

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2025

Daily Evening Newspaper

ENTERTAINMENT

| 6

NATIONAL

| 7

INTERNATIONAL

| 8



Actress Esha Pathak
talks about the challenges of
wearing a lehenga
in hot weather



**"Every year, record airline
passengers": PM highlights
air travel growth**



**No one is "getting off the hook",
Trump after US appeared to
dial down on China**

e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-12 Issue-102 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

BRIEFLY

7 people injured in Sinthantop Accident

SRINAGAR, Apr 14 (Agencies): Atleast seven people were injured in a road accident at Asian hot Sinthantop Larnoo area of South Kashmir's Anantnag district on Monday.

Official said that a Tata Intra (Chota Hati) vehicle bearing registration number JP03P-2493 met with an accident near Sinthantop.

In this incident seven people were injured, who were shifted to SDH Kokernag.

The injured persons have been identified as Umar Awan s/o Ibrahim Awan R/o Bidhard, Arif Wwan s/o Karim Awan r/o Bidhard, Bashir s/o Jumah Awan r/o Bidhard, Shafkat s/o Qasim Deedad r/o Bidhard, Shafkat s/o Mohd Khalil Khari r/o Gadvaill, Gulzar Loodhi s/o Mohd showkat r/o bidhard and Mohd Altaf s/o Mohd Khalil Khari.

Meanwhile, police have registered a case in this regard and investigation has been taken up.

MeT predicts dry weather in J&K from April 14-17

SRINAGAR, Apr 14 (Agencies): The Meteorological Centre Srinagar has issued a weather advisory for Jammu and Kashmir, predicting a significant change in weather patterns from April 18-20.

After a dry spell from April 14-17, the region can expect cloudy skies with light to moderate rain and snow in higher reaches from April 18-20, with isolated areas potentially experiencing heavy rain accompanied by thunder and gusty winds.

Travelers, tourists, and transporters are advised to plan accordingly and follow administrative and traffic advisories. Farmers are recommended to continue farm operations until April 17.

Moderate snowfall is expected in higher reaches during this period. The weather is expected to remain dry from April 22-25 before turning cloudy again on April 26-27.

Two critically injured in road accident in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Apr 14 (Agencies): Two persons Critically Injured today in Road accident in Srinagar.

In a swift and timely response, the Dial 112 police team brought two critically injured individuals to SMHS Hospital following a serious road traffic accident earlier today.

■ Turn to page 9

Lieutenant Governor inaugurates Manufacturing Unit of Superior Polymers India Private Limited at Kathua



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 14: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today virtually inaugurated the Manufacturing Unit of Superior Polymer

India Private Limited at Kathua.

The Lieutenant Governor congratulated the Superior Group of Industries and the members of Superior Polymer India Private Limited on their

new venture and conveyed his best wishes.

He said the commencement of this greenfield project is an important milestone, promising a positive impact on the local economy and employment generation, and a significant push to the industrial development of the region.

"UT's manufacturing ecosystem is growing and today's project dedicated to the industrial development will give momentum to the mission of Aatmanirbhar J&K," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor reiterated that, under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri

■ Turn to page 9

Ex-armyman who killed wife arrested 20 years after jumping parole

NEW DELHI, Apr 14 (Agencies): A former Army personnel, on the run for over 20 years after jumping parole while serving a life sentence for killing his wife, has been arrested from his native village in Madhya Pradesh, said an official of the Delhi Police.

While evading arrest for more than two decades, he remarried and fathered four children.

Anil Kumar Tiwari (58), a native of Sidhi in Madhya Pradesh, had

killed his wife in May 1989, by strangling her and then setting her on fire, police said in a statement. He unsuccessfully tried to pass off the death as suicide but was convicted and sentenced to life in jail in 1989.

He was granted a two-week parole in 2005 by the Delhi High Court, but he jumped parole and absconded. After evading arrest for more than two decades, the Delhi Police's Crime Branch finally nabbed him from his native village on April

12.

According to police, Tiwari, who worked in the Indian Army's Ordnance Corps as a driver, had been evading arrest by avoiding mobile phones, dealing only in cash and frequently changing his residence and job.

"In November 2005, Tiwari was granted an interim suspension of sentence for two weeks, during which he absconded. The Crime Branch formed a special team to trace

■ Turn to page 9

Punjab-born surgeon, 3 family members killed in US plane crash

NEW YORK, Apr 14 (Agencies): A Punjab-born surgeon, her two children and their partners were killed along with her husband, who piloted a small plane that crashed in New York state.

Joy Saini's family confirmed their deaths in a statement to the media on Sunday

National Transportation Safety Board investigator Albert Nixon said on Sunday that the crash happened on Saturday while their Mitsubishi MU2B aircraft was trying to land at the Columbia County Airport, about 200 km from New York



City.

Speaking at a news conference in Albany, he said that the pilot missed the approach for landing and asked to make another try, but the air traffic controller noticed it was flying at a low alti

tude and unsuccessfully tried to alert the pilot.

The plane, which had taken off from Westchester Airport in a New York City suburb, went down about ten miles from the airport near the

■ Turn to page 9

One dead, nine others injured as Tata Mobile turns turtle in Ramban

RAMBAN, Apr 14 (Agencies): At least one person died on the spot and nine others were injured as Tata Mobile collided with bridge in the Banihal area of Ramban district on Monday.

As per an official, "the

accident occurred at around 4 am last night when a Tata Mobile, carrying eleven passengers of two Bakarwal families of Tehsil Teryath, was on way from Rajouri to Srinagar met an accident near railway bridge at Banihal."

The official added that after providing first Aid at SDH Banihal all injured were referred to GMC Anantnag for further treatment.

Police have taken note of the incident and are investigating.

CM Omar Abdullah pays tribute to BR Ambedkar on his birth anniversary

JAMMU, Apr 14 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday Paid Tribute to Dr BR Ambedkar on his birth anniversary.

In a post on X, CM_ JnK wrote, "This

■ Turn to page 9

Machail Mata temple reopens for pilgrims after winter in Kishtwar

JAMMU, Apr 14 (Agencies): The revered shrine of Shree Machail Mata in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district has been reopened for pilgrims after winter, heralding the commencement of the annual Yatra season, officials said on Monday.

