'Integrated Drone Detection and Interdiction System' while it was trying to carry out surveillance along the Line of Con-

trol (LoC) in the Jammu region. Jammu travel guide

According to defence sources, the drone — of Chinese origin — was brought down by Army Air Defence units deployed in the 16 Corps area, located south of the Pir Panjal ranges in the Jammu region.

The incident occurred when the hostile drone was detected operating close to Indian territory along the LoC, they said.

Sources said that the drone was brought down using the indigenously designed and developed 'Integrated Drone Detection and Interdiction

■ Turn to page 9

Ruhullah rejects ACB charges, Calls it attempt to silence him

BUDGAM, Apr 13 (Agencies): A day after the Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) filed a chargesheet against 22 individuals — including Member of Parliament and senior National Conference (NC) leader Aga Ruhullah — in connection with an alleged fraudulent land compensation case, Ruhullah hit back on Sunday, terming the move "a frivolous attempt" to silence him for his political views.

Addressing a press conference here, Ruhullah denied any wrongdoing in the land compensation case related to Durbal Bemina, saying the matter is nearly two decades old and he was only a legal heir to his grandfather's land. "An April 1st joke is being played on April 13. The narrative being built is that a huge scam has occurred and I am somehow

at the center of it. Let me make it clear: I have nothing to do with this so-called scam," he said.

Ruhullah explained that the land in question was inherited from his grandfather, who owned about 90 kanals in Durbal Bemina, an area where land was acquired by the government as part of a rehabilitation initiative for Dal Lake dwellers. "At that time, compensation was provided not just based on revenue records but also on the actual possession of land.

That was a government decision. My family received compensation for around 40-50 kanals despite more than 90-kanal being under our possession. I, along with my siblings, received a nominal share — about Rs 80,000 each

■ Turn to page 9

CS assesses reach, impact of social security schemes in J&K



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 13: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a meeting of the Social Welfare Department to review the impact and reach of several beneficiary oriented schemes being run by the department

across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting besides Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department was attended by all the HoDs of the department and other concerned officers.

During comprehensive review of the schemes,

the Chief Secretary took stock of the achievements and ongoing initiatives aimed at bolstering child development, nutrition and welfare of marginal sections of the society. He had specific review of schemes tailored for

■ Turn to page 9

GupShup

RESTAURANT

Where Hunger Meets Happiness

Are you a true desi chicken connoisseur? Look no further than Gupshup Restaurant, the only restaurant in Jammu and Kashmir to serve 100% Desi chicken (Jatka) cooked to perfection on a traditional Chullah.

Visit us at:
Ban Bantaleh, Old Nagrota Highway, Jammu (J&K)
+91-9086207123 | +91-9086072548

ORDER NOW

10TH DAY

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

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

GRIEF STRICKEN :

(Son & Daughter in law)

Mr Jain & Mrs Tripta

Mr Harish & Mrs Asha

(Son in law & Daughter)

Mr Suresh & Mrs Suman

Smt Mandeep Kaur (Wife)

(Grand Son & Grand Daughter)

Aryan, Ayush, Antriksh, Anadhya, Soham



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

**Mob. 7889667001,
9697500560**

TENTH DAY KRIYA

We deeply mourn the passing of our mother **Karmyogi Shama Pandita**, beloved wife of the late Sh. Om Prakash Pandita, originally from Gund Gushi, Kupwara, Kashmir, on 9th April 2025.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be observed on 18th April 2025, at Chota Hardwar, Murad Nagar.

A Condolence Assembly will be held separately at our residence: B-537, Green Field, Sector 43, Faridabad, at 12:00 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Jyotsna & Navnit Pandita (DIL & Son)

8826895896 8826824896

Sarojini and Vinod Bhat (Daughter & SIL)

Sunita & Tej Krishan Pandita (Daughter & SIL)

Kusum & Sandeep Pandita (DIL & Son)

Jyoti & Ashok Sahib (Daughter & SIL)

Meenu & Deepak Tikoo (Daughter & SIL)

Kamakshi & Abhishek Tathoo (Daughter & SIL)

Prana & Bansil Lal Pandita (SIL & BIL)

Sarla & Bihari Lal Pandita (SIL & BIL)

Pinkie & Rajinder Pandita (SIL & BIL)

Dura Koul (SIL)

G K Raina (BIL)

Tosha & Avtar Bhat (SIL & BIL)

Vijay & K K Bhat (SIL & BIL)

Grand Children: Urvasi & Sahil Ji, Chetna, Anshul, Aryan, Jiya, Utkarsh & Divisha.



**KARMYOGI SHAMA
PANDITA**

10TH DAY & KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Col Kuldip Singh (Retd)** S/o Late Col Puran Singh Samyal R/o House No. 161 Sector-G, Sainik Colony, Jammu.

Tenth Day will be performed on 13 Apr 25 (Sunday) at 09 AM at their residence.

13th Day will be performed on 16 Apr 25 (Wednesday) at 12.30 PM.

Rasam Pagri will be performed on 16 Apr 25 (Wednesday) at 04.30 PM at their residence.

Grief Stricken

Smt Sunita Rani (Wife)

(Son & Daughter in law)

Col Rahul Dev Singh & Smt Ramni Anthal

Daughters & Sons in law

Smt Neena Salaria & Col Sanjay Salaria

Smt Reena Rathore & Col Omeesh Rathore

Brothers & Bhabis

Sh Kulbir Singh Samyal & Smt Nishi Samyal

Smt Pawan Samyal W/o Late Prof. Parshotam Singh Samyal

Smt Manorma Samyal W/o Late Maj Randhir Singh Samyal

Master Yaduraj Singh (Grand Son)

Grand Children

Vikrant, Rohan, Chandani, Viraaj



Col Kuldip Singh (Retd)

TENTH DAY/ KRIYA

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

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

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Samast Pandit Pariwar of Kharwara, Kandhari's, Bhat's, Tickoo's, Dhar's, Kichloo's, Raina's, Hangloo's.

Mobile No: 6005736119, 9622215389, 7889626173, 9873837070, 7889588023



**SMT SHAMA
PANDITA**

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Vishwa Mitter Sharma S/o LT. Sh Devi Saran Sharma R/o ward no:-67 near ram mandir Muthi**

10th Day will be performed on 16th April Wednesday at our residence(Muthi).

GRIEF STRICKEN :

SHARMA FAMILY

Mob. 9149956122, 7051098377



**Sh Vishwa Mitter
Sharma**

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With Profound grief and sorrow we inform about the sad demise of **Smt. Rajni Dubey W/o Sh. Raghubir Sharma R/o H.No. 95, Sector 3, (Near Suvidha Vet Clinic) Sanjay Nagar, Jammu**, who left for heavenly abode on 04-04-2025.

Tenth Day will be held on 13-04-2025, Sunday, at 11:00 am at our residence.

Kriya will be held on 14-04-2025, Monday at our residence.

Uthala will be held on 14-04-2025, Monday (05:00 to 06:00 pm) at Ram Mandir, Shastri Nagar.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Sh. Raghubir Sharma (Husband)

Sayam Vashisht (Son)

Hardik Vashisht (Son)

(Jeths & Jethanis)

Late Sh. Vijay Kumar Sharma & Smt. Anuradha Sharma

Sh. Rakesh Sharma & Smt. Sunita Sharma

Sh. Raman Sharma & Smt. Vandana Aggarwal

(Nanand & Nandoi)

Smt. Veena Devi & Sh. G L Sadhotra

Smt. Shakti Sharma & Sh. Vijay Kumar Sharma

Contact No: 94191-23358, 77809-55740, 70518-02915, 96227-69875



SMT. RAJNI DUBEY
(Master Grade Teacher)

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. Birmla 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

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Goverdhan Lal Shali S/o Lt. Sh. Nand Lal Shali** original resident of Karan Nagar Srinagar Kashmir A/P H.No. 31, Shiv Temple Lane Buta Nagar Enclave Paloura Jammu on 6th April 2025. The **TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be held on 15th April 2025 Tuesday at Muthi Ghat near Director of School Education Office at 9 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Asha Shali - **Wife**

Daughter-in-law

Asha Shali W/o Lt. Surinder Shali

Zitin Shali - **Grand Daughter**

Rakshit Shali - **Grand Son**

Deeply Remembered by:

Shali's, Wangu's, Munshi's, Jalali's

Mob: 9682518181, 8291076659, 7889626247



**SH. GOVERDHAN LAL
SHALI**

10th Day / 13th Day (Kriya)

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Krishan Singh Rai S/o Sh. Mool Singh Rai R/o Sangaldan** who left for heavenly abode on 10-04-2025.

10th Day will be performed on 19-04-2025 from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Kriya (13th Day) will be performed on 22-04-2025 at our residence Sangaldan.

GRIEF STRICKEN :-

Smt. Meena Devi - **Wife**

Bhabhi and Brother

Smt. Indira Rai and Sh. Bishan Singh Rai

Daughter in laws and Sons.

Smt. Kavita Devi and Sh. Narinder Singh Rai

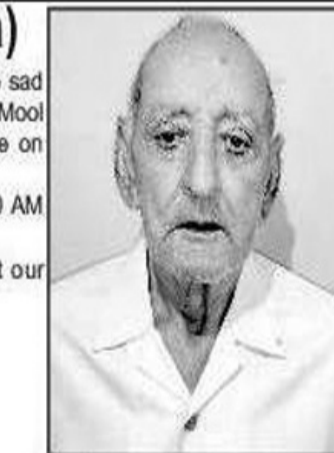
Smt. Asha Kumari and Sh. Joginder Singh Rai KAS

Smt. Sheetal Rajput and Sh. Sham Singh Rai

Smt. Mansi Singh and Sh. Aditya Dev Singh Rai

GRAND CHILDREN: Saloni, Yogesh, Aviral, Rajesh, Parth, Bhakti

Mobile: 9419175459



**Sh. Krishan Singh
Rai**

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

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

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

Nilish Bhat - **Son**

Nilika Bhat - **Daughter**

All Nears & Dears

Mob. No. 9797534928, 9797439449



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

Obituary and 10th Day Kriya

With deep grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **SHRI PURAN NATH PANDITA**, Rtd. Manager, United India Insurance, S/o Late Shri Som Nath Pandita, R/o Karinama, Kupwara, presently residing at H.No. 6, Lane No. 5, Saraswati Vihar, Bohri, Jammu, who left for heavenly abode on 10th April 2025.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at Muthi Ghat on 19th April (Saturday) at 9:00 AM.

Grief Stricken

Mother - Smt. Dulari Pandita

Wife - Smt. Meena Ji Pandita

Daughter and Son-in-law

Smt. Manve Puran Pandita & Dhiyara Manve Puran

Smt. Mehak Puran Pandita & Shri Rohin Pandita

Brother & Bhabhi

Smt. Kamlesh & Shri Ravinder Pandita

Sisters & Jija Ji

Smt. Dalcy & Shri Sri Krishan Raina

Smt. Sanjay & Shri Satish Thussoo

Smt. Asha & Shri Vinod Dhar

Smt. Kiran & Shri Suresh Pandita

Contact Numbers: 9682353047, 9877939543, 8894096900



**SHRI PURAN NATH
PANDITA**

TENTH DAY KRIYA

TENTH DAY KRIYA OF OUR BELOVED FATHER LATE SH. NATH JI KAUL S/O LATE SH. MANA KAUL (ORIGINALLY FROM ZAINDAR MOHALLA, SRINAGAR, KASHMIR) WHO LEFT ON HIS WAY TO MOKSHA ON 5TH APRIL, 2025 WILL BE HELD AT CHHOTTA HARIDWAR, MURADNAGAR ON 14TH APRIL, 2025 (MONDAY) AT 8:00 AM. FOLLOWED BY ASSEMBLY AT 11 AM, AT 26, MANU APARTMENTS, MAYUR VIHAR PHASE-I, DELHI -110091

GRIEF STRICKEN :-

SONS & DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW

ANITA & RAVINDER KAUL

ANITA & RAJ KUMAR KAUL

DAUGHTERS & SONS-ON-LAW

RAJNI RAIN & LATE RAMESH RAINA

GIRJA KAUL & V.N. KAUL

GRAND CHILDREN:-

AAYUSHMAN, RAASHIKA, KARISHMA, RAHUL, ARSH, NIVRITI, NIVAN

MOBILE: 8826901183, 9810720977, 9717649366



LATE SH. NATH JI KAUL

FIFTH DAY

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the demise of **Sh. Tara Chand, Ex Sub Major (27-03-1946 to 10-04-2025)** H/o Smt. Krishna Kumar R/o Bhagwati Nagar Jammu.

FIFTH DAY will be performed on 14-04-2025 (Monday) from 11:00 AM onwards at H.No 165 Sec-02 Bhagwati Nagar Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

(Sister in law & Brother in law)

Smt. Joginder and Sh. Ram Lal Meena

Smt. Kanta Devi & Sh. Des Raj Meena

Smt. Veena Devi & Sh. Ashok Kumar Meena

Nephew and Niece

Dr. Renu, Ravi, Palak, Archana, Suresh,

Ajesh, Sunil, Anil, Ruby, Sonia

CONTACT NO.9086069767, 7006450791, 7006396706



**SH. TARA CHAND,
EX SUB MAJOR**

FIFTH DAY

Dear Family

With deep sorrow, we inform you of the passing of our beloved **Rishi Kumar**. As we come together to honor his memory, the 5th-Day ritual (Panchami Kriya) will be held on 14th April 2025 at 11:00 AM at our residence Ward No. 9, near Geeta Bhawan Mandir, Samba.

We humbly invited you to join us in offering prayers for the departed soul and in supporting the family during this difficult time. Your presence will mean a lot to us.

With folded hands

Vijay Kumar Sharma - **Father-in-law**

Santosh Sharma - **Mother-in-law**

Rahul Sharma - **Brother-in-law**

Pooja Sharma - **Sister-in-law**

MASVAR / VAHARVAR

It has been a year since you left us, but your memory and legacy continue to inspire us every day

Goyal meets DIG JKS Range, discusses Amarnath Yatra arrangements

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 13: In preparation for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Yatra 2025, Rajkumar Goyal, National Working President of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra Welfare Society, held a crucial meeting with DIG Jammu-Kathua-Samba Range Shiv Kumar Sharma to review and discuss arrangements for the smooth conduct of the pilgrimage. He was accompanied by social worker Lokesh Goyal from Ganganagar, Rajasthan.

During the meeting, Goyal emphasized the need for comprehensive planning and inter-departmental coordination to ensure a seamless experience for devotees. Key aspects discussed included infrastructure development, security arrangements, medical services, sanitation, logistics, and crowd management, especially from Lakhanpur to the holy cave, the entire stretch of the Yatra route within Jammu and Kashmir.

Goyal also highlighted that registration for the Yatra will commence from April 15, and the pilgrimage is scheduled to be held from July 3 to August 9, 2025. Stressing the importance of early and effective preparations, he reiterated that devotee convenience, safety, and accessibility must remain the top priorities for all stakeholders



involved.

The Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra Welfare Society, known for its selfless service, will once again organize langar facilities and extend assistance to pilgrims in every possible way.

Other critical matters were also discussed, such as decongesting the cave area, disaster preparedness, provision of helicopter services, enhancement of medical facilities, accurate weather forecasting systems, and overall security strategy.

Speaking on the significance of the Yatra, Goyal noted that devotees from across the country and abroad participate in this sacred journey, making it a

shared responsibility of the police and administration to ensure its success. He reaffirmed that the Welfare Society stands ready to support the administration and police at every step.

DIG Shiv Kumar Sharma, in response, appreciated the proactive role of the Society and affirmed that ensuring the safe and successful conduct of Shri Amarnath Yatra is a collective duty of every resident of Jammu and Kashmir. He lauded the Welfare Society's commendable efforts in supporting devotees and assured full cooperation from the police in making the pilgrimage smooth and spiritually fulfilling.