The temple was thrown open on the occasion of Baisakhi on Sunday with Jammu divisional commissioner Ramesh

Kumar reviewing the arrangements for the annual pilgrimage, the officials said.

The event marked the shifting of the idol of Goddess Machail Mata (Durga) from the house of local priest Pehalwan Singh to the temple amid religious rituals and a grand fair.

The reopening of the temple was also attended by BJP MLA from

■ Turn to page 9

ICG and Gujarat ATS seize 300 kg narcotics worth Rs 1,800 cr near Gujarat coast



NEW DELHI, Apr 14 (Agencies): In a major breakthrough against drug trafficking, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), in a joint over-night operation with the Gujarat Anti-Terrorist

Squad (ATS) on April 12-13, seized over 300 kg of narcotics (methamphetamine) worth around Rs 1,800 crore.

Based on a corroborated input from Gujarat ATS, an ICG ship from

the Coast Guard Region (West), which was on multi-mission deployment off North Maharashtra/South Gujarat area, intercepted transshipment in proximity of the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL), an official statement said here on Monday.

"On realising the approaching ICG ship, the suspect boat dumped its narcotics consignment in sea before it started fleeing

■ Turn to page 9

Ghulam Nabi Azad Dissolves All Democratic Azad Party Committees



SRINAGAR, Apr 14 (Agencies): Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) led by Ghulam Nabi Azad has dissolved all the units of party on Monday.

An official communication reads, "Chairman Democratic Azad Party Ghulam Nabi Azad has dissolved all the units of the party including the state, provisional, district and block committees including spokesperson. The committees will be reconstituted in due course of time. This issues with approval of Chairman."

The order has been issued by Bashir Arif, Secretary to the Chairman.

The party was constituted in September 2022 after Ghulam Nabi Azad quit Congress.

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

TENTH DAY KRIYA

TENTH DAY KRIYA of our beloved Papa Ji, **Sh. Som Nath Pandita** S/o Lt. Sh. Shanker Nath Pandita erstwhile resident of Bidder Hangalgund, Kashmir presently at H. No. 03 Lane No. 01, Anand Nagar Bohri Jammu, will be held on 15th April, 2025, at Muthi Ghat, Near Directorate of School Education, Jammu at 8:30 a.m.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Lakshmi Shori Pandita - **Wife**
Sh. Pushkar Nath Pandita - **Brother**
Sisters & Brothers-in-law
Smt Dulari Pandita W/o Lt. Sh. B.N. Pandita.
Smt Shanta Ji & Sh. Chuni Lal Bazaz
Sh. Radha Krishen Bhan H/o Lt. Smt Phoola Ji
Daughters & Sons-in-law
Rajni Kaul & Sh. Hira Lal Kaul - **98108 97453**
Dolly Raina & Sh. Bal Krishen Raina - **99060 86105**
Sons & Daughters-in-law
Ramesh Pandita & Promila Kaul Pandita - **9419189513**
Sunil Pandita & Girja Dhar Pandita - **9419187523**



**SH. SOM NATH
PANDITA**

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAAS

BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAAS FOR OUR REVERED S.SUCHWANT SINGH JI, RTD. DIRECTOR AGRI, CHIEF SPOKESMAN MJR-47, WHO HAD LEFT FOR HIS HEAVENLY ABODE ON 7TH APRIL, 2025 IS AS UNDER:

AARAMBH SRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB AT 10:30 AM ON 14.04.2025 AT RESIDENCE 86/11, NANAK NAGAR.

BHOG SRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB AT 10:30 AM & KIRTAN/ ARDAAS AT 11:30 AM ON WEDNESDAY (16.04.2025).

ANTIM ARDAAS AT GURUDWARA SRI SINGH SABHA, NANAK NAGAR, JAMMU FROM 4 PM TO 5:30 PM ON 16.04.2025.

IN GRIEF:

SONS AND DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW:

P.P. SINGH AND SUPINDER KAUR,

BALWINDER SINGH AND GAGAN DEEP KAUR,

DAUGHTERS & SONS-IN-LAW

HARPREET KOUR & BHUPINDER SINGH ISHER,

SUMANPREET KOUR & AMRITPAL SINGH.

GRAND-CHILDREN

SISTERS AND BROTHERS-IN-LAW.

NEPHEWS AND THEIR WIVES.

BROTHERS-IN-LAW -

SDN. BALJIT KAUR W/O LT. S. JASPINDER SINGH ADV.

S. CHARANJIT SINGH KHALSA EX. MLC B.J.P.



**S.SUCHWANT SINGH JI
RTD. DIRECTOR AGRI, CHIEF
SPOKESMAN MJR-47**

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 Karhama, 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 Purn Pandita & Dhiyara Manve Purn
Smt. Mehak Purn Pandita & Shri Rohin Pandita
Brother & Bhabhi
Smt. Kamlesh & Shri Ravinder Pandita
Sisters & Jija Ji
Smt. Dalry & Shri Sri Krishan Raina
Smt. Sanjay & Shri Satish Thusoo
Smt. Asha & Shri Vinod Dhar
Smt. Kiran & Shri Suresh Pandita
Contact Numbers: 9682353047, 9877939543, 8894096900



**SHRI PURAN NATH
PANDITA**

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Narda Devi** W/o Sh. Jai Singh R/o Upper Barnai, Amrit Vihar Jammu.

10th Day will be performed on 15-04-2025 (Tuesday) at 10:30 am at our residence (Upper Barnai).

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh. Jai Singh - **Husband**

Smt. Taro Devi - **Mother-in-law**

Brothers & Bhabhis

Sh. Balwan Singh & Smt. Shashi Devi

Sh. Vikram Singh & Smt. Suman Devi

Sh. Parshotam Singh & Smt. Seema Devi

Sh. Ravinder Singh & Smt. Shilpa Devi

Sons & Daughters-in-law

Sh. Someshwar Partap Singh & Smt. Cheenu Devi

Sh. Jagdev Singh & Meenu Devi

Mo: 9419105802, 9149926424, 6006598158



Smt. Narda Devi

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **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:

(Son's & Daughter-in-law's)

Mr. Mahraj Krishan Pandit & Ms. Rozy Raina

Mr. Sanjay Kumar Pandit & Ms. Soni Koul

Mr. Suneel Kumar Pandit & Ms. Nishu Koul

(Daughters & Son's-in-law's)

Ms. Babli Kumari Raina & Mr. Shadi Lal Raina

Ms. Jalli Kumari Raina & Mr. Bansil Lal Raina

Contact: 9622215389



Smt. Shama Pandita

TENTH DAY KRIYA

We deeply mourn the passing of our mother **Kaushalya Wati Razdan**, wife of the Late Sh. Ram Ji Razdan, originally from Malmoh village, Magam, Dist. Baramullah on 10th April, 2025 at Noida.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be observed on the 19th April 2025 at Chota Haridwar, Murad Nagar.