Yudhvir, Arun inaugurate vibrant Baisakhi Mela at canal road



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 13: Senior BJP leader and MLA Jammu East, Yudhvir Sethi along with Jammu Chamber President Arun Gupta and Mahant Rajesh Bittu today inaugurated the grand Baisakhi Mela at Canal Road, Jammu amidst a vibrant and festive atmosphere. The event, organized to mark the harvest festival of Baisakhi, drew huge participation from locals and visitors alike, turning the venue into a colourful celebration of culture, tradition, and community bonding.

On the occasion, Priya Sethi, senior BJP leader and former Minister, CCI office bearers namely Anil Gupta, Rajeev Gupta, Rajesh Gupta and Rinku; Ex-Corporator Anil Gupta, members of Mela Committee, Vishal Malhatra, Parvez Malik, Kaztar Chand, Suraj Sharma, Vinod Gupta, Rajesh Dogra, Sawarn Singh, Sunil Gupta and Vinay Basan were present.

Addressing the gathering after inaugurating the mela, Yudhvir Sethi extended warm Baisakhi greetings to the people and emphasized the importance of preserving and celebrating our rich cultural heritage. He said that festivals like Baisakhi are not only integral to our traditions but also play a vital role in bringing

communities together, promoting unity, and spreading joy.

"This Mela is a true reflection of the vibrant spirit of Jammu and its people. It provides a platform for our artisans, local vendors, and performers to showcase their talent and heritage," said Sethi. He appreciated the efforts of the organizers for putting together a wonderful event and ensuring representation of local crafts, cuisines, and folk art.

The Mela featured various stalls offering traditional Punjabi and Dogri food, handicrafts, and games, while the cultural stage was lit up with energetic folk dance and music performances by local artists. Children and elders alike participated in fun-filled activities, adding to the cheerful ambience of the festival.

Yudhvir Sethi further stated that the BJP remains committed to promoting cultural events across Jammu and Kashmir, in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'. He reaffirmed that such festivals not only enrich the social fabric but also provide economic opportunities to local entrepreneurs and artists.

The event was attended by a large number of people including party workers, local leaders, civil society members, and tourists.

JKTF extends Baisakhi greetings to people, employees' community

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 13: On the auspicious festival of Baisakhi, the Jammu Kashmir Teachers Forum (JKTF), led by State President Sheikh Mohammed Ashraf, along with the entire leadership team, extended warm and joyous greetings to the people of Jammu & Kashmir — especially the vibrant employees' community — who form the backbone of society and service.

In a message shared by State Spokesperson Joginder Singh Thakur, Ashraf highlighted the profound cultural and spiritual significance of Baisakhi.

"For the Sikh community, Baisakhi marks the birth of the Khalsa — the sacred warrior order founded by Guru Gobind Singh Ji in 1699. It is also a celebration of the spring harvest and the Solar New Year in Punjab. This ancient festival, rich with tradition, is known by many names across regions, but its spirit remains the same — of renewal, gratitude, and unity."

Ashraf wished that this Baisakhi becomes a moment of reflection and transformation, ushering in a season of peace, prosperity, and collective progress for the Union Territory.

Echoing the sentiment, Senior Vice President

Rafaquit Hussain Maliq, Senior Vice Chairman Mohd Mahroof, Vice Chairman Mehmood Ryaz Bhat, UT Publicity Secretary Jalil Ahmed, UT Vice President Neetan Kalyan, Shaikh Raza Qurashi, State Secretary Raman Kumar Sharma, UT Chief Coordinator Dr. Sanjay Sharma, UT Chief Convenor Lokesh Sharma, UT Coordinator Ch. Ashraf Hussain, UT Joint Secretary Tariq Amin Naik, UT Advisor Maroof Zargar, and Provincial President Jammu Sanjeet Sharma also extended heartfelt greetings on the occa-

sion.

"May this festival of light and color bless every household with joy, may it rekindle the spirit of unity among all communities, and may our collective prayers for harmony and well-being be fulfilled," the leaders stated in unison.

The Jammu Kashmir Teachers Forum stands in solidarity with every teacher, every worker, and every citizen in celebration — honoring the rich cultural mosaic of our land and the values of compassion, courage, and service that festivals like Baisakhi inspire.



UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR GOVT. MEDICAL COLLEGE AND ASSOCIATED HOSPITAL, UDHAMPUR



Phone: 01992358062

Email: principal.gmcudh@jk.gov.in

Subject: Disposal of various representations received in respect of selection of Junior Staff Nurses in various Department of GMC, Udhampur on academic arrangement basis as per S.O 364 of 2020 dated 27.11.2020 advertised vide No. 08 of 2023 dated 04.05.2023 read with Addendum notification no. GMC/UDH/2023/24/143 dated 09-05-2023.

Notification No. 1 of 2025

Dated: 11-04-2025

Whereas, the Government Medical College Udhampur advertised 69 number of non-Gazetted Paramedical post vide advertisement number 08 of 2023 dated 04.05.2023 read with addendum notification no. GMC/UDH/2023/24/143 dated 09-05-2023 purely on academic arrangement basis initially for a period of 1 year extendable up to maximum of 6 years (subject to good performance and conduct) or till the regular selection is made in accordance with the Recruitment rules whichever is earlier as envisaged under S.O 364 of 2020 dated 27.11.2020 and other applicable rules issued on the subject from time to time by the Health and Medical Education Department J&K.

Whereas, the aforesaid Advertisement notification prescribe the qualification, terms and condition for making engagement against the said posts,

Whereas, vide notification number GMC/UDH/24-25/1966-71 dated 09-08-2024 the screening test was conducted for the post of Junior Staff Nurses on dated 18.08.2024 for 30 number of posts which may increase or decrease depending upon the actual number of post available to the authority at the time of the finalization of lists,

Whereas, 456 numbers of applicants appeared for the screening test of Junior Staff Nurses posts,

Whereas, various representations from the aggrieved candidates regarding reservations and other genuine issues related to recruitment were raised,

Whereas, the representations received were placed before the screening committee for consideration in terms of applicable rules, the committee members discussed the issue threadbare and pursued the entire records pertaining to the said selection process, especially the advertisement Notice no. GMC/UDH/24-25/1966-71 dated 09-08-2024 and came to conclusion that the advertisement notice issued in terms of S.O 364 dated 27-11-2020, wherein clause (7) explicitly provide that while making selection under aforesaid S.O, reservation act and rules thereof required to be followed and reservation roster to be maintained,

Whereas, the screening committee proposed and recommended the Chairman selection committee to kindly seek relevant certificates/documents from the appeared candidates such as Diploma in Nursing/B.Sc. Nursing/ Domicile/Marks Sheets/Category Certificates etc. for scrutinization and finalization of list as per relevant rules and regulation,

Now therefore in view of above mentioned circumstances and facts the genuine representations received from applicants are accorded due consideration under applicable rules and regulation and through this missive it is enjoined upon all the applicants who were appeared in the screening test conducted on 18-08-2024 to submit the following documents for scrutinization by the screening committee within week time positively from the date of issuance of this order for the finalization of the list to the office of the Principal Govt. Medical College Udhampur during working hours from 10.00 A.M to 05.00 P.M.

List of Documents:

1. Domicile
2. 10th Marks Card (as Proof of D.O.B).
3. All Marks Relevant Sheets.
4. Diploma in Nursing/B.Sc. Nursing degree.
5. Registration from (SNC/INC).
6. Application form.
7. Category Certificate (if any).

DIP/J-283/25

Dr. Parmod Kalsotra
Principal
Govt. Medical College
Udhampur

EDITORIAL

SAY NO TO DRUGS

In the grand journey of life, where dreams are the stars and health is the sky, every choice we make becomes the wind in our sails—or the weight on our wings. One such choice, deceptively small at first, yet immensely powerful, is the choice to say no to drugs. In that single syllable—no—lies the strength to protect our health, our future, and the happiness of those we love.

Drugs, whether legal or illegal, when mis-used, become a silent thief. They steal our potential, hijack our happiness, and cloud our clarity. What starts as an escape often ends in entrapment. The initial euphoria, so temporary, fades into dependency, anxiety, and a cascade of physical and mental health problems. The very thing people turn to for relief becomes the source of their suffering.

Why do people fall into the trap? It could be curiosity, peer pressure, stress, emotional trauma, or simply a desire to feel something different. But no matter the reason, the result is too often the same: lost time, shattered relationships, broken health, and a sense of self that fades into a fog.

Saying no to drugs is not just about turning away from harm; it's about turning toward health, joy, and freedom. It's about choosing a life where your mind remains sharp, your body remains strong, and your dreams remain within reach. Every time you say no to drugs, you're saying yes to life.

Choosing a drug-free life means embracing wellness in all its vibrant forms. It means waking up with energy, not exhaustion. It means having control over your mind and body, not being ruled by cravings. It means reducing the risk of heart disease, liver damage, brain disorders, and countless other conditions that drug abuse can cause. A healthy body is the foundation on which we build careers, relationships, and a purpose-driven life.

Mental health, too, thrives when we keep drugs at bay. Depression, paranoia, hallucinations, and anxiety are common consequences of drug abuse. But in the absence of toxins, the mind becomes a clear lake—reflecting creativity, calm, and connection with others. Emotional resilience, joy, and inner peace are all easier to attain when we are not battling the side effects of addiction.

The best way to combat the drug menace is through education and awareness. We must start early—teaching children and teens about the dangers of drug use before temptation knocks at their door. Empower them with knowledge, surround them with support, and inspire them with healthier alternatives: sports, arts, music, volunteering, and mindfulness.

It's equally vital to build a culture of empathy, not judgment. Many people turn to drugs due to pain they cannot express. By creating safe spaces where people can talk, heal, and feel heard, we reduce the need for artificial escape routes. Let's make seeking help for emotional pain as normal as visiting a doctor for a cold.

Community programs, rehabilitation centers, and youth outreach initiatives also play a key role. Those who have stumbled can still rise. Recovery is not only possible—it's beautiful. Every recovered soul becomes a beacon of hope for others still lost in the dark.

To the dreamers, the dancers, the coders, the poets, the builders of tomorrow: you are too powerful, too precious, and too full of potential to let drugs steal your light. Life will have its storms, yes. But there are healthier ways to cope: through friendship, therapy, meditation, exercise, and art. Your scars can become your strength. Your pain can become poetry. You do not need chemicals to create magic—you are the magic.

Saying no to drugs is not just a personal choice; it's a collective movement. Families, schools, communities, governments—when we all commit to building a healthier, more compassionate world, we raise a generation that is not only drug-free but driven, daring, and deeply alive.

By: Omkar Dattatray

Baisakhi is the grand festival of unity in diversity as it is celebrated by the all walks of Indians with great enthusiasm and fervor. People without any distinction celebrate Baisakhi with joy and gaiety. This festival is usually celebrated every year on 13th April by people of different faiths and it is the celebration and reflection of unity in diversity which is the overriding doctrine of this great land called Bharat. The festival of Baisakhi is celebrated to mark the onset of spring in India. Ther time of Baisakhi usually signifies the end of the harvest season, and is an occasion of tremendous joy and festivity for farmers. The festival of Baisakhi is celebrated for various reasons by various people, but the celebrations are concentrated in the states of Punjab and Haryana. Baisakhi, the agricultural festival of happiness and prosperity is celebrated every year on 13 or 14 April. It is also known as Vaisakhi and is a significant festival for Sikh community. Baisakhi marks the beginning of the Sikh new year and commemorates the birth and formation of the Khalsa. The festival is celebrated to commemorate the foundation of Guru Gobind Singh's Khalsa group. This occasion is celebrated in the month of Baisakh, that is months of April or May. Generally, Biasakhi is celebrated on 13th or 14th April every year. This is the time when farmers harvest their Rabi crops after harsh winter. Biasakhi is majorly a festival of the Hindu-Sikh people but the ones following Islam could also actively be a part of the celebrations. Biasakhi is not a festival only to mark the Sikh new

year or the first harvest, but it also marks the last Khalsa organised by Guru Gobind Singh in 1699. Biasakhi or vaisakhi as a major Sikh festival marks the birth of Khalsa order by Guru Gobind Singh ,the tenth Guru of Sikhism ,on 13th April 1699. Later, Ranjit Singh was proclaimed as Maharaja of the Sikh Empire on 12th April 1801 to coincide with Vaishaki, creating a unified political state. The festival of Biasakhi, which is mainly celebrated in the north Indian states of Punjab and Haryana, marks the beginning of the Sikh new year. At heart, India is an agricultural country with spring harvest marking a major festival in many parts of the country. India is a land of diverse cultures, cuisines and festivals with hundreds of festivals celebrated across the country each year. However, spring harvest is an important time in the country with people in various parts of the country praying to the gods for a better harvest in the coming year. This spring harvesting festival also coincides with the New Year in certain states and religions. On the day of Baisakhi, in the year 1699, the tenth Sikh Guru, Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji established the Khalsa Panth. Baisakhi is also the time when farmers begin harvesting of the Rabi crops. It is a significant event for the farmers in the northern region and observed as a thanksgiving to the Gods and the natural elements. On this day Sikhs and Hindus as well visit Gurudwars in new or clean clothes and offer prayers and remember the 10th Sikh Guru, Guru Gobind Singh. What makes Biasakhi so special, is that it marks the first day of the year according to the Sikh Calendar. Another amazing root to this

festival is that Biasakhi was one the three main festivals that the third Sikh Guru, Guru Amar Das Ji chose to celebrate. Biasakhi is also the time when farmers begin to harvest the Rabi crops. It is a significant event for the farmers in the region and observed as a thanksgiving to the Gods and the natural elements. Walking up to the beautiful Biasakhi day morning is like stepping up on a fortune as one can see Punjab at its happiest and most joyful self-preparations for the festival. It begins well in advance and Gurudwaras are well decorated, men prepare and practice for their Martial Arts. In this period of celebration ,artisans from across the state and country come to sell their handicrafts all over Punjab. The purpose of the Baisakhi celebrations is to come together with the feeling of oneness and joy. Baisakhi is the festival which is the expression of communal harmony and mutual brotherhood and it exhibits the doctrine of unity while maintain diversity. Not only Sikhs and Hindus celebrate Baisakhi but people belonging to Muslim faith also actively celebrate this festival and lend grace to the festival. Thus the people of different religious communities greet each other on Baisakhi and celebrate the day with great pomp and show. On this day men, women and children dress up in their favorite traditional attire .Punjabis been outstanding hosts ,one could book a farm stay or a homestay and celebrate it with locals. Punjab tourism offers various options which can be chosen for a perfect stay. If you happen to be in Amritsar, you can have Kada Prasad and Guru Ka Langer at the golden temple. Spectate the Nagar Kirtan and prowess of

the Loins of Punjab. Baisakhi is celebrated every year on the first day of the Hindu month of Vaisakh and the Hindu and Sikh solar new year too is celebrated on this occasion. This year we will be celebrating Baisakhi on 13th April. Some of the places in Punjab to best experience the festive fanfare on the day of Baisakhi are Takht Sri Damdama Sahib ,20 kms from Bathinda. Gurudwara Takht Sri Keshgarh Sabib at Anandpur Sahib and Golden Temple, Amritsar. Baisakhi is a festival that is deeply rooted in the cultural and religious fabric of Punjab, and serves as a poignant reminder of unity ,gratitude and renewal. This vibrant celebration holds multifaceted significance, blending agricultural abundance with spiritual awakening. At its core, Baisakhi is a harvest festival, marking the culmination of the winter sowing season and the arrival of the new one. As the golden fields of wheat sway in the gentle breeze, farmers rejoice in the fruits of their labor. Baisakhi serves as a time of thanksgiving, honoring the earth's abundance and the toil of the agricultural communities. It is a moment to celebrate the cycle of life and growth that sustains us all. In short Baisakhi is not just a religious or agricultural festival, but also a cultural extravaganza that showcases the vibrancy and diversity of India especially of the north Indian states of Punjab and Haryana.