A Condolence Assembly will be held separately at our residence: G-1601, Hawelia Valencia Homes, Sector 1, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh at 1 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Razdan Family

Raina Family

Koul Family

Misri Family

CONTACT

NO: 9419207514,

9914884695,

9811108935



Kaushalya Wati Razdan

10TH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Om Parkash Raina** S/o Late Sh. Badri Nath Raina who left for heavenly abode on 6th April at 4 PM Resident of House No 226 Ward No 5 Jewahar Nagar, Udhampur.

Kashmir Address - Bonpura, Akingam (Anantnag)

10th Day will be held at Devika Ghat, (Udhampur)

on 15th April-25 (Tuesday) 9:00 AM

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Rita Raina (Wife)

Abhinav Raina and Ruchi (Son and D-I-L)

Akash Raina (Son)

All family Members of Raina, Bhat, Pandita, Kotwal and Bazaz

Ph No. - 7889380793, 7740074790, 9877863142



Sh. Om Parkash Raina

TENTH DAY KRIYA

We deeply mourn the passing of our mother **Karamyogi 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 Haridwar, 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 & Navmit 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 & Bhari Lal Pandita (SIL & BIL)

Pinki & 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, Anyan, Jiya, Utkarsh & Divisha



**KARAMYOGI 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 Purn 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. Omesh 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, Virasaj



Col Kuldip Singh (Retd)

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



Smt. Koushalaya Koul

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we 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.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Asha Shali - **Wife**

Daughter-in-law

Asha Shali W/o Lt. Surinder Shali

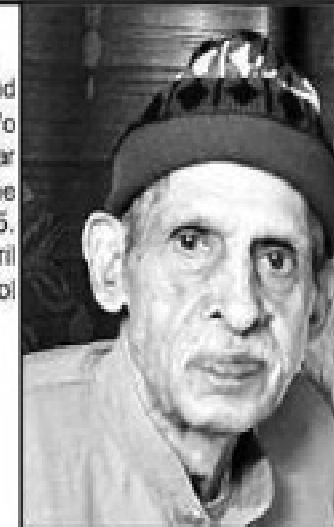
Zitin Shali - **Grand Daughter**

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**

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

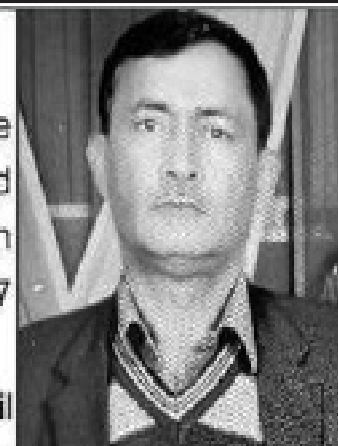
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Vishwa Mitter Sharma** S/o LT. Sh. Devi Saran Sharma R/o ward no:-67 near ram mandir Muthi

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

GRIEF STRICKEN :

SHARMA FAMILY

Mob. 9149956122, 7051098377



**Sh. Vishwa Mitter
Sharma**

10TH DAY KRIYA

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

10th Day Kriya will be performed at Muthi Ghat on 16-04-2025 and **Assembly** shall be held at Muthi Ghat at 8:00 AM.

Grief Stricken

Sh. Prithvi Nath Bhat - **Husband**

Sister & Brother-in-law

Sh. Poshkar Nath Bhat & Smt. Rupashri Bhat

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

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

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

Nitika Bhat - **Son**

Nitika Bhat - **Daughter**

BLSKS celebrates Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Jayanti with cultural fervour



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 14: In a vibrant celebration of tradition, equality, and the spirit of the Constitution, Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan (BLSKS) marked the 135th birth anniversary of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar with great enthusiasm at Durga Bhawan, Janipur, Jammu. The occasion featured the

487th regular musical play series, "Babasaheb Ambedkar," staged in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, and Sangam Tru Art Production. The function commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the traditional lamp by Chief Guest J.K. Raina, noted Producer-Director. He was joined by Sh.

V.K. Magotra, Former Regional Director, Directorate of Field Publicity; Dr. Anju Dogra from the J&K Health Department; and Mr. Mukesh Singh, media personality, as Guests of Honour. The program opened with stirring musical tributes, including songs like "Dr. Ambedkar Bhim Rao Ambedkar," "Hum Sab Hai Ek Saman," and "Din Dukhiyon

Ke Palanhare Baba Saheb," which beautifully encapsulated the values of equality and justice championed by Ambedkar. In his address, the Chief Guest shed light on Dr. Ambedkar's life—from his birth in 1891 in Mhow, Madhya Pradesh, to his relentless struggle against caste discrimination and his legacy as the principal architect of the Indian Constitution. His vision brought hope, rights, and representation to millions from marginalized communities. Chairman Dr. M.L. Dogra, who also wrote, directed, and produced the play, emphasized BLSKS's mission to promote traditional folk arts and raise awareness on social issues. "Theatre remains a powerful medium to inspire minds and stir souls," he said. The music, composed by Raju Bajgal, echoed

the spirit of Babasaheb's ideals and reached wider audiences through social media uploads. M.C. Kotwal, General Secretary of BLSKS, highlighted Ambedkar's contributions not only as a political leader but also as a historian, teacher, editor, and reformer who uplifted generations. Performers like Usha Raina, Zulekha Bano, Raju Bajgal, K.K. Joshi, and many others, including students from the BLSKS Music and Computer Institute, delivered enthralling performances. The celebration concluded with a vote of thanks by Master Deepak Kumar. The program also marked the culmination of the Baksahi Festival, ending on a note of unity, remembrance, and reverence for Dr. Ambedkar's timeless legacy.

Dimple pays tribute to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on 137th Birth Anniversary



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 14: Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood Jammu and Kashmir, paid rich floral tributes to Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on his 137th birth anniversary.

In a vibrant show of reverence and resolve, Dimple also cut a symbolic birthday cake and led a grand Ambedkar Rally from Janipur through various parts of Jammu city, carrying the spirit of the Constitution in every stride.

Addressing the gathering, Dimple passionately recalled the monumental role of Babasaheb Ambedkar in crafting the Indian Constitution, highlighting how Article 370 — which granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir — was a reflection of Ambedkar's vision of federal unity and cultural diversity. "Dr. Ambedkar gave us the soul of equality," Dimple said. "He carved into the Constitution the rights of

all—regardless of caste, creed, or religion. It is his vision that binds this nation in a constitutional embrace." However, his words soon turned into a fierce call for justice. He warned of intensifying the agitation for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, and demanded the return of the Dogra identity and special status that he believes was unjustly taken away.

Dimple strongly criticized the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019, accusing the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of violating the historical Instrument of Accession, signed by Maharaja Hari Singh. "This betrayal shattered the constitutional bridge built by Ambedkar himself," he declared. Accusing the BJP of sowing seeds of division, Dimple alleged that the ruling government is fragmenting the nation on lines of caste and religion—pitting

Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, and others against one another, defying the very principles of unity enshrined in the Constitution.

He outrightly rejected the Waqf Bill, calling it unconstitutional and divisive, alleging that it was passed by the BJP to stir communal discord and dismantle the secular fabric of India. "The Prime Minister and the Home Minister remain silent—unmoved by the cries for justice from Jammu and Kashmir," Dimple said. "But we will not be silent. We will rise, organize, and reclaim what is rightfully ours." The rally witnessed the presence and support of several senior leaders including Joginder Rao, Shabier Khan, Haneef Chowdhry, Yash Kundal, Mohinder Kumar, Sudesh Kumar, S. Kungri Singh, S. Sunny Singh, and many others—each echoing the call for justice, identity, and restoration.

No more plastic bottles in AIIMS Jammu— a green initiative towards plastic-free campus

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 14: The All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Vijaypur, Jammu has taken a significant step towards environmental sustainability by imposing a complete ban on the use of plastic water bottles across its campus. This initiative is a part of the Institute's ongoing efforts to promote eco-friendly practices and move towards becoming a plastic-free campus. This bold move has commenced under the visionary leadership of Prof (Dr) Shakti Kumar Gupta, Executive Director & CEO, as part of the Swachhta Pakhwada celebrations. The decision is in alignment with key national initiatives of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi. The Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and Mission LIFE (Lifestyle for Environment) advocates for conscious consumption, environmental awareness and sustainable lifestyle choices at both individual and institutional

levels. The initiative also resonates with the vision of Hon'ble Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Jagat Prakash Nadda, who has consistently emphasized the integration of sustainability into healthcare governance. He strongly believes that "healthcare institutions must lead by example in promoting green practices, waste reduction and environmental awareness as part of a holistic approach to public health." AIIMS Jammu's initiative to eliminate plastic water bottles is a reflection of this broader policy vision. Prof (Dr) Shakti Kumar Gupta said, "As healthcare professionals, we have a responsibility not only towards human health but also towards the health of our environment. This initiative is to foster a culture of sustainability within healthcare institutions." Dr Gupta added that Col. Sanjay Garg, Deputy Director (Administration) AIIMS Jammu, will play a pivotal role in

the implementation of this initiative across the Institute. His meticulous planning, supervision and coordination with various Departments will have an edge in ensuring timely execution and adoption of the initiative across all verticals. From logistics and procurement to sensitization drives among staff, his administrative leadership will build a cohesive movement towards sustainability. The use of plastic water bottles has been prohibited across all areas of the campus, including all official meetings, conferences, workshops, CMEs, seminars and institutional events. This also includes all external visits, collaborations and programs conducted within the premises. To support this transition, AIIMS Jammu has introduced a variety of sustainable alternatives. Glass bottles will be used for official guests, while reusable steel and copper bottles are being encouraged for daily use by faculty, staff, and students.

Water dispensers fitted with biodegradable cups will be installed in all meeting and common areas. In outdoor or traditional settings, the use of clay or earthen pots (matkas) will be promoted, combining environmental sensitivity with cultural heritage. "This is not just an administrative measure—it is a call to action," Dr. Gupta added. "It reflects our commitment to lead by example and create a model of sustainable healthcare administration." With this major step, AIIMS Jammu emerges as a responsible and environmentally conscious Institute. The initiative reinforces the Institute's broader mission—not only to deliver excellence in patient care, education and research—but also to execute environment sustainable practices in the healthcare sector. AIIMS Jammu proudly joins the national movement towards a Swasth, Swachh, and Harit Bharat—a Healthier, Cleaner and Greener India.

YCET organizes 3-days Educational Tour to Dalhousie-McLeod Ganj



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 14: The Yoganagar College of Engineering and Technology (YCET), Jammu organized an Educational Tour to "Dalhousie-McLeod Ganj-HP." for the students of 6th & 4th Semesters Civil Engineering and Computer Science & Engineering. The prime aim and objective of the visit was to give Exposure to students and faculty. These Educational tours are a vital part of a well-rounded education, offering students opportunities to learn beyond the confines of a classroom. They provide a rich tapestry of experiences that enhance academic knowledge, foster personal growth, and prepare students for

the complexities of the modern world. By investing in educational tours, the benefits of educational tours for students help them to develop a lifelong love for learning and exploration. The visit was very refreshing & joyful. The students visited Dalhousie's Mall road, St. Francis Church, Indo Tibetan Market and Bhuri Singh Museum while at McLeodGanj, Dharamshala they witnessed Kala Chakra Temple, Dalai lama Temple, Bhagsu Nag Temple, Cricket stadium, St. John's Church. Tour offered an authentic, educational, and interactive travel experience. Thus, helped students to connect with a desti-

nation on a deeper level, immerse yourself in its culture and history, and explore the nooks and crannies that make each place unique. The Chairman (JGEI) Er. Vidhi Singh Jamwal, Vice-Chairman (JGEI) Th. Shiv Dev Singh Jamwal, MD (JGEI) Er. Renu Bangroo, Er. Dinesh Gupta, Dean (Academics), Er. B.R Verma (Chief- Coordinator) appreciated the initiative taken by college to organize this tour. The students were accompanied by Er. Rajnish Magotra, HOD, Deptt. of Civil Engineering, Er. Shivam sharma, (Assistant Professor), Deptt. of Civil Engineering & Er. Anikait Gupta (Assistant Professor) Deptt. of Civil Engineering.