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

Politics of power: Baba Saheb's legacy, birth anniversary or a selfish spectacle of power?

By: Priyanka Saurabh

Baba Saheb's ideas—such as social justice, abolition of casteism, sharing of power in power for Dalits and backward classes, and protection of the dignity of the Constitution—are being completely ignored by today's politicians. Political parties celebrate Ambedkar's birth anniversary only for vote bank, while they are miles away from his ideas. The issues for which Baba Saheb fought throughout his life—such as the social role of reservation, caste census, and representation on an economic basis—are still being sidelined. Capitalists and celebrities are being sent to Parliament and Vidhan Sabhas, while the deprived class is marginalised. Can Baba Saheb's soul be satisfied until the India of his dreams is realised? If we really want to pay tribute to Ambedkar, then his ideas will have to be put into practice—otherwise all this will remain only a show and pretence.

Baba Saheb Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar's birth anniversary is being celebrated with great pomp across the country today. Like temple bells, microphones are ringing on the stages, and there is a flood of garlands of flowers and emotional speeches. But amidst all this, one question constantly gnaws at the mind – is this a tribute or a pursuit of power?

Baba Saheb Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar was born on 14 April 1891 in Mhow, Madhya Pradesh. He belonged to the Mahar caste, which was considered untouchable. Amidst social boycott and humiliation, he acquired education and received higher education from institutions like Columbia

University and the London School of Economics. This achievement in itself was a revolution in the India of that time.

Baba Saheb fought against social injustice, and in 1956 he embraced Buddhism – a religion that shows the path of equality, compassion and wisdom. He said goodbye to the world on 6 December 1956, but his ideas are still alive today – provided they are kept alive.

Today, when we look at the Parliament and the Legislative Assemblies, we find that there are a large number of capitalists, actors, and sportsmen present there. But the Bahujan Samaj, which forms the ladder of power, is allowed to remain at the bottom. Governments that avoid caste census are not ready to convert social justice into a permanent policy. This is the reason why there is a deep inequality in the society.

Spending crores of rupees on Baba Saheb's birth anniversary, organising big rallies and putting up posters, covering his statues with flowers – is this devotion? Aren't these the same people who never even read Baba Saheb's books? Aren't these the same political parties whose policies directly go against the spirit of the Constitution?

This hypocrisy will stop only when the elephant's teeth are made the same for showing and eating. When will the difference between words and actions end? And when everyone gets a share in the power in proportion to the population – only then will we be able to say that we have paid tribute to Baba Saheb in the true sense.

Baba Saheb, who gave voice to the most downtrodden and marginalised sections of India, ensured their rights in the Constitution; his birth anniversary is being celebrat-

ed today by the same people who left no stone unturned in crushing his ideas.

Baba Saheb had clearly stated, “I was not born a Hindu; it was not in my control, but I will not die a Hindu – that is in my control.” Instead of understanding this historic proclamation, politicians have reduced him to statues. The Constitution, which he wrote to protect the Dalits, backward and poor, is today being distorted in a haphazard manner.

It is a matter of great sadness that the parties which were born for the rights of Dalits and backward classes are today either silent due to greed for power or have taken a vow of silence out of fear. Parties like BSP came to power in the name of Baba Saheb, but today they are at the back in protecting his principles.

Baba Saheb's name has become just an election strategy. People who become MLAs and MPs from reserved seats are engrossed in slavery to their respective parties. They are watching the attacks on Dalit interests as mute spectators. In such a situation, as an ordinary citizen, I, Vinesh Thakur, strongly condemn these power-hungry representatives.

Most of those who are remembering Baba Saheb today did not have the courage to take even a single step on his ideas. Issues like caste census, sharing of power in proportion to population, and equality in education and employment are still pending. Instead, a policy is being adopted to appease the poor by giving them free rations – instead of permanent employment and a dignified life, a life of beggary is being given.

Big industrialists, actors and sportspersons reach the Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabhas, but those

whose votes form the government – Dalits, tribals, and OBCs – are still marginalised. Baba Saheb's real legacy has been killed, and now his birth anniversary has become just a political event.

Everyone knows his biography – 14 April 1891, born in Mhow (Madhya Pradesh), belonging to the Mahar caste which was considered untouchable, a victim of discrimination in childhood, but a personality who surprised the world with his unique talent. He acquired knowledge from the whole world and wrote a constitution for India which guarantees equality, justice and freedom to every citizen.

In 1956, he rebelled against the society by adopting Buddhism. He fought against untouchability, casteism, inequality and political neglect throughout his life. But today, only crowds are being gathered in his name, not ideas. My direct question to the political parties is – have you taken any concrete steps for social justice? The answer is clear: zero.

If you really want to pay true tribute to Baba Saheb, then cut the budget of religious events, ostentatious campaigns and statue unveilings for one year. Use that money to arrange for justice on an economic basis for all castes. Ensure a share in power in proportion to population. Stop taking 50% commission; stop the wave of privatisation.

If you can do this, then believe me – Baba Saheb's soul will say, “Now you have not only remembered my thoughts but have lived them.” Otherwise, the difference between the elephant's show and eating teeth will remain – and this difference will swallow democracy one day.

KCCI hosts interactive session with Asstt Commissioner Customs, J&K

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Apr 13: The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) on Saturday hosted an insightful and interactive session with Purushottam Kumar Gupta, Assistant Commissioner of Customs, Jammu and Kashmir, at the Chamber Office on Residency Road, Srinagar.

The session saw active participation from members of the KCC&I Executive Committee as well as exporters from across the region.

The primary objective of the meeting was to address the pressing challenges faced by Kashmir's export community and to explore collaborative solutions with the customs authorities.

Welcoming the esteemed guest, KCC&I President Mr. Javid Tenga underlined the critical role that customs-related infrastructure plays in enhancing the export capacity of Kashmir. He emphasized that with the region's rich potential in

handicrafts, horticulture, and other traditional exports, streamlining customs and logistics is essential to unlocking new economic opportunities.

One of the key issues discussed was the long-standing demand for an Inland Container Depot (ICD) in Kashmir. In response, Mr. Gupta informed the gathering that while the ICD in Samba is nearing completion and would help address some of the logistical concerns, the unique geographical and economic context of Kashmir necessitates a dedicated ICD within the Valley itself. The Chamber reiterated its firm stance that an ICD in Kashmir is not just a convenience, but a vital infrastructure requirement that must be fast-tracked.

The discussion also brought to the forefront the need for improved air cargo facilities at Srinagar Airport. KCC&I representatives urged customs authorities to facilitate the introduction of more airlines offering cargo services from Sri-



nagar. They highlighted that better air cargo connectivity would not only reduce logistical hurdles but also enhance the global competitiveness of Kashmir's exports — ensuring timely delivery and improved service to international buyers.

This session provided a valuable platform for open and constructive dialogue between the customs authorities and the business community, allowing for a deeper understanding of procedural issues and potential avenues of reform. The KCC&I appreci-

ated Mr. Gupta's receptive approach and thoughtful responses, expressing hope for continued coordination in the times ahead.

The Chamber concluded by extending its gratitude to Mr. Purushottam Kumar Gupta for his engagement with the region's exporters and his commitment to addressing their concerns. With such initiatives, the KCC&I reaffirmed its dedication to building a robust export ecosystem and strengthening the economic foundations of the Kashmir Valley.

Masrat Jan expresses grief over Handwara accident, urges authorities to ensure road safety

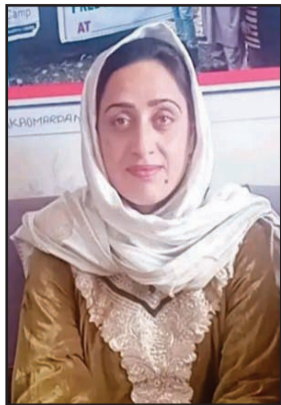
Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Apr 13 : Masrat Jan, Chairperson Smile Foundation NGO has expressed deep sorrow and condolences over the tragic road accident in Handwara that claimed the lives of two college students and left several others injured.

In a solemn statement issued earlier yesterday, Masrat Jan said, "I am deeply grieved by

the untimely and tragic demise of two young students whose lives were lost in the unfortunate accident in Handwara. My heart goes out to the bereaved families during this moment of profound sorrow. I extend my deepest sympathies and prayers to them, and wish a swift and complete recovery to all those injured."

She further urged the authorities to take all necessary steps to



ensure road safety and prevent such incidents.

Public Health Advisory: Extreme Heat/Heatwave

Do's

For General Population:

Stay hydrated:

- * Drink sufficient water whenever possible, even if you are not thirsty. Thirst is not a good indicator of dehydration.
- * Carry drinking water when traveling.
- * Use Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS), and consume homemade drinks like lemon water, butter milk/lassi, fruit juices with some added salt.
- * Eat seasonal fruits and vegetables with high water content like water melon, musk melon, orange, grapes, pineapple, cucumber, lettuce or other locally available fruits and vegetables.

Stay covered:

- * Wear thin loose, cotton garments preferably light coloured.
- * Cover your head. Use umbrella, hat, cap, towel and other traditional head gears during exposure to direct sunlight.
- * Wear shoes or chappals while going out in sun.

Stay alert:

- * Listen to Radio; watch TV, read Newspaper for local weather news. Get the latest update of weather on India Meteorological Department (IMD) website at mausam.imd.gov.in/

Stay indoors/in shade as much as possible:

- * In well ventilated and cool places.
- * Block direct sunlight and heat waves: Keep windows and curtains closed during the day, especially on the sunny side of your house. Open them up at night to let cooler air in.
- * If going outdoor, limit your outdoor activity to cooler times of the day i.e.

morning and evening. Reschedule or plan outdoor activities during cooler parts of the day.

For vulnerable population:

Although anyone at any time can suffer from the heat stress & heat-related illness, some people are at greater risk than others and should be given additional attention. These include:

- * Infants and young children.
- * People working outdoors.
- * Pregnant women.
- * People who have a mental illness.
- * Physically ill, especially with heart disease or high blood pressure.
- * Travelers from colder climate to a hot climate should allow one week's time for their bodies to acclimatized to heat, avoid overexertion, and should drink plenty of water. Acclimatization is achieved by gradual increase (over 10-15days) in exposure/physical activity in hot environment.

Other precautions:

- * Elderly or sick people living alone should be supervised and their health monitored on a daily basis.
- * Keep your home cool, use curtains, shutters or sunshade and open windows at night.
- * Try to remain on lower floors during the day.
- * Use fan, spray bottles, damp cloths, ice towels to cool down body.
- * Immersing feet in 20°C water above ankle provides rapid cooling by reducing Dehydration and thermal discomfort .

Don'ts

- * Avoid getting out in the sun, especially between 12:00 noon and 03:00 pm.
- * Avoid strenuous activities when outside in the afternoon.
- * Do not go out barefoot.
- * Avoid cooking during peak summer hours. Open doors and windows to ventilate cooking area adequately.
- * Avoid alcohol, tea, coffee and carbonated soft drinks or drinks with large amount of sugar as these actually, lead to loss of more body fluid or may cause

DIP/-300/25

BKS holds Audio Visual Program on Art and Culture

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 13: Bharatiya Kala Sangam (BKS) held Audio Visual Program on Art and Culture supported by Ministry of Culture, Govt of India, New Delhi, B.T.I Section in the premises of Luthra Academy Kachi Chowni, Jammu in which large numbers of school students participated to witness the show for enhancing their vision about traditional Dogra Culture.

In this program, Rajiv Luthra, Principal of the School was the Chief Guest. Besides T.R.Sharma, JKAS(Retd) Chairman, Ramesh Singh Chib , Director Bhartiya Kala Sangam, Vice Principal, School Staff members and other dignitaries were also present there.

Speaking on the occasion, T.R Sharma apprised the gathering about the efforts of Ministry of Culture, Govt of India to widely disseminate the knowledge about the traditional Dogra Culture and its



various aspects through the Audio Video mode so that new generation remains well connected with the roots of their culture. Expressing gratitude on behalf of Bharatiya Kala Sangam to the Ministry of Culture, Govt of India, New Delhi, Sharma said that this project has been sanctioned by them to create awareness amongst people, especially the young generation to respect and evince deep interest towards waning and dying Dogra Culture so that the youth carry forward and spread the importance of under-

standing and following their culture in day to day life, he added.

While addressing the audience, the Principal of the Academy appreciated the efforts of Bharatiya Kala Sangam for organizing such a vibrating Audio Visual Show highlighting the importance of Dogra Culture which is an age old culture traditionally connected with people of Dogra land.

He urged the BKS to continue organizing such shows so that the young generation spontaneously get a sense of belonging with their tra-

ditional Dogra Culture.

In this program Panches, Sarpanches BDS members were provided with the Audio Visual materials to them enabling them to spread the message of traditional Dogra Culture in various places of their areas. Program was anchored by Mahesh Sharma and vote of thanks was presented by Ramesh Singh Chib Director of Bhartiya Kala Sangam. Ramesh also expressed his thanks to Ministry of Culture GOI for financial support to BKS for holding this event.

GDC Budhal commemorates Birth Anniversary of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar

Top News Report

BUDHAL, Apr 13: To commemorate the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, the NSS Unit of Government Degree College Budhal organized a special screening of the acclaimed biographical film Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar (2000).

The event aimed to pay tribute to the architect of the Indian Constitution, and raise awareness among students about his remarkable life, ideals and tireless efforts for social justice.

The film, directed by Jabbar Patel and star-

ring National Award-winning actor Mammootty in the titular role, provides a powerful portrayal of Dr. Ambedkar's life-from his early struggles against caste discrimination to his pioneering work as a jurist, social reformer and constitutionalist.

The screening highlighted his lifelong commitment to the upliftment of marginalized communities and his instrumental role in drafting the Constitution of India.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and faculty members, who



deeply resonated with the film's message of

equality, justice and human rights.

Hindi film industry can revive with govt support, says filmmaker Vivek Agnihotri

Innovation, creativity, and a 'little pat on the shoulder' from the government can help revive the Hindi film industry, filmmaker Vivek Agnihotri has said.

The director, known for films like "The Tashkent Files", "The Kashmir Files", and "The Vaccine War", recently wrote an open letter to Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, requesting urgent government support for the struggling Hindi cinema exhibition sector.

Agnihotri said the onus of the industry's problems doesn't rest on any one entity and that several issues need to be addressed before things start looking upward.

"This industry is crumbling. There are lots of issues—not about blaming anyone—but times have changed, technology has changed, and so has the way people consume cinema. There are some major problems and I don't think any one individual or association can solve them.

"So when Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal ji spoke at 'Startup Mahakumbh', I liked what he said that it's time that we focus on innovation, creativity and idea generation... With a little motivation, guidance and pat on the shoulder from the government, the industry has a chance of reviving itself... Inno-



vation and creativity, these are the two most important things the film industry can definitely do with," the filmmaker said in an interview here.

According to Agnihotri, film industries in countries like France, Britain and South Korea are protected by their respective governments.

"What France has done in Europe, is that they realised that cinema is not just an art, but it can be a very powerful industry and soft power. So they protected it.

"Like Britain made the British Film Commission. All European countries have these commissions. The Korean government supports K entertainment, and the Chinese government supports their films. In Japan, society supports cinema in a very

big way."

Among the issues plaguing the Hindi film industry, windowing and ticket pricing are right on the top, he added.

In cinema exhibition, windowing refers to the strategic timing and availability of a movie across different distribution channels to maximise revenue.

Most of the content in India today, the filmmaker said, is ultimately owned by two-three American streamers.