Dogra Degree College NSS Unit marks Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's Birth Anniversary with documentary screening



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 14: To commemorate the 134th birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the NSS Unit of Dogra Degree College organized a moving and educational documentary screening that celebrated his life, vision, and lasting impact on Indian society. The event began with a warm welcome address by Heenam Bhagat, Assistant Professor in the Department of History, who reflected on Dr. Ambedkar's extraordinary contributions to social justice, education, and equality. She emphasized the importance of remembering his legacy in today's times. Held under the overall guidance of Dr. Bela Thakur, Principal of Dogra Degree College, the event saw active support from Simran Thakur, NSS Programme Officer. The

documentary showcased the life journey of Dr. Ambedkar—from his early challenges to his transformative role in drafting the Indian Constitution. Faculty members from various departments graced the occasion, including Balwant Singh Parihar, Head of the Department of B.A., and Rakesh Mohan Koul, Head of the Department of BBA & B.Com. Their presence added to the academic significance of the event. The program was well-coordinated by Shivangi Dhrora, an active NSS member, who also delivered the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all the dignitaries, faculty, and students who made the event meaningful. Through this initiative, the NSS Unit not only paid tribute to a national icon but also inspired students to carry forward his ideals of equality, dignity, and justice for all.

BJP IT Department felicitates Advocate Sheikh Salman on appointment as District President Srinagar



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 14: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) IT Department, Jammu & Kashmir, under the leadership of its State Head Advocate Ishant Gupta, today felicitated Advocate Sheikh Salman from Kashmir for his outstanding contributions and dedication towards the party's digital initiatives. Advocate Sheikh Salman, who has been serving diligently as the State Co-Incharge of the BJP IT Department, J&K, has now been entrusted with a significant new responsibility by the party. In recognition of his hard work and unwavering commitment, he has been appointed as the District President of BJP, Srinagar - a vital role aimed at strengthening the party's grassroots presence in the Kashmir region.

On his visit to the party headquarters in Jammu, Advocate Sheikh Salman was warmly congratulated by Advocate Ishant Gupta, along with Advocate Karan Sat Sharma (State IT Co-Incharge), Gaurav Balgotra (State IT Co-Incharge), and Danish Mishra (State Vice President, BJYM). The team appreciated his efforts and encouraged him to continue working with the same zeal and spirit. Speaking on the occasion, Advocate Ishant Gupta expressed confidence in Sheikh Salman's leadership and vision. "I am hopeful that under his leadership, the party will reach new heights in Srinagar. His dedication and commitment will undoubtedly help strengthen the BJP at the grassroots level and further expand our presence in the Kashmir region," he said.

Free Eye Screening Camp concludes in Sunderbani

Top News Report

SUNDERBANI, Apr 14: A beacon of hope shone bright in Sunderbani as a Free Eye Screening and Cataract Surgery OPD Camp under the Ayushman Bharat initiative concluded successfully at Ambika Diagnostic Centre, with services

The community responded with heartfelt gratitude as nearly 150 patients were screened, receiving much-needed care and consultation free of cost. The camp was organized through a noble collaboration between Ambika Eye Care Clinic (Eye Hospital) and Ambika Diagnostic Centre, with services

anchored by renowned eye specialist Dr. Khalid Ahmed Sheikh (MBBS, D.O.M.S.) — Ex-Consultant at the prestigious Dr. K.D. Eye Hospital, Jammu. From free eye check-ups and consultations to blood sugar testing, the camp provided a holistic healthcare touchpoint for underserved sections of society.

EDITORIAL

SILENT CRIES

In the quiet corners of homes, behind the glowing screens of mobile phones, and beneath the loud laughter in school corridors, there exists a silence too heavy to ignore. Youth suicide is not merely a number or statistic—it is a heartbreaking reality unraveling in shadows. Each instance represents a story interrupted, a dream broken, and a voice that was never truly heard.

The youth, often celebrated as the vibrant architects of tomorrow, are finding it increasingly difficult to navigate the emotional storms of today. The age of adolescence, a beautiful blend of curiosity, chaos, and becoming, has slowly transformed into a battlefield of unseen emotional struggles. Depression, anxiety, social alienation, and identity crises have become deeply embedded in the experiences of the young. According to the World Health Organization, suicide is now the fourth leading cause of death among individuals aged 15–29—a grim statistic that underscores the urgency of the issue.

One cannot pinpoint a single cause behind this silent epidemic, for it is a result of complex and layered realities. The rise of digital platforms has amplified peer pressure and created illusions of perfection, leading many youth to feel inadequate. Social media, while connecting the world, has also alienated many by fostering unhealthy comparisons, online bullying, and a distorted sense of self-worth. The burden of academic performance and societal expectations further crushes their ability to breathe freely. The constant fear of failure, of not being good enough, of not fitting in, slowly chips away at their mental well-being.

What makes the situation even more distressing is the cultural silence that surrounds mental health, especially in many South Asian societies. Emotional struggles are often dismissed as a phase, a sign of weakness, or simply “attention-seeking.” Young people are told to “stay strong” and “stop overthinking,” leaving them feeling misunderstood and isolated. The stigma around mental illness discourages them from reaching out for help. As a result, many choose silence over support, burying their pain under smiles.

Yet, there is hope. Suicide is preventable. The change must begin with awareness and compassion. We must break the stigma around mental health and begin having open conversations. Schools should include emotional education alongside academics, and teachers must be trained to recognize early warning signs such as withdrawal, mood swings, and expressions of hopelessness. Parents too must cultivate environments of trust—where children are not afraid to speak up, cry, or falter.

Accessible and affordable mental health services must be prioritized. Every school and college should have a counselor, and communities should run awareness campaigns that educate and empower. Social media platforms, too, can play a vital role by actively identifying and supporting users in distress. Strong anti-bullying policies, digital detox movements, and peer support networks can act as shields against the pressures youth face today.

Families, most importantly, must listen—not to respond, not to lecture, but to truly hear. The power of an empathetic conversation, a gentle hug, or a quiet presence can be life-saving. Ask twice when someone says they’re fine. Be the sanctuary where emotions can be expressed without fear of judgment. Let love be louder than silence.

Every suicide leaves behind a trail of what-ifs. What if someone had noticed the signs? What if they had someone to talk to? What if their pain had been met with understanding instead of denial? Suicide is not about wanting to die—it is about not wanting to live in unbearable pain. But when that pain is acknowledged and supported, the darkness can give way to dawn.

Let us, as a society, pledge to become more aware, more kind, and more proactive. Let us raise a generation that knows it is okay to not be okay, that asking for help is brave, and that healing is possible. Our youth are not broken—they are simply unheard. And now, more than ever, they need us to listen, to believe, and to walk with them into the light.

In the echo of every lost life is a message—a plea for change. Let’s not wait for another obituary to light a candle. Let us be the candle. Let us be the voice that whispers, you matter, you are loved, you are not alone.

By: Sanjaya Baru

One of US President Donald’s Trump’s favourite phrases is “I know all about it”. The social media is full of the number of things that Mr Trump knows all about. Clearly, he was not aware that the bond market could pull the red carpet from under his feet. When some Japanese began selling American bonds, the alarm bells went on in Washington and the man who said world leaders had queued up to oblige him and “kiss his ass”, suddenly retreated. Mr Trump’s tariff tantrum began with a bang and ended with a whisper. It may not have ended as yet, but the fizz has gone out.

The world will no longer take President Trump seriously, unless of course he switches from trade to territory, occupying the Panama Canal and planting the American flag on Greenland. Mr Trump’s destructive potential is still very high. After all, he is still the head of the most powerful government in the world. But with a head with not much to show for it. Any trickster can win an election. Running a government and managing a nation is an altogether different ball game.

A 90-day pause to hike in tariffs, with a 10 per cent across the board increase on all trading partners and a 145 per cent impost on China, remains in place. While this has brought some relief to the markets, it is not a reprieve from policy induced uncertainty. The whimsical manner in which President Trump has flip-flopped on a key policy instrument has had two consequences. It has created policy induced uncertainty on the economic front and broken trust between the United States and its allies and friends.

A key objective of the discipline of economics is to reduce uncertainty in the sphere of economic activity

of both firms and households. The discipline has tried to address this task based on two very different premises and perspectives. Mainstream economics, liberal and neo-liberal, addresses the challenge of uncertainty by developing theories and theorems about the behaviour of economic agents and the impact of economic instruments on human behaviour. Homo economicus is expected to respond, *ceteris paribus* or “all other things being equal”, in certain predictable and rational manner to different economic signals.

An alternative view has been that the actions and reactions of a multitude of individuals and firms are unlikely to produce predictable outcomes. To reduce uncertainty in the flows of income, the supply of goods, in savings and investment and so on it is best for the government to step in, plan investment, assign prices and so on. A socialist, planned and regulated economy tries to reduce uncertainty by increasing the role assigned to the government in the economy. Even in market-based, private sector-dominated economies, a government is expected to intervene to reduce uncertainty. Yet, every now and then government intervention can have the consequence not of reducing uncertainty but of inducing uncertainty. The demonetisation of currency notes is one such intervention that destabilises economic activity by inducing uncertainty both for firms and households. Indians are familiar with the destabilising consequences of economic uncertainty induced by the demonetisation decision of November 2018. US President Donald Trump’s flip-flops on tariffs is another example of the head of government inducing uncertainty with whimsical decision-making. Political leaders are elected to public office not to cause greater distress to firms and households but to create an

environment of stability and predictability. Granted that President Trump wanted to disrupt rather than stabilise. Disruption, however, is a one-way street, and a journey without maps. An institutional response in most democracies to the likely disruptions that can be caused by whimsical and dictatorial governance has been to create checks and balances and due process in decision-making. This would not only give an opportunity for different views to get expressed, but also afford time to all actors to consider and calculate the likely impact of alternative policies. That is why the American Constitution requires major policy decisions to be vetted by the United States Congress, and the Indian Constitution has created an upper and lower house of Parliament. When authoritarian heads of even a democratic government circumvent democratic institutions, bypassing institutional checks and balances, and dramatically announce ill-considered policy decisions, they impose a cost on the economy and on all players, firms and households. In theory free market, private enterprise economies are supposed to have their own internal stabilisers but when policy induced uncertainty gets in the way, the markets get perplexed. Yet, it is market dynamics that finally forced President Trump’s hand. Perhaps it is not just the bond market that held Mr Trump’s hand. Consider the protests in cities across the United States. Even if Mr Trump could dismiss them as Democrats and their protests as a demonstration of Opposition frustration, as often happens in India with ruling political parties, even Republicans began to have second thoughts. The growing anger within the US Congress and the summary manner in which the Trump administration officials were being upbraided in congressional hearings did find

public resonance. Finally, there was global public opinion and the reaction of friends and allies to consider. India of course decided that discretion was the better part of valour. The Prime Minister, the minister for commerce and industries and the normally communicative external affairs minister chose to remain silent, making hopeful references to the early completion of an India-US bilateral trade agreement (BTA). Even as discussions on a BTA are going on, the 10 per cent tariff hike is now in place and on this much has not been said as yet, except a proforma statement by the commerce minister that India will not accept any “deal at gunpoint” and that it will adopt an “India First” policy. Finally, the most important political outcome of the Trump Tariff Tantrum has been a sudden and massive loss of global trust in the present American leadership. From neighbours Canada to distant partners Japan, from European allies to friends in Asia like Singapore, and indeed India, most countries are going to be very wary of imposing any trust in the Trump administration. The combination of arrogance and incompetence, that we often see in the Indian political leadership across the spectrum, has now come to define the Trump administration. Who would want to risk trusting such a whimsical leadership?

(The writer is an author, a former newspaper editor and adviser to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh)

Smartphone, the era of Artificial Intelligence led to the growing trend of youth towards books

By: Vijay Garg

Books give us wisdom as our guide, a friend, a guru and pave the way for success in every task. Books have been an important source of knowledge for centuries. More than a crore manuscripts connect India’s knowledge-tradition with our golden period in a very reinforce form. These manuscripts also provide important information about mathematics, science, astrology, ayurveda, astronomical and architecture, not just about our religion and cultures, and also provide us with the right information of knowledge-traditions, cultures, art and culture of that time. Imagine, if Maharishi Valmiki had not written the Ramayana and read it, Tulsidas had not composed Sriramcharitmanas, would we have known the Maryada Purushottam Sriram. Could there be about 331 versions ready in different languages of Ramayana. Today books are available in both printed and e-book forms. Knowledge is also found through various individuals’ blags, YouTube channels, and other internet mediums, but printed books have their own distinct significance. There was a time when readers were extremely in need of libraries, but now libraries as well as readers have more sources of knowledge, but the importance of books was in the past, also in the present and will remain in the future, as there is no substitute for books. Their form can change, they can be in the

form of audio or ebook.