"I'm not criticising them. They are in the business but when the audience knows that any film, whether it's a Rs 1,000 crore film or Rs 10 crore film, will be available on OTT within four-eight weeks, why would they go and spend Rs 1,000 in the theatre?" Agnihotri said ticket pricing, which is comparatively low

in the South, plays a key role in ensuring footfall in theatres.

"So many people (in the South) watch films because the pricing is controlled at Rs 100. Whenever there are these multiplexes celebrating Cinema Day, they keep the pricing around Rs 100. Then you see every single (screen) is house full, regardless of the film.

"It doesn't matter if there are three films releasing on that day, people go and watch all those films. Cinema in India should be the cheapest entertainment, but sadly it has become an elitist entertainment," he added.

There were many studios a few years ago, but today there are very few to name, said Agnihotri.

"Not just producers, you will see that the studios are also shutting their shops. There was a time when I knew at least 50 different independent producers who were producing at least two-three films a year.

"Now look at the tragedy that we are releasing old films non-stop. There are no new films to release. The reason is because the Indian producer has shut shop... I know lots of producers who are doing real estate. They had big studios and offices, they are converting them into residential office spaces."

Actress Muskaan Agarwal is an avid traveller



Muskaan Agarwal, known for her performances in Palang Tod Bekaboo Dil, Rupay 500, Charmsukh, among others, has embraced a dynamic approach to life. Whether it's experimenting with different activities, exploring new places or seeking meaningful roles, she believes in constant growth and self-discovery.

About how she unwinds, Muskaan shares, "When I don't work, I spend time at home and rather than anything else. I love to sleep and spend some quality time with myself." She believes in self-care and cherishes moments of solitude that allow her to recharge and reflect. Unlike many who have fixed hobbies, Muskaan enjoys experimenting with different activities. "I don't have any particular hobbies as I love to experiment. Sometimes I do yoga, aerobics or go for swimming classes," she says.

Manish Malhotra recalls winning his first Filmfare Award in 1995

Ace fashion designer Manish Malhotra strolled down memory lane as he remembered winning his first-ever Filmfare Award for Best Costume Design in 1995 for his work in the film 'Rangeela', which starred actor Urmila Matondkar.

Taking to his Instagram account, Manish shared a black-and-white throwback picture of himself holding the Filmfare trophy. He also posted an old video showing the award being announced, followed by veteran actress Rekha handing him the trophy on stage.

The third slide of his post contained a note that read, "My first Filmfare came with Rangeela, the same year they decided to introduce the Best Costume Design category. It felt like the industry was finally beginning to see costume not just as clothing, but as storytelling." In his post, Manish included a cap-



tion that read, "The first-ever Filmfare Award (@filmfare) for Costume Design. It feels so nostalgic..."

Manish, who has been in the fashion and film industry for more than three decades, has worked as a costume designer on several big-budget films, including Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge, Kuch Kuch

Hota Hai, and Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani.

Apart from this, Malhotra also launched his film production company, Stage 5 Productions, in September 2023. So far, he has produced several films under this banner, including Bun Tikki, Train from Chhapraula, and Ul Jalool Ishq.

Actor Veer Pahariya never went to a film school, but banks on his own experiences to enact any role

As a newcomer to the film industry, Veer Pahariya has already made a mark with his debut in Sky Force. It's a fresh start, not just as an actor but for his pursuit of self-discovery, blending both personal aspirations and family legacy. There's a quiet confidence about him, a belief that sometimes the universe aligns with the path you're meant to walk, even before you realise it.

Talking about his debut film, Sky Force, Veer shares an intriguing perspective on how the film came to him. "I don't think I had the choice because the first film always chooses you," he muses. "I was selected for another film, and then on the day of the look test, they kind of transformed me into this moustached, Army-crew-cut guy in overalls. I didn't know what the film was at that point."

Growing up in a family with strong political



and business ties, the pressure to carve out his own identity was immense. Veer's family may have achieved sig-

nificant success, but it's his time to prove his mettle in a different field. "There's been a lot of pressure because

they've achieved so much. None of them are artistes, and this career takes your life out of you," he explains. "Not many understand that it's not a nine-to-five job, and it can take a toll on your personal life, your relationships. But it's okay."

Veer's mother, a producer, has been an integral part of his journey. "I was brought up by a single mother," he shares. "She had a lot of financial struggles, but she was very drawn to creating something in the creative field. She started writing shows and now she's a creative producer on TV and web shows. Her understanding of films and scripts is very different from mine, but I respect her journey. She only started working at 45 and single-handedly raised me and my brother. I have immense respect for single mothers."

He went on to share his deep respect for theatre, drama and his time

working as an intern in the film industry. "I never went to a film school, so I had to create my own experiences." His early experiences were shaped by various gigs that would later shape his approach to acting. "I've done a lot of theatre, drama, musical theatre, and hosting. On stage, I perform a lot, but off-stage, I'm very introverted. I practice a lot in the nets before stepping into the real game," he says.

As for what's next, Veer is open to any and all opportunities, provided the script resonates with him. "I would love to take on roles that challenge me, whether it's a transgender's role, a serial killer or something completely different. Whatever I do, I need to believe in the story and the team," he says. "I'd love to collaborate with the talented actors from Punjabi cinema, especially after being inspired by their music," he signs off.

Acting was like a door that was there, but it was entirely up to me whether to open it and step inside, says Zahan Kapoor

The latest Kapoor on the block wears the mantle of his surname lightly, brushes off talk about his legacy and says he was actually scared to step into the world of acting.

Zahan Kapoor is clear he wants to carve out his own space and not just as Shashi Kapoor's grandson.

Zahan, who made a splash with his role in the web series Black Warrant could barely speak Hindi growing up, but you'd never know hearing him speak. "I couldn't speak Hindi when I was a child. I started learning it when I was 18-19 and started doing theatre. It was the time I started getting interested in acting," the 33-year-old said.

To get it just right,

Zahan said he worked with a diction coach to learn the lilt of the Hindi dialect spoken in a middle-class Delhi family for Black Warrant.

His parents Kunal Kapoor and Sheena Sippy had told him he was on his own. In fact, the film genes came from both his parents with his maternal grandfather being Sholay director Ramesh Sippy.

The fear factor was even more, given his lineage. "Acting was like a door that was there, but it was entirely up to me whether to open it and step inside.

And even after that, I had to walk the path on my own. My parents told me that this journey demanded hard work, so I have to figure it out myself," he added.



Actor Matt Bomer on why he chose Bradley Cooper's Maestro over Greta Gerwig's Barbie

Actor Matt Bomer revealed that he decided to step away from the role of Ken in Greta Gerwig's Barbie because he wanted to spend more time with Bradley Cooper's Maestro. Actor Bomer could've appeared in not just one but two Oscar best picture nominees in 2023, but he decided to keep the skill of multi-tasking at bay to solely focus on one project.

The Mid-Century Modern star has previously shared that he had auditioned to play one of the Kens in Greta Gerwig's blockbuster comedy but eventually exited talks to spend time with his family.

In an interview, the actor revealed that he also decided to step away from Barbie to have more time to



focus on Bradley Cooper's Leonard Bernstein biopic, Maestro.

He credited his interest towards the Maestro to Bradley Cooper's col-

laborative efforts from the start of the film's production.

"Even though my part in Maestro was smaller, Bradley was so collab-

orative with me from the get-go. It was such an immersive experience that to have just flown in from London to film my scenes (in Barbie) really quick and fly back to London — I feel like Maestro wouldn't have been the same experience for me," said Bomer. In Maestro, Bomer played David Oppenheim, a lover of Cooper's Bernstein. Though his role is largely contained to the film's first half, Bomer expressed that his time on Maestro had a profound impact on his approach toward films.

"It was a way of working that I'm really grateful that I got to be exposed to," Bomer said. "I wouldn't have, I think, if I were trying to just squeeze it in," added Bomer.

‘Grateful India will remain indebted’: Prez Murmu’s homage to those killed in Jallianwala Bagh

NEW DELHI, Apr 13 (Agencies): President Droupadi Murmu on Sunday paid tributes to the freedom fighters who lost their lives in the 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre, and said a grateful India will always remain indebted to them.

Hundreds of people protesting peacefully against the Rowlatt Act, which granted repressive powers to the colonial administration, were gunned down by British forces without any provocation on this day in 1919 at Jallianwala Bagh in Punjab’s



Amritsar.

"I pay my respectful tribute to all the freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for mother India in Jallianwala Bagh. Their sacrifices made our freedom struggle stronger.

A grateful India will always remain indebted to them.

"I am confident that taking inspiration from those immortal martyrs, all countrymen would continue to contribute to the progress of India wholeheartedly," Murmu said in a post on X in Hindi.

PM Modi greets people on Baisakhi



NEW DELHI, Apr 13 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted people on Baisakhi on Sunday and wished that "we always celebrate the spirit of togetherness, gratitude and renewal".

Baisakhi marks the

first day of the month of Vaisakh. It is seen as a celebration of spring harvest, primarily in Punjab and Northern India.

"Wishing everyone a joyous Baisakhi! May this festival bring new hope, happiness and abundance into your life. May we always celebrate the spirit of togetherness, gratitude and renewal," he said in his greetings on Baisakhi posted on X.

Congress did not allow Ambedkar’s last rites to be performed in Delhi: UP CM Adityanath

LUCKNOW, Apr 13 (Agencies): Accusing the Congress of disrespecting Dr B R Ambedkar, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday alleged that the grand old party denied the architect of the Indian Constitution a memorial and did not allow his last rites to take place in the national capital.

The chief minister made this assertion while addressing a workshop held under 'Bharat Ratna' Babasaheb Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Samman Samaroh in Lucknow.

"First they (apparently pointing towards the Congress) made Babasaheb Ambedkar lose the elections. After



his 'mahaparinirvaan', they did not allow his last rites to be performed in Delhi.

The Congress also did not allow his memorial to come up," said Adityanath.

"In 1976, they brought an amendment in the Constitution and inserted a word against which Babasaheb had himself

CAG must audit how policies benefited private firms: Cong on fuel excise duty hike under Modi Govt

NEW DELHI, Apr 13 (Agencies): Accusing the Government of "looting" people by increasing excise duty on petrol and diesel, the Congress on Sunday called for fixing accountability and demanded that the CAG should audit how Government policies benefited private companies.

The opposition party also demanded that the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) and Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) should investigate whether there was deliberate negligence or collusion in this.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh in a post on X said, "The people of India are being looted — on one hand the Modi Government is increas-



ing the tax burden and picking people's pockets, while on the other hand private and Government oil companies are making profits! This is open economic exploitation!"

"The truth is: In May 2014, the excise duty on petrol was Rs 9.20 and on diesel Rs 3.46. Which is now Rs 19.90 on petrol and Rs 15.80 on diesel in the Modi Government — an increase of 357% and 54%!" he said in his post in Hindi.

The Congress leader claimed that the Government earned Rs 39.54 lakh crore from the petroleum sector in the last eleven years, yet it did not give any relief to people.

"In May 2014, crude oil was USD 108/ barrel, today it is only USD 65.31 — i.e. 40% cheaper, yet the prices of petrol and diesel are higher than the UPA era," Ramesh said.

"In 2014, petrol in Delhi was Rs 71.41 and diesel Rs 55.49 per liter.

Today the same petrol is Rs 94.77 and diesel Rs 87.67 per liter — the public is being openly looted. Who is benefiting?" he asked.

The Congress leader said along with Government companies, the private oil companies are also earning huge profits from refining and marketing, while the common man is burdened with expensive petrol and diesel.

"The issue is serious! CAG should audit how the Government policies benefited these private companies. CVC and CBI should investigate whether there was deliberate negligence or collusion in this?" Ramesh said.

"Public money needs to be accounted for — ? accountability must be fixed," he asserted.

The Congress general secretary shared a media report, which stated that oil firms were benefiting big time but now lowering prices for people.

The Congress had last week taken a swipe at the Government over the hike in excise duty on petrol and diesel, with Rahul Gandhi stating Prime Minister Narendra Modi finally gave a befitting reply to "tariffs".

Gandhi had also said that people suffering from inflation had been given another gift of "Government loot".

The Government hiked excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs 2 per litre each. The excise duty on petrol was hiked to Rs 13 per litre and that on diesel to Rs 10 a litre.

Not mother of democracy, ‘father of dictatorship’: Sibal slams govt over ED notices in Herald case

NEW DELHI, Apr 13 (Agencies): Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal on Sunday accused the government of using probe agencies to "paralyse" the Congress and described the development of the Enforcement Directorate issuing notices to take possession of immovable assets in the National Herald case as an "assault on democracy".

"In lip service, we are the mother of democracy but in reality you are the father of dictatorship. They (BJP) want to do their politics on Hindu-Muslim agenda and finish off the opposition," Sibal said in a press conference.

His remarks come a day after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) stated it has served notices to take possession of immovable assets worth Rs 661 crore that it had attached as part of a money laundering probe linked to Congress-controlled National Herald newspaper and the Associated Journals Limited (AJL).

Simultaneously, the notices have been affixed at "conspicuous part of these properties" located at Herald House at ITO (5A, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg) in Delhi, in the Bandra(E) area (Plot No 2, Survey No 341) of Mumbai and the AJL building located at Bisheshwar Nath Road (Property No.1) in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, on Friday.

The notices primarily seek vacation of the premises to be taken over by the ED.

Speaking on the issue, Sibal said, "The possession notice is aimed at

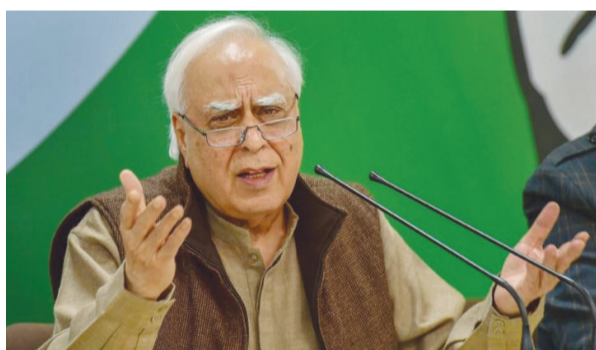
taking over these properties of the newspaper in which Congress offices are running to paralyse the party." "What is the offense? Why have you waited for 13 years? Why? Because you want to grab the property. You want to paralyse the Congress party, take possession of all the properties so that they cannot function. The properties are spread across the country and are worth 600 crore that is what they allege, so they take them over, paralyse the Congress so that it has no office to operate from," the senior advocate and Independent Rajya Sabha MP said.

"From what I know is the Congress does not have much money so it will not be able to function as a political party. This is an assault on democracy. This is an assault on what we as a republic stand for. This is an unfortunate event that is reflective of the mindset of this government," he added.

Sibal said it reflects the pettiness of a government that uses agencies to destroy the opposition.

"They will take all those who were in the opposition in their ministries, make them Rajya Sabha members, give them cabinet posts in states and against whom they have made public allegations of fraud and corruption. They will take those people and there is no ED then," he added, slamming the BJP.

The Rajya Sabha MP claimed the government will eventually also come after the media because "we are going the way



of a nation that is functioning on the basis that even though we profess we are democratic, we are just the opposite".

Sibal pointed out that National Herald was set up way back by the freedom fighters, who were shareholders in the newspaper which was meant to spread the message of freedom and India being together and moving forward.

Noting that it was for charitable purposes, he said National Herald did not have enough money at that time and the Congress gave it Rs 90 crore over the years and that debt could not be repaid.

"In the meantime, National Herald had assets throughout the country. Young India was set up for purposes of transferring a sum of Rs 50 lakhs of the loan amount. A Section 25 company was set up... Section 25 company is a company where the shareholders are not entitled to any profit," said Sibal.

"The shareholders cannot own the property, which is owned by the company. Neither Rahul Gandhi nor Sonia Gandhi, nor anyone else, don't own the property. It is settled law," he added.

Sibal accused the BJP of working to trouble

Limited which occupies the 7th, 8th, and 9th floors at Herald House, Bandra (E), Mumbai, to transfer the rent/lease amount every month in favour of the director, Directorate of Enforcement," it said.