Information Scientist F. W. Lanchester had made a prediction in 1980 that by the end of the 20th century completely we would be paperless, but from then till now the use of paper has increased, has not decreased. These are true that we are moving towards the digital age with great speed, but the use of printed books is still important today. No matter what the subject content is in the form of an ebook, but even today most people like to take out a print of it and read.

future telling the crowd

An idea that has sat down in everyone’s brain that everything is available on the internet has to change us. It is true that there is a lot of enlightening information on the internet. Also there is a store of false, unproven, biased and misguided knowledge on the internet. The greatest loss by the use of such knowledge is that our education and research can go in the wrong direction. The World Book Fair that is held every year in the Pragati Maidan (Bharat Mandapam), here’s a multitude of youth in the number of international publishers and booklovers reflecting hope that the trend towards printed books has not diminished.

Truly books are the mirror of the society. If we need to know about society, art, literature, culture, politics and any other subject of a country, there can be no source important from books. To write a book the author studies a lot of references and presents the

example of Nutan knowledge by storing the knowledge available in them by reading those references i.e. books, magazines, etc. In the coming times, this knowledge has the importance for the country, for the society and the world, all these knowledge provides us with books. Also Read - Not only career, also brightens health, the habit of reading a book, meets these 4 unmatched benefits have to change the way of teaching Yun we blame on the missing new generation in the ebook that they are more indifferent than the earlier generation of them towards the books, but for this somewhere our education system and teachers are also responsible. Our teachers do not give as much time as they should. They should use more and more books in education system like case based, story telling and project based etc. We all know that the stories of grandparents, maternal grandparents, who they had told us in childhood still remember us today. We have to make our entire education-system interesting whether to narrate the narrative, through book competition or quiz contest, in some form youngsters have to join the books. In the subject of books, youth has to create curiosity. Must increase study habits.

Such a improving situation Over the years, regional book fairs and literary fairs organized by Indian government entities and other entities have seen some encouraging growth. This is an auspicious

sign. In this direction some good efforts have been made in the new education system 2020, but the most important attempt will be to abstract their meaningfulness to make the status of libraries good. By leveraging technology and certain strategies, we can further sharpen the reading process and reading interest in the youth. This requires encouraging platforms such as the National Digital Library of India and other Digital Repagitories, Archives Project, Gutenberg, providing free reading material. Book clubs in schools and colleges, story telling sessions and debate disputes and other competitions can be organized. Use gamification techniques, such as reward based reading apps, to increase reading habit. Short forms on Instagram, YouTube and Twitter can promote book reviews and discussions. Schools, libraries and public places have to set up good modern libraries for comfortable seating and reading diverse books. An effort to increase interest in the study of books will also have to be made by the family’s side, because the children learn what they see.

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

National College of Education celebrates Dr. B.R Ambedkar's Birth Anniversary



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 14: NSS Unit of National College of Education Purkhoo Camp Domana organized a series of activities to celebrate the birth anniversary of Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian constitution.

The event was organized under the able guidance of the college

Principal Dr. Manju Dwivedi. The series of meaningful activities including pledge, speeches and quiz competition were organised to spread awareness about the work and contribution of Dr Ambedkar. These activities served as a platform to understand the contribution of Dr Ambedkar as the champion of social justice and equitable society. Pro-

gramme officer Yashumati Jamwal appreciated the support and the energetic involvement of the students in making the event a success. Dean Administration Ajay Jamwal and the faculty members who graced the occasion by their presence were Neetu Sharma, Anisha Jamwal, Meenakshi Sharma, Puja Gupta, Payal Sethi, Deepika Jasrotia and others.

Ambedkar called for working towards unity, harmony, brotherhood to steer India to become Vishwa Guru: Kaith

Top News Report

R S PURA, Apr 14: To celebrate the birthday of Baba Saheb Dr B.R. Ambedkar, social and political activists organised a function at R.S.Pura's Gegan, in which a large number of people from all walks of life participated.

Paying tribute to Baba Saheb on the occasion, R.L. Kaith said, Dr Ambedkar was a legal luminary, visionary statesman, outstanding constitutional expert, brilliant parliamentarian and social reformer. He was the voice of the socially oppressed and



dedicated his life to the upliftment of the marginalized sections of society. His iconic life and noble thoughts continued to guide the nation. Besides, he called for working towards the unity, harmony and brotherhood to steer India to become Vishwa Guru. Also speaking, Gurdev Raj said, today,

we honour the profound legacy of Baba Saheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution and a beacon of social justice.

His tireless efforts and visionary leadership continue to inspire generations, reminding us of the importance of equality, education, and inclusivity in our society.

GDC Thannamandi celebrates Ambedkar Jayanti with fervour

Top News Report

THANNAMANDI, Apr 14: The NSS Unit of Government Degree College (GDC) Thannamandi celebrated Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Jayanti with fervour and gaiety as part of Viksit Bharat@2047 Abhiyan here on Monday.

On this occasion the NSS Unit under the patronage of Prof. (Dr.) Farooq Ahmed, Principal of College, organized a series of engaging and thought-provoking activities from April 12-14th to commemorate the 134th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, the chief architect of the Indian Constitution and a champion of social justice. Prof. Supriya Gupta, NSS Program Officer in college, coordinated the activities. The celebration commenced with a solemn pledge on the Preamble to the Constitution, reaffirming the core values of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity. Faculty members, NSS volunteers, and students came together to honour the legacy of Dr. Ambedkar and to reiterate their commitment to the prin-

ciples enshrined in the Constitution. As part of the observance, an extension lecture was delivered by Dr. Ashaq Malik, Co-ordinator IQAC, who shed light on the monumental contributions of Dr. Ambedkar in shaping modern India. His lecture emphasized the enduring relevance of constitutional values in today's socio-political context and inspired the audience to uphold these ideals in their daily lives. In addition, an online quiz competition titled

"Know Your Constitution" was conducted, attracting enthusiastic participation from a large number of students. The quiz aimed to enhance awareness about the Indian Constitution and Dr. Ambedkar's visionary role. Participants who qualified in the quiz received e-certificates recognizing their achievement and civic awareness. Prof. Farooq Ahmed lauded the efforts of the organizers and encouraged students to imbibe the values championed by Dr. Ambedkar.