The action has been taken under Section (8) and Rule 5(1) of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) that talks about the procedure of taking possession of assets attached by the ED and then confirmed by the adjudicating authority (of the PMLA).

These immovable assets worth Rs 661 crore, apart from shares of AJL worth Rs 90.2 crore, were attached by the ED in November 2023 to "secure the proceeds of crime and to prevent the accused form dissipating the same." The Adjudicating Authority confirmed this order in April last year.

According to the ED, the total "proceeds of crime" in the case was Rs 988 crore.

The Congress had earlier termed the investigation "petty vendetta tactics" and dubbed the ED a "coalition partner" of the BJP.

The ED investigation began in 2021 after the Metropolitan Magistrate at Patiala House Courts in Delhi took cognisance of a private complaint filed by BJP leader Subramanian Swamy on June 26, 2014.

he complaint, the ED said, highlighted a "criminal conspiracy" by several prominent political figures, including the first family of the Congress party led by Sonia Gandhi, her MP son Rahul Gandhi, apart

Couple dies, their 3 children hospitalised after suicide bid in Gujarat

SABARKANTHA, Apr 13 (Agencies): A man and his wife died after they and their three teenaged children allegedly consumed a poisonous substance in an attempt to commit suicide in Gujarat's Sabarkantha district, police said on Sunday.

The exact reason behind the incident, which took place in Vadali town, was not yet clear, an official said.

The couple, their two sons and a daughter started vomiting on Saturday morning, following which their neighbours called an ambulance and the five family members were rushed to a private hospital, the official from Vadali police station said.

"From there, they were referred to the civil hospital in Himmatnagar in the afternoon. The couple later died during treatment," he said.

A case of accidental death was registered at Vadali police station and further probe was being conducted to look into the reason for the extreme step, the official said.

The deceased have been identified as Vinu Sagar (42) and Kokilaben (40). Their children -- 19-year-old daughter and sons aged 17 and 18 -- are under treatment, the police said.

Girl, 11, dies by suicide after mother scolds her for excessive mobile use

CHHINDWARA, Apr 13 (Agencies): An 11-year-old girl died by suicide in Madhya Pradesh's Chhindwara after her mother took her phone away. Deepika Dhurve, a student of Class 8, hanged herself allegedly because her mother confiscated her mobile phone.

Deepika's father, who is a daily wage labourer, was away at work when the incident happened, while her mother and sister were present at home.

Deepika's elder sister had gone to have a bath and their mother was sitting outside the house.

When her sister returned, she found Deepika hanging. She was quickly taken to a nearby hospital, where doctors pronounced her dead upon arrival.

"Her mother took away her phone due to concerns about the daughter's excessive use of the device. After that, Deepika hanged herself," Kundipura Police Station-in-Charge Manoj Baghel said.

The police official confirmed that they are conducting an investigation into that matter.

Israel bombs north Gaza hospital, forcing evacuation as strikes intensify across the Strip

The strikes came hours after Israel's defense minister said that military activity would rapidly expand across Gaza and that people would have to evacuate from "fighting zones."

DEIR AL-BALAH, Apr 13 (Agencies): Israel struck a hospital in northern Gaza early Sunday, forcing patients to evacuate as attacks intensified across the Strip.

The pre-dawn strike hit Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza City, after Israel issued an evacuation warning, according to Gaza's ministry of health. One patient died during the evacuation because medical staff were unable to provide urgent care, it said.

The hospital, run by the Diocese of Jerusalem, was attacked on Palm Sunday, which commemorates Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.

Hours later, a separate strike on a car in Deir al-Balah in central Gaza, killed at least seven people, according to staff at the morgue of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital, which received the bodies.

Israel claimed it struck a command and control center used by Hamas at the hospital to plan and execute attacks against Israeli civilians and soldiers. It claimed prior to the strike, steps were taken to mitigate harm, including issuing warnings, and using precise munitions and



aerial surveillance.

The strikes came hours after Israel's defense minister said that military activity would rapidly expand across Gaza and that people would have to evacuate from "fighting zones."

Israel also announced Saturday the completion of the Morag corridor, cutting off the southern city of Rafah from the rest of Gaza, with the military saying it would soon expand "vigorously" in most of the small coastal territory.

Israeli authorities have vowed to pressure Hamas to release the remaining 59 hostages, 24 believed to be alive, and accept proposed new ceasefire terms.

national law.

In its 18-month campaign in Gaza, Israel has stood out by carrying out an open campaign on hospitals, besieging and raiding them, some several times, as well as hitting multiple others in strikes while accusing Hamas of using them as cover for its fighters.

Last month Israel struck Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis city, the largest in southern Gaza, killing two people and wounding others and causing a large fire, the territory's health ministry said. The facility was overwhelmed with dead and wounded when Israel ended the ceasefire with a surprise wave of airstrikes.

The war started after Hamas killed 1,200 people during its Oct. 7, 2023, attack, mostly civilians, and took 250 people captive, many of whom have been freed in ceasefire deals.

More than 50,000 Palestinians in Gaza have so far been killed in Israel's retaliatory offensive, according to the health ministry there, which does not differentiate between combatants and civilians in its count but says more than half of the dead are women and children.

Russian missile strike on Ukraine's Sumy kills 'many,' mayor says

KYIV, Apr 13 (Agencies): A Russian ballistic missile strike on the northeastern Ukrainian city of Sumy killed at least 20 people on Sunday morning, the city's acting mayor said, as many there celebrated Palm Sunday.

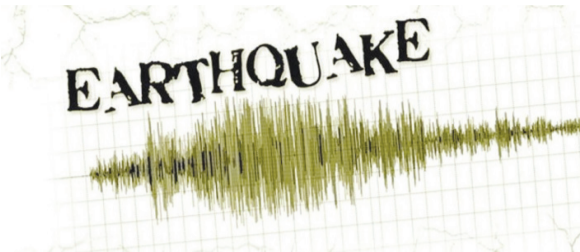
"The enemy struck the civilian population again," acting Mayor Artem Kobzar wrote on Telegram. At least 20 people were confirmed killed, Kobzar said.

"On this bright day of

Palm Sunday, our community suffered a terrible tragedy," he wrote.

Andriy Yermak, the head of Ukraine's presidential office, wrote, "The Russians hit the city of Sumy with missiles, killing civilians."

Two earthquakes strike Tajikistan in quick succession



DUSHANBE, Apr 13 (Agencies): Tajikistan experienced two earthquakes, with the first measuring 6.1 on the Richter Scale and the second 3.9 on the Richter Scale, according to the National Centre for Seismology.

Both quakes occurred at a depth of 10 kilometres, making aftershocks likely.

The recent earthquake was of magnitude 3.9 on the Richter Scale, jolting

Tajikistan at 10:36 am on Sunday, a statement by the National Center for Seismology (NCS) said.

As per the statement, the earthquake occurred at a depth of 10 kilometres.

The NCS said the earthquake was recorded at latitude 39.02 degrees north, and longitude 70.40 degrees east.

In a post, the NCS stated, "EQ of M:

3.9, On: 13/04/2025 10:36:09 IST, Lat: 39.02 N, Long: 70.40 E, Depth: 10 Km, Location: Tajikistan."

This was the second earthquake on Sunday since the first one that occurred at 9:54 AM.

NCS stated that the earlier earthquake was recorded at 6.1 magnitude on the Richter Scale, occurring at a depth of 10 kilometres. The earthquake was recorded to be at latitude 38.86 degrees north, and longitude of 70.61 degrees east.

The NCS said in a post on X, "EQ of M: 6.1, On: 13/04/2025 09:54:02 IST, Lat: 38.86 N, Long: 70.61 E, Depth: 10 Km, Location: Tajikistan."

Eight Pakistani workers killed in iran by Baloch militants

ISLAMABAD, Apr 13 (Agencies): Eight workers from Pakistan's Punjab province were killed by Baloch militants in Iran's Sistan-Baluchestan province in an incident of target killing, according to a media report on Sunday.

The tragic incident took place in a village in Meharistan district on Saturday, agency reported.

The Iranian authorities confirmed the killing of the Pakistani nationals, saying that the victims hailed from Bahawalpur and worked at a car repair shop.

All the eight Pakistanis who were killed belong to Bahawalpur city of southern Punjab, the Iranian officials said, adding that they were staying at the workshop where they used to dent, polish, paint and repair cars.

According to reports,

unknown armed men barged into the workshop in the night and tied their hands and feet. They then opened indiscriminate firing and killed them.

The attackers fled after killing the eight Pakistani workers. The Iranian police rushed to the area after receiving information about the tragic incident.

A spokesman for the banned Balochistan National Army (BNA) in a statement issued to the media claimed responsibility for the killing of eight Pakistanis.

Iranian authorities have said that the Iranian police were investigating the incident.

It was the second such incident in the Sistan Baluchestan.

In January of last year, armed men killed nine Pakistanis in Saravan city who were also working in Iran as motor mechanics and staying

at a workshop.

Local groups in Pakistan and Iran are part of a decades-long struggle for greater autonomy in Balochistan.

Last year in January, Iran attacked Pakistan. Pakistan retaliated with a missile strike inside Iranian territory, escalating border tensions.

Iran claimed it was targeting Jaish al-Adl, a militant group active against Iran, while Pakistan said it was aiming at the "hideouts" of two militant groups inside Iran, the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) and the Balochistan Liberation Front (BLF).

Pakistan's Balochistan has long grappled with insurgency and unrest. Locals, particularly the Balochs, have blamed governments for exploiting and profiting from Balochistan's resources while neglecting the development of the region itself.

UAE leader emphasise unity among politicians, businessmen, faith leaders to ensure peace

DUBAI, Apr 13 (Agencies): As the world grapples with rising divisions and competition, people from all walks of life, including politics, faith and business, must come together and show the new generation that peace will add value to them, a UAE parliamentarian has said.



The remarks by Ali Rashid Al Nuaimi, Chairman of Defence Affairs Committee, United Arab Emirates Federal National Council came as he addressed the Global Justice Love and Peace summit being held in Dubai on April 12 and 13.

"The world order established after World War II does not exist anymore. We are in a transition period now where we have to adapt. There are voices that

have started creating a narrative to divide us, creating a new culture of competition," said Al Nuaimi at the inaugural address.

The summit was organised by Huzaifa Khorakiwala, CEO and Executive Director of Wockhardt, an Indian pharmaceutical and biotechnology company.

Al Nuaimi said now that things are changing, people from all walks of life need to

come together and set new rules to ensure that we win as human beings.

"It is very important for politicians, businessmen, faith leaders and NGOs to understand that time is here to come together and show the new generation that peace will add value to them as people, as family, as a community, as a nation and as humanity," added Al Nuaimi.

Khorakiwala said the summit is a call for action to build societies where diversity will be viewed as a strength.

"The struggles of our time — injustice that silences the voice and inequalities that hold back progress — are not inevitable. They are the result of human action and can be changed by human willpower," said Khorakiwala.

According to him, justice is not simply about laws and policies, but rather about ensuring every human being, regardless of race, religion, gender or background, has the right to live in dignity and freedom.

"Peace is more than the absence of conflict. It is the presence of justice, opportunity and shared humanity. It is built in the courtroom,

classroom, boardroom, and across negotiating tables. It is created when leaders choose diplomacy over destruction, when communities prioritise inclusion over exclusion and when individuals replace apathy with action," added Khorakiwala.

The two-day summit will see Nobel Laureates, peace ambassadors, activists, global thought leaders, policymakers, religious figures, industrialists, sports legends, and cultural icons deliberate on some of the most pressing issues shaping our world today.

On Sunday, spiritual guru turned businessman Baba Ramdev will lead a session on yoga while Sri Sri Ravishankar will address the gathering via video call.

Taiwan: Opposition demands probe into alleged China spies in DPP

Taiwan's opposition parties have called on prosecutors to reveal Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) members allegedly colluding with the Chinese Communist Party, following the detention of Ho Jen-chieh in an espionage case. The Taiwan People's Party and the KMT have criticised the DPP, urging President William Lai to investigate infiltration within the party.

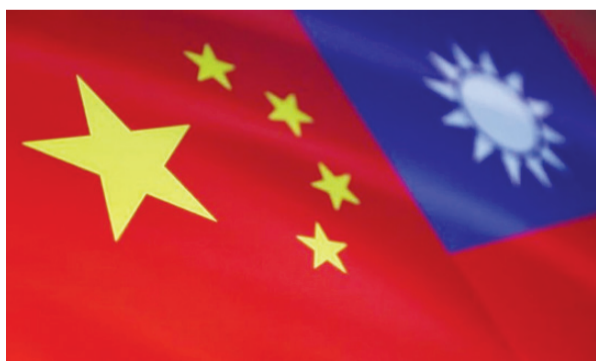
TAIPEI, Apr 13 (Agencies): Opposition parties have intensified pressure on the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), urging prosecutors to identify any of its members allegedly colluding with the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) amid a growing national security scandal involving espionage, Taipei Times reported.

The call came as Ho Jen-chieh, a former assistant to National Security Council Secretary-General Joseph Wu during his tenure as foreign minister, was detained yesterday in connection with an espionage case. His arrest adds to a string of national security-related detentions involving

individuals linked to the DPP.

In February, Presidential Office consultant Wu Shang-yu, former DPP staffer Chiu Shih-yuan, and councilor assistant Huang Chu-jing were also detained over similar allegations.

Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) Chairman Eric Chu responded to the developments by demanding that the DPP take responsibility for rooting out any spies within its ranks, regardless of political affiliation. "Colluding with the CCP and betraying Taiwan is a severe matter," Chu said. "The KMT undoubtedly loves Taiwan and would strive for the Republic of China's benefits."



Taiwan People's Party (TPP) caucus echoed the criticism in a Facebook post, claiming the DPP frequently accuses others of aiding the CCP while itself acting as a "national team of Chinese spies," reported Taipei Times.

The post accused the CCP of infiltrating the government at the highest levels, including the Presidential Office and

national security and foreign affairs agencies. It alleged that the DPP, despite calling for the public to recall opposition lawmakers, has itself been infiltrated by numerous spies and is steering Taiwan toward a "single-party regime like China."

The TPP further urged President William Lai, who also serves as DPP chairman, to investigate

how long the infiltration has persisted and how many party members may be secretly working for Beijing.

Meanwhile, KMT Legislator Hsu Chiao-hsin, who earlier this week mistakenly accused a National Security Council specialist of espionage and later apologised, clarified that she was referring to a different individual, Ho Jen-chieh, who had served as Wu's assistant, Taipei Times reported.

Hsu said prosecutors had obtained information about Ho's alleged spying activities as early as February but failed to act swiftly, potentially giving him time to coordinate with others or flee.

Central Myanmar shaken by new magnitude 5.5 earthquake amid recovery efforts

BANGKOK, Apr 13 (Agencies): A magnitude 5.5 earthquake struck on Sunday morning near Meiktila, a small city in central Myanmar, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

The quake came as Myanmar is engaged in relief efforts following a massive 7.7 magnitude temblor that also hit the country's central region on March 28. The epicenter of the latest quake was roughly halfway between Mandalay, Myanmar's second-biggest city, which suffered enormous damage and casualties in last month's earthquake, and Naypyitaw, the capital, where several government offices were then damaged.

There were no immediate reports of major damage or casualties caused by the new quake, one of the strongest of hundreds of aftershocks from the March 28 temblor.

As of Friday, the deaths from that quake was 3,649, with 5,018 injured, according to Maj. Gen. Zaw Min Tun, a spokesperson for Myanmar's military government.

Myanmar's Meteorological Department said Sunday's quake occurred in the area of Wundwin township, 97 kilometers (60 miles) south of Mandalay, at

a depth of 20 kilometers (12 miles). The U.S. Geological Survey estimated the depth at 7.7 km (4.8 miles).

Two Wundwin residents told agency by phone the quake was so strong that people rushed out of buildings and that ceilings in some dwellings were damaged.

A resident of Naypyitaw also reached by phone said he did not feel the latest quake. Those contacted asked not to be named for fear of angering the military government, which prefers to closely control information.

The United Nations last week warned that damage caused by the March 28 quake will worsen the existing humanitarian crisis in Myanmar, where a civil war had already displaced more than 3 million people.

It said the quake severely disrupted agricultural production and that a health emergency loomed because many medical facilities in the quake zone were damaged or destroyed.

Sunday's quake occurred on the morning of the first day of the country's three-day Thingyan holiday, which celebrates the traditional New Year. Public festivities for the holiday had already been canceled.

‘Declare April 13 as Rajouri Holiday’

Modi isolated Pakistan on International Arena: Vibodh



Top News Report

RAJOURI, Apr 13: Former MLC and General Secretary of BJP, J&K, Advocate Vibodh Gupta paid homage to the martyrs of the 1947 Rajouri massacre at Balidan Stambh, Rajouri, and demanded that April 13 be officially declared as a public holiday in Rajouri district in honor of “Rajouri Day.”

Speaking on the occasion, Vibodh Gupta said, “After the accession of Jammu and Kashmir to India, armed Pakistani soldiers disguised as tribal invaders (Kabalis) attacked and captured Rajouri on November 7, 1947. This was followed by a

brutal onslaught on November 11, 1947, coinciding with the eve of Diwali. Almost 10,000 civilians including 3000-3500 women lost there lives battling for motherland”.

Vibodh further highlighted the significance of April 13, 1948, stating, “Due to the bravery and valiant efforts of the Indian Army, aided by the courageous citizens of Rajouri, the town was liberated from the intruders. Since then, April 13 is observed as Rajouri Day to commemorate the sacrifice and valor of those who laid down their lives for the liberation of Rajouri.”

Vibodh strongly asserted that the historical and emotional

significance of this day must be acknowledged by the government by declaring April 13 as an official holiday in Rajouri district. “Pakistan has yet to reconcile with the fact that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and continues to make attempts to disturb peace in the Union Territory.

However, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP government has effectively isolated Pakistan on the international stage, leading to a significant decline in militancy in Kashmir” maintained Vibodh Gupta.

Speaking on the occasion, BJP leader Varun Chandan

said that the liberation of Rajouri on April 13, 1948, is a golden chapter in our history. Radish Sharma added that honoring this day with an official holiday will instill a deeper sense of pride and patriotism among the people of Rajouri.

Ex-Corporator Sanjay Sharma added that we owe our freedom and peace to the supreme sacrifices made by Indian soldiers during Rajouri’s liberation.

General Secretary SDS Rajouri Nishu Gupta said, “Rajouri Day is not just a day of remembrance but a powerful reminder of the bravery and sacrifice that led to the liberation of our land.”

Dr. Darakhshan flags of Jai Bhim Padyatra



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Apr 13: The spirit of justice, equality, and unity came alive in Srinagar as the “Jai Bhim Padyatra” was flagged off with great fervour from Hokersar Wetland, Zainakote to Narbal Crossing. Organized by the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (Jammu & Kashmir) under the banner of MY Bharat, the event marked a heartfelt tribute to the birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the principal architect of the Indian Constitution. More than 600 youth from various districts of the Union Territory participated in the padyatra, walking in solidarity to spread Dr. Ambedkar’s timeless message of social justice and constitutional values.

The padyatra was flagged off by Dr. Darakhshan Andrabi, Minister of State and Chairperson of the Jammu & Kashmir Waqf Board, who praised the initiative and the participation of young people. In

her address, Dr. Andrabi emphasized the importance of educating youth about Dr. Ambedkar’s life and teachings. She highlighted the Union Government’s continuous efforts under the leadership of the Hon’ble Prime Minister to strengthen constitutional values, while calling upon the youth to play a transformative role in building a Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Earlier, District Youth Officer Khushal Gupta extended a warm welcome to the Chief Guest, dignitaries, and all participants. He briefed them on the objectives of the programme, explaining that the padyatra aimed to deepen understanding of Dr. Ambedkar’s contributions and encourage civic responsibility among the youth. Inspirational messages were also shared by youth icons Bilal Ah Parray and Khalid Baqal, who urged the younger generation to carry forward the mission of equity and inclusion envisioned by Baba Saheb.

A solemn and symbolic moment during the event was the administration of the oath on the Preamble of the Indian Constitution, where all participants pledged their dedication to the ideals of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity. This moving gesture reinforced the commitment of the gathering to uphold democratic values in both spirit and action.

The event saw the active participation of various officials and community leaders, including Sh. Naseer Ahmed (Range Officer, Hokersar), Sh. Rameez Ahmed (In-Charge SHO, Shalteng), Sh. Rahi Reyaz Ahmed (Ahsan Foundation), APA NYK Srinagar Sh. Gulzar Ahmed Ganaie, and respected civil society members like Sh. Abdul Khaliq Ahanger, Sh. Bashir Irfan, Sh. Mohd Yousuf, Sh. Murraza Ali, and Sh. Mehboob Hussain. Numerous youth clubs also joined in, adding to the vibrancy and enthusiasm of the padyatra.

FromPage No: 1

Security forces recover huge cache of Arms, Ammunition from slain terrorists in Kishtwar

the operation, one terrorist was killed, while on the third day, two more terrorists were killed, including the top commander of the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) outfit, Saifullah.

Sakeena Itoo visits SKIMS, SMHS Hospital in Srinagar

the best possible treatment is provided to her.

Later, Sakeena Itoo also visited SKIMS Soura and enquired about the well-being of another injured student undergoing treatment at the facility.

Interacting with the attendants of injured girl student, the Minister assured them all possible support from the government.

While interacting with the Director SKIMS, Medical Superintendent and other doctors, Sakeena directed them to prioritize the medical care of the injured student and offer all necessary support to her family. She further asked the Director SKIMS to personally monitor the treatment facilities of the injured student.

While speaking on the well-being of both these students, Sakeena said that the wellbeing of these young students is of utmost importance. “I have directed the hospital authorities to prioritize their recovery with dedicated attention and compassionate medical care”, she said.

Around 20% posts lying vacant across departments in Kashmir University, Reveals RTI reply

assistant directors in physical education department, one deputy director and three assistant direc-

tors in directorate of internal quality assurance, nine assistant librarians and two placement officers.

The Institute of Music and Fine Arts of the university is also without a principal and out of seven senior instructors (IMFA), only three are posted in the department, the RTI said.

There are three vacancies of joint registrars, two deputy registrars-cum-deputy controller examinations, seven assistant registrars-cum-assistant controller-examinations, two assistant programmers, one auditor, three coaches (physical education and sports), two computer operators, three Hindi typists and five junior engineers, Wani said.

Indian Army downs Pakistan Drone along LoC in Jammu Using indigenous Anti-Drone System

System,’ which is capable of jamming, spoofing, and bringing down enemy drones across a variety of ranges and scenarios.

Developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the system has been deployed in significant numbers along India’s borders, they said. They added that it is also equipped with a 2-kilowatt laser beam that can strike down enemy drones from an effective range of 800 to 1,000 metres.

The DRDO-developed system is actively used by the India Army and the other security forces for counter drone operations.

Ruhullah rejects ACB charges, Calls it attempt to silence him

— transferred through my uncle’s account,” he said, adding that his role was merely that of a legal heir.

He said that he had no role in negotiations or dealings related to compensation. “My eldest uncle is the custodian of the land. He handled all discussions with the authorities. I got the money through his account not from the

government.”

Ruhullah said he was shocked to learn about the chargesheet as he was never questioned by the authorities nor served any legal notice regarding the matter. “This case has no substance. It is built on baseless grounds. If I had been involved in any wrongdoing, I should have been formally informed and given a chance to respond,” he said.

Calling it a politically motivated move, Ruhullah accused the administration of attempting to suppress dissenting voices. “This is a deliberate effort to intimidate me using agencies like the ACB. I suggest they also involve the NIA, so that real corrupt individuals can be exposed,” he said.

He added defiantly, “I will not be silenced. I will only become silent till the day Article 370 is restored, atrocities against Muslims and minorities are stopped, and constitutional rights of J&K are reinstated.”

Referring to his spiritual and cultural upbringing, Ruhullah said, “I come from a darsghah where we are taught to endure pain with patience, even to sacrifice our lives for our rights. If they want to fight with me over Rs 80,000, I am ready for it.”

He apologized to his family members for being dragged into the controversy and expressed hope they would stand by him during this time.

Ruhullah also criticized the central government’s control over religious institutions and said the NC would approach the Supreme Court against the Waqf Act.

Ruhullah said that he could not speak on the Waqf Bill in the Parliament as the party’s floor leader Mian Altaf chose to speak instead.

He questioned why no resolution was brought in the J&K Legislative Assembly against the Waqf Bill. “Even if the matter is subjudice, the Assembly could have expressed its opinion. A resolution is not lawmaking — it’s just an opinion.”

On the restoration of statehood, he said, “Statehood won’t be handed back easily. We should not have waited passively. We should have mobilized politically — 50 MLAs should have camped outside the residences of the Prime Minister and the Home Minister. We are running away from the people’s sentiments.”

Thanking the people of Budgam for ensuring victory of the National Conference vice-president (Omar Abdullah) in 2024 assembly elections, Ruhullah said, “The NC vice-president has vacated the seat. Now the people want that someone from Budgam to represent them again. I respect their aspirations.”

Ruhullah reaffirmed his commitment to public service and principled politics. “We should not limit our politics to elections. We must keep the people’s trust and fulfill our promises.”

Ruhullah said that he has represented Budgam for 18-years but this time around he didn’t wanted to become a part of “J&K’s downgraded assembly” that’s why he contested parliament elections.

CS assesses reach, impact of social security schemes in J&K

empowerment of specially-abled, widows, old-aged persons and reserved categories of the society.

Duhloo also took appraisal of efficiency of the legal framework aimed at ensuring social justice, protection and welfare of vulnerable groups. These included Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, Transgender Persons Act, 2019 and other crucial acts like POC SO (2012), Child Marriage Prohibition Act (2006) and SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act (1989), etc.

The Chief Secretary impressed upon the department to enhance the capacity of the staff to impart quality education to the children enrolled in Anganwadi Centers as envisaged under NEP-2020. He also enjoined upon them to extend different pre/post-matric scholarships to the students of marginalized communities to give them access to modern education thereby empowering the communities in the real sense.

The Chief Secretary asked the concerned department to monitor the growth indicators of both the young children and adolescent girls in all the AWCs. He directed them to make special intervention

to provide them supplementary nutrition on the recommendations of medical practitioners.

Presenting an overview of functioning of the department, Commissioner Secretary, SWD, Sanjeev Verma, laid out that during 2024-25, funds to the tune of Rs 2,496.25 crore were available under different schemes against which an expenditure of Rs 2,147.24 crore (86% utilization) was made. For the year 2025-26, a budget allocation of Rs 4,361.14 crore (68% increase from 2024-25) was made in favour of the department, he added.

As far as the welfare schemes run by the department are concerned, he informed the meeting that Mission Vatsalya caters to child protection and welfare, Mission Shakti ensures empowerment and safety of women while PM-AJAY aims at holistic development of the SC communities.

Verma informed the meeting that scholarships for minorities, SCs and OBCs are being given by the department besides providing prosthetic aids (ALIMCO) as a support for persons with disabilities.

It was given out that financial support for girl children and marriage assistance for economically weaker sections is being given by the department under the Ladli Beti Scheme. Besides, the department ensures pensions and scholarships for the militancy affected families.

The meeting was informed that the department runs Pahari hostels for the tribal communities along with proactive enforcement of more than 14 social justice laws in the length and breadth of J&K. It was revealed that the department manages 28,183 Anganwadi Centers, of these, the department had upgraded 136 AWCs into “Saksham Anganwadis” with modern facilities during 2023-24. These Saksham Anganwadis have special features in the shape of Poshan Vatikas, Rainwater Harvesting units, LED Screens, RO Water Purifier, WIFI/Pen Drive and RO maintenance and provision for ECCE activities.

Regarding the beneficiaries for supplementary nutrition, it was added that a total of 914,031 persons are being covered in the UT. The Aadhar verification of 909,762

(99% of total beneficiaries) has been achieved thereby plugging any chances of pilferage or malpractice.

About the specialized interventions taken by the department, the meeting was apprised that 22,76,067 home visits were conducted (96% of 23,64,938 targeted) to reach out the beneficiaries. These efforts lead to identification of malnutrition cases including 24,261 children suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition, 69,177 Moderate Acute Malnutrition and 20,978 anaemic cases for making special interventions to improve their situation.

As far as the child welfare is concerned, it was divulged that 116 Homes and Child Care Institutions have been established under Mission Vatsalya, ensuring care for vulnerable children.

With respect to pension coverage, it was said that social security is being provided to 955,958 beneficiaries under different schemes. In addition, marriage assistance to the tune of Rs. 130 crore was utilized to support 26,000 marriages during the year 2024-25.

While highlighting the future roadmap, the meeting was informed that 11 Shakti Sadans (women’s shelter homes) would be fully operationalized. Besides, 5 additional Shakti Sadans are going to commence operations, providing safety, skill development and legal aid to women in distress.

The Department also envisages upgrading 500 more AWCs to Saksham AWCs by 2025-26, enhancing service quality for 50,000+ beneficiaries. Besides, two residential schools as Abhinanda Home (a rehabilitation and education center) are also going to be established in both the divisions for marginalised children, the meeting was informed.

One killed, another injured as tractor plunges into gorge in Bandipora

Malangam village of Bandipora. The injured, Bilal Ahmad from Quil, Bandipora, was immediately shifted to a local medical facility and later referred to district Hospital for advanced treatment.

Zanskar delegation meets Dr Jitendra, thanks PM for granting district status



Top News Report

NEW DELHI, Apr 13: A high-level delegation from Zanskar, led by Sh. Stanzin Lakpa, Councilor, LAHDC Kargil, 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. The primary objective of the visit was to express heartfelt gratitude on behalf of the people of Zanskar to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the historic and

transformative initiatives in the region which include granting district status to Zanskar – fulfilling a long-pending and emotional demand of the people.

The Delegation also expressed gratitude for connecting the Defense Strategic Nimo-Padum-Darcha Road – a crucial

lifeline for connectivity and defense logistics and near Completion of NH-301 (Kargil-Zanskar Highway) – significantly reducing travel time and boosting tourism and trade.

Dr Jitendra Singh also referred to the sanctioning of the Shinkun La Tunnel – a strategic defense tunnel, with its first ground blast inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on Kargil Vijay Diwas (26th July), a moment etched in history by the locals who now reverently call it the "Modi Tunnel."

The Minister also observed that once marginalized and long neglected by previous regimes, Zanskar is today witnessing an era

of transformation—from isolation to integration, from neglect to development. It is emerging as a new economic and tourism destination in the Himalayas, he said.

The people of Zanskar, said Lakpa, have no words to thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi, except with folded hands and heartfelt prayers for his long life and continued leadership. He said, the people of the region always look upto PM Modi as their saviour.

The delegation also appreciated Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (IC), for being the torch-bearer of these transformative initiatives and for his consistent, personal commitment to the cause of Zanskar and the people of Zanskar.

Germany Minister calls on Dr Jitendra, reiterates bilateral collaboration

Top News Report

NEW DELHI Apr 13: In a significant diplomatic and scientific engagement, Minister-President of the German State of Bavaria, Markus Söder called on Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, and reiterated strong collaboration between the two nations.

One to one bilateral between the two leaders, was followed by high-level delegation level meeting led by the two Ministers

Welcoming the high-level German delegation, Dr. Jitendra Singh emphasized the long-standing Indo-German cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI), underlining the potential for bilateral cooperation in priority areas including Artificial Intelligence, Quantum Technologies, Biotechnology, Clean Energy, Electric Mobility, Cyber-Physical Systems, and Green Hydrogen.

"India has embarked on mission-mode programs under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. We seek economic and sustainable solutions through scientific and technological interventions, and Germany is a natural partner in this endeavor," stated Dr. Jitendra Singh.

Dr. Jitendra Singh applauded the Indo-German 2+2 collaboration model involving joint efforts between academia and industry from both countries, calling it a landmark step toward creating future-ready, innovation-driven ecosystems. "The 2+2 collaboration is a futuristic model. It brings together universities and industries from both countries to solve global challenges through innovation, co-development, and commercialization," Dr. Jitendra Singh said.

Dr. Jitendra Singh



recalled the Golden Jubilee of Indo-German S&T Partnership celebrated last year, adding that the recent Indo-German S&T Governing Body Meeting in Germany further reinforced the commitment to deepen scientific engagement. He highlighted the shared cultural and intellectual legacy between the two nations, mentioning Max Mueller's pioneering translation of the Upanishads and the Rigveda, which laid the foundation for Indo-European scholarly ties.

Dr. Jitendra Singh spotlighted India's remarkable progress in the biotech sector, boasting over 3000 startups and leading globally as the largest vaccine manufacturer. He noted the significance of the recently approved BIOe3 policy, which focuses on Energy, Economy, and Employment to drive the next wave of biotech innovation.

Dr. Jitendra Singh outlined India's emergence as a biotech powerhouse with over 3000 startups and the recent launch of the BIOe3 policy, aimed at driving Energy, Economy, and Employment through biotech innovation.

The Science and Technology Minister states that India's Space-Tech and Nuclear sectors, now open to private players, offer tremendous collaborative opportunities. He further stated that India ranks 3rd globally in startups and unicorns, making it a vibrant destination for tech partnerships.

"India's academic outreach to Germany continues to deepen, with over 50,000 Indian students enrolled in German universities—mostly in STEM disciplines—a number that has tripled in the last seven years", says Dr. Singh

Dr. Jitendra Singh called for a reciprocal increase in German students studying in India, particularly in the areas of Oriental Studies, Indian Culture, and Traditional Knowledge Systems.

"Germany has emerged as a favoured academic destination for Indian youth. Now we hope to see more German students exploring India's intellectual heritage and scientific capabilities," he said.

Dr. Jitendra Singh fondly recalled his recent visit to Berlin, observing the growing popularity of Indian cuisine and culture, with locals enthusiastically embracing Indian flavors in more than a dozen Indian food outlets.

The German side was represented by Dr. Markus Söder, along with Dr. Philipp Ackermann, German Ambassador to India, and other senior delegates. From the Indian side, Dr. Abhay Karandikar, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology (DST); Dr. Praveen Somasundaram, Head of International Cooperation, and Dr. Alka Sharma, Senior Advisor, Department of Biotechnology, also participated in the deliberations.

Agniveer Recruitment Cadre launched at Mendhar



Top News Report

POONCH, Apr 13: The Indian Army has launched a recruitment cadre in Mendhar to facilitate the selection of local candidates under the Agniveer initiative. This initiative is aimed at enhancing the physical and mental capabilities of the youth, providing them with the skills and discipline needed to serve the nation.

The cadre will guide young individuals through the recruitment process, offering them a direct pathway to join the Indian Army as Agniveers. The initiative provides an opportunity for local youth to serve the nation, contributing to both national security and community development.

The Agniveer programme promis-

es to build a skilled, disciplined, and tech-savvy military force. Recruits will undergo rigorous physical and technical training while being instilled with the core values of discipline, duty, and dedication to prepare them for a successful career in the Armed Forces.

The launch of this recruitment cadre underscores the Indian Army's commitment to empowering local communities and building a more inclusive, capable defense force.

The Army is eager to identify and train the next generation of leaders and soldiers who will serve with pride and professionalism.

The recruitment cadre will be operational for the coming months, ensuring that local youth are well-supported in their journey to becoming Agniveers.

NSS Unit of GDC Budhal conducts cleanliness drive on college premises



Top News Report

BUDHAL, Apr 13: The NSS Unit of Government Degree College Budhal carried out a cleanliness drive across the college campus.

The drive was organized with the dual purpose of promoting a cleaner and healthier environment, and encouraging a spirit of volunteerism and service among the students.

The event witnessed active participation from over 70 students, who enthusiastically took part in cleaning activi-

ties such as collecting litter, clearing blocked drains and tidying up different parts of the campus. Special focus was placed on maintaining cleanliness in classrooms, corridors and the college lawn to enhance the overall appearance and hygiene of the institution.

The College Principal, Prof. Manzoor Ahmed, lauded the NSS Unit's initiative, highlighting that such programs help instill a strong sense of responsibility and commitment towards keeping the campus clean and well-maintained.

Army conducts of friendly volleyball match at Bhart



Top News Report

DODA, Apr 13: On popular demand of locals of Bhart, Indian Army organised a friendly volleyball match between two local teams of Doda on 12 Apr 2025 in alignment with "Khelo India". Both the teams consisted of players from various caste, creed and religion & displayed very high degree of sportsmanship and healthy competitive spirit. It was a thrilling and exciting match till the end.

A total number of 11 persons participated in the event. The Volleyball match was aimed at developing a com-

petitive spirit amongst the youth and also to provide them a platform to showcase their talent. The match was witnessed with keen interest by one and all, thus generating bonhomie amongst the players as well as locals.

An officer from Indian Army witnessed the match and he also congratulated both the teams for the sterling performance and distributed prizes to both the teams.

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

Prof. Bharat Bhushan elected as Vice President of Central Committee of RBPS Vardha

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 13: Prof. Bharat Bhushan Sharma, Secretary and Director of Rashtra Bhasha Prachar Samiti (RBPS) Jammu Branch has been elected as Vice President of the central committee of Rashtra Bhasha Prachar Samiti, Vardha, Maharashtra. In an annual convention organized at Vardha, Maharashtra wherein the representatives of branches from all over the country and headquarter at Vardha participated, he was unanimously elected as Vice President.

The other office bearers include Surya Vanshi Chowdhary as President, Ashish Vandile as General Secretary, Rahul Ovanthakar as treasurer and Jagdish Prasad Chaturvedi as secretary.

It is pertinent to add here that RBPS is a pioneer literary organization having its headquarter at Vardha in Maharashtra and many branches across the country. It was founded by Mahatma Gandhi in 1936 with active support of Jamna Lal Bajaj, an eminent businessman and politician with the sole purpose of promoting Rashtra Bhasha Hindi as a link language throughout the country.

Many prolific Hindi litterateurs and promoters of that time like Raj Rishi Parshotam Dass Tandon, Madan Mohan Malviya, Dr. Rajinder Prasad, Puran Singh, Prem Chand, Maithili Sharan Gupta and others became an integral part of the organization and helped in flourishing it. Branches were established in different cities across the country for connecting the masses through Hindi.



Prof. Bharat Bhushan Sharma hailing from Jammu is an eminent scholar and litterateur of Sanskrit and Hindi. For his colossal contributions in the field of literature he has been honored by many Government and Non-Government organizations which included Sohard Samman from Hindi Sansthan of Government of Uttar Pradesh.

He has been actively involved in promoting Rashtra Bhasha Hindi in the non-Hindi speaking region of Jammu & Kashmir by organizing seminars, at colleges, schools and Universities.

In addition he, as the Secretary and Director of RBPS Jammu ensures regular literary meetings of poets and short story writers thus providing a platform to aspiring talents. At the same time RBPS Jammu also publishes a magazine "Amar Setu" wherein the local Hindi writers get an opportunity to get published and being noticed at national level.

Canada's renowned fried chicken brand MB Chicken now opens in Chandigarh



Top News Report

CHANDIGARH, Apr 13: The first restaurant of Canada's renowned fried chicken brand, MB Chicken, was launched on Sunday in Chandigarh sector 35C market. MB Chicken is known for serving delicious fresh fried chicken prepared using its special kitchen technology.

To inaugurate the restaurant, MBI Brands CEO Gregory Roberts and MB Chicken President Cameron Thomson arrived from Canada. During the event, they shared that MB Chicken was established in 1969.

With a legacy of over 55 years, the brand is now serving fresh fried chicken to customers in more than 300 restaurants worldwide.

They also announced their plans to open multiple outlets across India. Restaurants in Gurugram, Doraha, and Jalandhar will be launching soon.

Their primary goal is to offer customers not frozen but completely fresh fried chicken.

The aim is to deliver delicious food at the best prices. It's not just about taste—great emphasis is placed on the quality of the chicken as well.

That's why they source their chicken from suppliers who meet high standards and have been in the business for nearly 100 years.

What sets them apart is that they do not freeze the chicken—instead, they marinate fresh chicken and serve it directly to the customers.

MB Chicken COO Sanjeev Ghatak, MBI Brands VP International Dillon Powell, MB Chicken VP Gautam Kamra, and GM Marketing Ankita Mane were also present during the occasion.

IPL 2025: Yuvraj, Sachin praise Abhishek Sharma's blistering 141 against PBKS

Opening the innings for Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH), Abhishek paired brilliantly with Travis Head, who himself smashed 66 off 37 balls, hitting nine boundaries and three sixes. The duo laid a solid foundation for SRH with their attacking brand of cricket, making life miserable for the PBKS bowlers.

HYDERABAD, Apr 13 (Agencies): Abhishek Sharma lit up the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 with a jaw-dropping knock of 141 off just 55 balls against Punjab Kings (PBKS) in Hyderabad, drawing praise from cricketing legends.

The left-hander's innings, decorated with 14 boundaries and 10 sixes, came at a staggering strike rate of 256.36 and will go down as one of the most explosive knocks in IPL history. Opening the innings for Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH), Abhishek paired brilliantly with Travis Head, who himself smashed 66 off 37 balls, hitting nine boundaries and three sixes. The duo laid a solid foundation for SRH with their attacking brand of cricket, making life miserable for the PBKS bowlers.

In a heartwarming moment after reaching his century, Abhishek held up a handwritten note that read, "This one is for Orange Army." The gesture was later posted by Sunrisers Hyderabad's official X handle, earning widespread love from fans.

Cricketing greats were quick to acknowledge the brilliance of the young southpaw. Former India star Yuvraj Singh took to X to share his excitement, writing, "Wah Sharma ji ke betel! 98 pe single, phir 99 pe single! Itni maturity ha am nahi ho rahi! Great knock @IamAbhiSharma4. Well played @TravisHead24 -- these openers are a treat to watch together! #SRH-



vsPBKS @IPL. Well played @ShreyasIyer15, great to watch aswell."

Batting legend Sachin Tendulkar also hailed Abhishek's shot-making and control at the crease on his official X handle, "Abhishek's incredible hand speed and the way he manages to get under the ball to send it miles is fantastic to watch. A knock for the ages. Keep it up!"

The left-hander, who had been searching for form, finally found his rhythm and punished the Punjab attack with a mix of clean hitting and fearless strokeplay. Despite PBKS's efforts to pull things back, Abhishek's assault proved too heavy a blow to recover from. The innings will go down as one of the most dominant batting displays of the season and could well mark a turning point in Sunrisers Hyderabad's (SRH) campaign.

With this knock, Abhishek made history on Saturday, hitting the highest individual score by an Indian player in Indian Premier League (IPL) history.

The 24-year-old player has overtaken KL Rahul (132 against Royal Challengers Bengaluru in IPL 2020) as the player with the highest score by an Indian in IPL history.

Overall, next to Chris Gayle (175* for RCB against Pune Warriors India in 2013) and Brendon McCullum (for Kolkata Knight Riders against RCB in 2008), this is the third-highest individual score in IPL history.

The youngster hit 116 of his runs in boundaries, breaking the record of Jonny Bairstow (90) for most runs in an innings by an SRH batter via boundaries. Also, his 10 sixes are the

most by an SRH player in an innings, overtaking David Warner's eight.

Coming to the match, PBKS won the toss and elected to bat first. A 66-run stand between Priyansh Arya (36 in 13 balls, with two fours and four sixes) and Prabhsimran Singh (42 in 23 balls, with seven fours and a six) started off things well for PBKS. Later, a half-century from skipper Shreyas Iyer (82 in 36 balls, with six fours and six sixes) and a final flourish from Marcus Stoinis (34* in 11 balls, with a four and four sixes) powered PBKS to 245/6 in their 20 overs.

Harshal Patel (4/42) and Eshan Malinga (2/45) were among the wicket-takers for SRH. In the run-chase of 246 runs, Abhishek (141 in 55 balls, with 14 fours and 10 sixes) and Travis Head (66 in 37 balls, with nine fours and three sixes) started off well with a 171-run partnership. After Head was dismissed, Abhishek continued to rage while Heinrich Klaasen (21*) and Ishan Kishan (9*) put some finishing touches, chasing down the mammoth total.

This is also the second-highest run chase in IPL history, with 262 chased by PBKS against defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) last year being at the top. SRH has risen to the eighth spot with two wins and four losses while PBKS is at sixth place, with three wins and two losses.

Team India head coach Gautam Gambhir arrives in Raipur to attend Cric Fest 2025



RAIPUR, Apr 13 (Agencies): The Indian men's cricket team head coach Gautam Gambhir arrived in Raipur on Sunday to attend Cric Fest 2025.

Gambhir highlighted the importance of such initiatives in nurturing local talent and providing better infrastructure for budding cricketers.

"It will motivate the players a lot, especially those from Chhattisgarh who will get better facilities and will play for the state and then the country," Gambhir told agency.

The former India opener, known for

his passion for talent development, reiterated that exposure to proper training and infrastructure is crucial in transforming young aspirants into professional cricketers. Cric Fest 2025 is expected to boost cricketing activity in the region and inspire a new generation of players.

Gambhir savoured success last month after months of criticism, largely due to India's shambolic Test performance. India defied the odds stacked against them, rode high on stellar performances and stayed unbeaten to lift the Champions Trophy

in Dubai.

India outclassed New Zealand in all facets of the game to stand triumphant with a four-wicket victory. This was India's second ICC title in a span of a year. Under former head coach Rahul Dravid, India scripted a memorable 7-run victory against South Africa in Barbados in the T20 World Cup 2024 final.

India's Champions Trophy story of success came after a turbulent period which saw India crash out of the race for a spot in the World Test Championship final. It all began after New Zealand orchestrated a historic series whitewash in the subcontinent, which left India's road to the WTC final an intricate affair. After ending up on the wrong side of a 3-0 series defeat, India had to defy the odds in Australia with a series win.

Despite the historic win in the opening game in Perth, India's hopes of a series win faded with each passing game, and the five-match series ended with Australia reclaiming the BGT after 10 years with a 3-1 series win. India will begin its WTC 2025-27 campaign with a five-match series against England in June.

"I surprise myself sometimes": LSG batter Nicholas Pooran opens up on his strokeplay

LUCKNOW, Apr 13 (Agencies): Following his explosive inning against the Gujarat Titans in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025, Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) left-hand batter Nicholas Pooran shared thoughts on his hitting abilities in the ongoing 18th edition of the cash-rich league.

Gill-led GT's four-match win streak came to an end as explosive knocks from Aiden Markram and Nicholas Pooran helped LSG secure their fourth win of the tournament at Ekana Stadium.

Pooran slammed 61 runs off just 34 balls, which was laced with seven maximums and one boundary in his innings which came at a staggering strike rate of 179.41.

Speaking on his hitting ability at the post-match presentation, the 29-year-old player said, "It is not so much about the hat but about winning the game. The wicket today was absolutely beautiful to bat on. There was not much talk. As a group, we knew we had depth, and we were batting well, so we tried to continue as much as possible. What was good was the partnership, and Aiden continued on. Unfortunately, Mitch did not play today, and Rishabh came out to open. (on his hitting) I surprise myself sometimes, get the ball close to the middle of the bat, and adjust my bat-swing."

"If I tell you everything, then they will figure me out eventually. It's about understanding



who to take down and sometimes leaving the ego away. It is not about hitting sixes for me, it is how I go about my innings. When getting the opportunity to bat at number 3, you need to make the play at times and consolidate at times. (on taking down Sai Kishore) I had to be brave and take my matchup on. Today I was lucky, it was the big side and I can hit it in the air and get out too, it was my matchup and today was one of the days when it came off," the southpaw added.

Coming to the match, LSG won the toss and elected to field first. A 120-run partnership between Gill (60 in 38 balls, with six fours and a six) and Sudharsan (56 in 37 balls, with seven fours and a six) got GT off to a fine start. However, after losing both openers, GT could not really recover and made 180/6 in their 20 overs, after losing Washington Sundar (2), Jos Buttler

(16), Sherfane Rutherdorf (22) and Rahul Tewatia (0) quickly. Shardul Thakur (2/34) and Ravi Bishnoi (2/36) were the top bowlers for LSG while Digvish Rath and Avesh Khan also got a wicket.

During the run-chase, LSG started off really well with a 65-run stand between Markram and skipper Rishabh Pant (21 in 18 balls, with four boundaries). Another brilliant half-century stand followed between Markram (58 in 31 balls, with nine fours and a six) and Nicholas Pooran (61 in 34 balls, with a four and seven sixes). Finishing touches from Ayush Badoni (28* in 20 balls, with two fours and a six) took LSG to a win with three balls and seven wickets left.

LSG is at the third spot in the points table with four wins and two losses, giving them eight points. GT has the same win-loss record and sits at number two.

State T20 leagues, a happy hunting ground for IPL scouts

LUCKNOW, Apr 13 (Agencies): All of Priyansh Arya (Punjab Kings) or leg spinner Digvish Rath (Lucknow Super Giants), Vipraj Nigam (Delhi Capitals) and all-rounder Aniket Verma (Sunrisers Hyderabad) have one thing in common. They were relatively unknown cricketers outside their respective cricketing circles until they made a mark for their franchises in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL).

Verma, a 23-year-old pace bowling all-rounder from Madhya Pradesh, hadn't played a single representative game at senior level before the auction while Rath got his T20 debut for Delhi only after being picked up by Lucknow.

No doubt they were talented but they were not considered big enough to attract bidders' attention ahead of the auction. But these cricketers were in high demand when the 2025 mega auction happened in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on November 24 and 25 last year. Of course, a few of them had fared well for their state sides but it was their eye-catching shows in their respective state T20 leagues that made them the sought after players.

Arya had come into the auction on the back of his strong performance at the Delhi Premier League where he hit six sixes in an over on his way to century. When his name came up, both Punjab and Royal Challengers Bengaluru went after him before the former managed to snap him for Rs 3.80

crore from a base price of Rs 30 lakh.

The story was the same for other relatively unknown cricketers. Rath had returned with a bagful of wickets in the Delhi League while Nigam was quite effective with his leg breaks in the Uttar Pradesh League. This also saw him making his debut for the senior UP sides in all formats. Verma was scoring runs in bulk in the U-23 matches but it was his century in the MP League that brought him on the radar.

Undoubtedly, the state leagues turned out to be their launching pad and they made the most of it. Ashish Tuli, general manager of the Punjab franchise (Cricket Operations), admitted the state leagues have aided in the scouting process. Tuli, who has been credited for unearthing talents like Arshdeep Singh, Rinku Singh, Ravi Bishnoi and many more, accepted the leagues have given the franchise a larger pool of players to select from.

"The introduction of state leagues has indeed facilitated the scouting process. Initially, in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, our scouts were limited to evaluating just 16 players selected per state association. However, with the advent of the T20 league, our scouts now have the opportunity to assess a significantly larger pool of 90 to 120 players on a common platform in just one state league," Tuli told agency.

Tuli, who was also an

analyst with the Indian team in the past, however, said they also have to look beyond the leagues to unearth talented players. "In addition to evaluating players in these leagues, our scouts also conduct a thorough check within the state, visiting clubs and academies to uncover hidden talent and identify promising players who may have been overlooked."

Scouting for talents is nothing new and Mumbai Indians are considered to be a pioneering force in this direction. Former New Zealand captain and India coach John Wright had discovered the likes of Jasprit Bumrah, Hardik and Krunal Pandya from the hinterlands while scouting for the Mumbai franchise. The joint-most successful franchise with five IPL titles have successfully unearthed prodigious talents year after year and Kerala's Vignesh Puthur and Punjab's Ashwani Kumar are the latest in the list. Soon enough, others joined the bandwagon with their ever-bulging teams of scouts also comprising former players and cricket analysts.

Their job was to keep looking for talents round the clock and throughout the year and tournaments, be it age-group or senior, organised by the state units or their parent body BCCI were the go-to events for them. But as Tuli mentioned, the pool of players in these tournaments were limited. Prasanna Kannan, chief executive officer of the Tamil Nadu

Premier League (TNPL), one of the oldest state T20 leagues in the country, also sang from the same hymn sheet.

"Each association can field only a 15-member squad and only 11 out of them play in a match," Kannan told agency. "You can only have two openers, two finishers probably at No 5 and 6, a wicketkeeper, a couple of spinners and a few pacers in the playing XI. You may have choices for a particular skill set but all of them cannot be in the playing XI. So here, these leagues help. Every league has multiple teams and so the requirements for a player with a specific skill set are multiple. So the IPL franchises come out and scout talents they need. They keep these players in their development squad and monitor their progress."

The TNPL CEO is not directly associated with the scouting process but has quite an understanding of the process with him being on the ground during the TNPL. "Suppose if some youngster is catching the eye of these franchises, what they will do is they monitor him, his fitness and if there is any injury concern. They have a dedicated team of physios and trainers. This team looks after the development squad. They make infrastructure available for these players and if the need arises, also work on technical flaws of the players. During the tournament also scouts visit venues and have unofficial interaction with the organisers."

As every coin has two sides, do these leagues also lead to competition among the scouts from different franchises? Tuli responded in the negative. "We don't perceive the state T20 leagues as creating competition among scouts from different franchises. Instead, we view it as an opportunity to provide a platform for a larger number of players from the respective states to showcase their skills. Ultimately, the selection of players depends on the specific requirements of all the franchises and the discerning eye of the scouts."

But as the saying goes, you can only lead a horse to water, picking up an uncapped player by a franchise cannot secure his future. The player has to perform edition after edition to stay relevant and get into the national side. Sameer Ritzvi, who showed his hitting prowess in the UP League, was bought for Rs 8.40 crore by CSK in 2024 and became one of the most expensive uncapped players in the IPL history. Below par performances meant the UP player was released by the franchise ahead of the mega auction. He was eventually purchased by Delhi Capitals for Rs 95 lakh, a significant cut from what he got only a year ago.

Hopefully, the new finds in this edition make the most of the opportunities to make it big in time to come as Arshdeep, Rinku, Bumrah, Hardik, Tilak Varma and many more had done in the past.

Natrang presents Balwant Gargi's comedy play 'Kabab Mein Haddi'



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 13: Natrang presented Balwant Gargi's famous comedy play 'Kabab Mein Haddi' today in Sunday Theatre series at its studio theatre. The play was directed by Neeraj Kant. The hilari-

ous situations in the play made laughter irresistible for the audience which responded with applause throughout the play. 'Kabab Mein Haddi' as the name suggests is a story of one intruder between two lovers. Naseem and Safdar are two college friends.

Naseem is in love with Jameela. Both are post-graduate students studying in a University. Jameela is putting-up in the girls hostel whereas Naseem and Safdar are living in a rented accommodation. Despite having engaged they hardly find any space

and avenue to meet each other to share their feelings. Jameela's hostel warden is very strict and hardly allows her to move out and this side, Naseem's sticky friend Safdar hardly leaves him alone. Both have been shown making attempts to meet each other but in vain. Mustering courage and pulling in all resources they plan their outing on Friendship day. The movement they step-out, Safdar makes his unwanted entry and offers them to escort them throughout their outing. Both try to convince him that they can move on their own but this foolish friend is not ready to buy their arguments and forcefully accompanies them. The real comedy unveils here when Safdar spoils their every precious moment by intruding between them by creating funny situations. His intrusions irritate them and

the moment he sees that they are irritated; he tries to be closer to them with the intention to ease out tension and conflict between them. Finally they get an opportunity to meet but the same is spoiled by their sincere friend. In fact Safdar sincerely wants to help both but his over whelming concern creates dramatic turns in the story. Whenever he is not required he will suddenly make his entry and would turn the whole situation. This play was presented in a very beautiful manner by the young actors of Natrang. Aryan Sharma as 'Naseem', Kartik Kumar as 'Safdar' and Manvi Devi as 'Jameela' played their respective characters with full confidence and professional ease. Neeraj Kant executed the lights of the play and Adaksh Bagal rendered the music. The show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen.

Hanuman Jayanti celebrated with religious fervour at Hanuman Mandir, Maali

Lord Hanuman the ultimate conqueror of adversities says Col. Mahan

Top News Report

KATHUA, Apr 13: The auspicious occasion of Hanuman Jayanti was celebrated with great enthusiasm and religious fervor at the Hanuman Mandir (Basuki Nag Dham) in Maali (Plakh). Devotees thronged the temple premises in large numbers, offering Laddu, sweets, fruits, and other offerings to seek the blessings of Lord Hanuman for the fulfillment of their wishes.

A special Sundarkand Path was organized by Pt. Krishan Shastri, during which scores of devotees gathered to sing Hanuman Stuti in unison. The collective prayers and devotion filled the temple premises with an atmosphere of spiritual serenity and divine energy.

Col. Mahan Singh (Retd), DDC Chairman, also took part in the Puja ceremony, offering his prayers for the well-being of the community.

While addressing the gathering of devotees, Col. Singh spoke with great reverence about the immense significance of Lord Hanuman, describing him as Rudraavtar, an incarnation of Lord Shiva who embodies unparalleled strength and devotion. He emphasized that Lord Hanuman's divine power is not only capable of ridding us of our enemies but also protecting us from all forms of evil and mis-



fortune. His divine abilities extend to healing ailments and providing relief from suffering, making him a symbol of hope and resilience for all.

Col. Singh further highlighted that Hanuman's unwavering devotion to Lord Rama, combined with his extraordinary strength, make him the ultimate conqueror of all adversities. His dedication and selfless service are a reminder that, through faith and perseverance, we can overcome the greatest of challenges and emerge victorious in the face of

hardships. As a token of the divine blessings, Aarti Parshad was distributed to all those present at the temple. The picturesque location of the Hanuman Mandir added to the sacred atmosphere, enhancing the experience of chanting mantras and prayers amidst the tranquil surroundings. The celebration was a testament to the deep-rooted faith and devotion of the community, reinforcing the importance of Lord Hanuman's blessings in overcoming life's challenges.

AIMCCC projects of KP migrant community

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 13: A meeting of the All India Migrant Camp Coordination Committee (AIMCCC) was convened under the chairmanship of B.K. Raina in Jammu. During the meeting, he passionately addressed the members and highlighted the long-standing neglect faced by the Kashmiri Pandit migrant community.

He stated, "Our community has witnessed the indifference of both local and central political parties since the onset of our migration. None have genuinely stood with us in action or spirit. Their slogans are hollow, their promises fleeting. These politi-

cal entities are more invested in their mutual benefit than in our real upliftment." He urged the community to remain vigilant and not to be swayed by superficial assurances or election-time theatrics. Desh Ratten, President of AIMCCC, raised serious concerns regarding the recent list of temples and shrines compiled by the JKUT Government. He expressed dismay that numerous temples, especially in the Kashmir Division, were either missing from the list or had incorrect details regarding land and historical positioning as it stood in the 1990s. Even more troubling, he added, "Temples that are completely damaged have been shown as

only partially damaged. This clearly shows a lack of sincerity and accuracy by the officials involved." AIMCCC demands strict action against the officials responsible for this incomplete and misleading documentation. The organization asserts that the list must reflect ground realities, backed by accurate data and community consultation. Further, AIMCCC called upon the Government to address the pressing issues faced by PM Package employees. Many of these employees continue to serve in the Valley without ever being deployed to Jammu, despite a staff shortage in migrant schools and institutions in the region. The practice of selective deploy-

ment has created unrest among employees, and AIMCCC insists on a transparent, inclusive deployment policy, along with complete promotions and rightful benefits for all PM Package employees. P.N. Jalali, Vice President, and Jawahir Lal Raina, General Secretary, also expressed serious concern over the lack of proper accommodation for PM Package employees in the Valley. Most of them are living in rented spaces, highlighting the government's inadequate response to their welfare and security. Additionally, AIMCCC leaders strongly appealed to the PWD Department, Nagrota, to urgently issue ten-

ders for the repair of the Jagti Township to Kandoli Mata Road, which is in a severely dilapidated state. They emphasized that immediate restoration is essential to prevent further hardship for residents. Finally, AIMCCC made a heartfelt request to the Army School Authority, Nagrota, to grant admissions to students from the Kashmiri Pandit community across various classes, citing humanitarian grounds and the need for educational support.

Dimple leads rally demanding restoration of J&K Statehood, Darbar Move

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 13: In a spirited wave of slogans, banners held high, and hearts aflame with Dogra pride, Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood, led a massive protest rally at Janipur High Court Chowk, calling for the immediate restoration of Jammu & Kashmir's statehood, special status, and the revival of the historic Darbar Move.

Under the spring sky, as hundreds of traders, transporters, and citizens stood shoulder-to-shoulder, Dimple passionately appealed to the visiting Prime Minister Narendra Modi to announce the resumption of the Darbar Move this April — a tradition that once kept the administrative heartbeat of J&K pulsating through both Jammu and Srinagar.

"The traders are gasping under economic collapse. The lifeline of our local economy, our Dogra identity, and our constitutional guarantees have been torn apart," said Dimple,



addressing the crowd. "We demand the revival of the Dogra princely state with state subject rights, special status, and full implementation of the Instrument of Accession." With burning conviction, he accused the BJP-led central government of triggering a downward spiral — rising unemployment, shattered local businesses, and a hemorrhaging economy, particularly after the halting of the Darbar Move and abrogation of Article 370. Dimple further claimed that the government had issued over 84,000

domicile certificates to non-residents, aiming to dilute the demographic identity of the Dogra heritage, and allotted lakhs of canals of land to over 200 outside investors, undermining the rights of local stakeholders. Referencing a survey, he alleged that five lakh non-residents have settled in J&K post-reorganization — a move he calls a "demographic engineering project" following the dismantling of the Dogra state. Rejecting the newly passed Waqf Bill, Dimple denounced it as a divisive policy aimed at deepening religious fault lines in the country.

He vowed, with fire in his words and resolve in his soul, "Our political and judicial struggle will not end until we restore our Dogra state, Article 370, and unify Jammu, Kashmir, Ladakh, and even PoK and Gilgit-Baltistan. Our fight is for justice, for history, for the soul of our homeland." Prominent voices alongside Dimple in the protest included Sachin Soi, Sat Sharma, Rupesh Bhat, Anmol Anand, Sanjay Kumar, among many others — all unified under one cry: Restore J&K. Revive Darbar. Rekindle the Dogra flame.

GupShup

RESTAURANT

Where Hunger Meets Happiness

Are you a true desi chicken connoisseur? Look no further than Gupshup Restaurant, the only restaurant in Jammu and Kashmir to serve 100% Desi chicken (Jatka) cooked to perfection on a traditional Chullah.

Visit us at:
Ban Bantala, Old Nagrota Highway, Jammu (J&K)
+91-9086207123 | +91-9086072548

ORDER NOW