Ambedkar considered education as most powerful tool for social change: Balbir

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 14: Balbir Ram Rattan, spokesperson, Jammu and Kashmir BJP and former Vice Chairperson, said that Dr. B.R. Ambedkar considered education as the most powerful medium for social change and worked towards ensuring equal rights for every citizen of the country. He was discussing the life of Dr. Ambedkar in a meeting with senior workers of the BJP SC Morcha. Balbir stated that Dr. Ambedkar was of the view that education was the force that could lead marginalized sections of society towards justice, equality, and dignity. He himself faced social discrimination and injustice in his life, but through the power of education, he overcame it and proved that there is no greater weapon than education.

Army, Aseem Foundation light up Simari

Top News Report

KARNAH, Apr 14: In a remarkable stride towards inclusive development and national service, Simari—a remote border village in the Karnah Valley of Jammu & Kashmir—has been completely electrified and made LPG-enabled. This transformation has been made possible through a joint initiative by the Indian Army's Vajr Division and the Aseem Foundation, under the aegis of Chinara Corps. Nestled along the Line of Control, with part of it falling in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, Simari holds immense strategic and democratic significance as India's Polling Booth No. 1. For decades, residents of this isolated village lived with minimal access to electricity and relied on

traditional, often hazardous, cooking methods. That reality changed with the installation of solar microgrids and distribution of clean LPG cooking kits to all 53 households in the village—ushering in a new era of comfort, health, and opportunity. This heartfelt initiative has been dedicated to the memory of Colonel Santosh Mahadik, Shaurya Chakra, Sena Medal, who sacrificed his life in the service of the nation. In a moving ceremony, his mother Kalinda Mahadik and Sarang Gosavi, Founder and MD of Aseem Foundation, jointly inaugurated the solar electrification system on April 14, 2025. The inauguration event was attended by over 300 villagers, including women, children, local elders, media person-



nel, and civil dignitaries. Emotions ran high as the village celebrated the arrival of clean energy and paid homage to a hero whose legacy now lights up homes at India's edge. This collaborative effort underscores the Indian Army's evolving role beyond traditional defence—positioning it as a key driver of development under the

Government of India's Vibrant Villages Programme. By bringing sustainable energy and dignity to the remotest corners of the country, the Army continues to stand as a beacon of progress and nation-building. The Aseem Foundation, renowned for its work in rural electrification and clean energy across Jammu & Kash-

mir, played a pivotal role in implementing this project. Its focus on innovation, inclusion, and grassroots development continues to empower communities and bridge the gaps in India's border regions. The Simari project is not just about power—it is about hope, resilience, and honouring the spirit of those who serve.

Cleanliness Drive at Navdurga Dedhni Mata Temple promotes eco-friendly yatra : LFO-BHF



Top News Report

DODA, Apr 14: Live For Others-Being Helpful Foundation, in collaboration with 48 Rashtriya Rifles and Talla Jewellers, organized a two-day Cleanliness Drive at Navdurga Dedhni Mata Temple, Khellani, beginning on 13th August 2025. The drive was flagged off by Harvinder Singh, Deputy Commissioner, Doda, in the presence of Surjeet Gandhi (Naib Tehsildar, Khellani), Akshay Parihar (JKAS, BDO Khellani), the Major of 48 Rashtriya Rifles, Principals of local schools, and the Station Incharge of Khellani Police Post. Around 150 students and 20 volunteers, including 11 from New Standard Higher Secondary School, actively participated. DC Doda assured full support for future initiatives and engaged with students and volunteers to

emphasize the importance of cleanliness in rural and religious areas. Speaking on the occasion, Karan Sharma highlighted the Foundation's commitment to involving youth in social causes and appreciated the cooperation of the administration and armed forces. On the second day, volunteers ensured a smooth and eco-friendly yatra by distributing cloth bags, restricting plastic use, and preventing the entry of smoking items, with support from 48 RR and local police. Twenty waste-filled bags were collected and handed to the temple committee, along with installed dustbins for permanent use. The drive concluded with a group photograph featuring volunteers, DYSP Doda, and the Major of 48 RR, marking a successful collaboration for environmental responsibility.

Horticulture Development Office and Training Centre inaugurated at Saspol



Top News Report

LEH, Apr 14: The newly constructed Horticulture Development Office and Training Centre at Saspol was inaugurated, marking an important step towards strengthening horticulture infrastructure in the region. Advocate Tashi Gyalson, CEC, LAHDC Leh, attended the ceremony as the Chief Guest, along with Executive Councillor for Horticulture, Ghulam Mehdi, and DC/CEO, LAHDC Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve, as the Guest of Honour. The programme began with a welcome address by Tsewang Punchock, Director, Horticulture, UT Ladakh. In his keynote address, EC Ghulam Mehdi highlighted the progress made in the horticulture sector since Ladakh became a Union Territory. He expressed appreciation to CEC Advocate Tashi Gyalson for his continued support and vision in strengthening

the department. Emphasising horticulture as a sustainable sector, he said it can offer long-term benefits for local farmers and future generations, especially in times when sectors like tourism may face challenges. The event featured a vibrant traditional dance performance by students of Government Higher Secondary School, Saspol, adding a cultural touch to the occasion. Among others, the event was attended by the Director, Horticulture; Chief Horticulture Officer, Leh; SDM Likir; Horticulture Development Officer, Leh; and Horticulture Development Officer, Khaltai. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Chief Horticulture Officer, Kunzang Wangmo, who expressed gratitude to all dignitaries and stakeholders for their presence and continued support to the horticulture sector in Ladakh.

Ghulam Hassan Mir leads delegation to Nadihal Rafiabab for condolence visit

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Apr 14: Apni Party's Senior Vice President, Ghulam Hassan Mir, on Monday led a delegation of party leaders to Nadihal Rafiabab in Baramulla to extend condolences to party colleague Shabir Ahmad and his family on the passing of his beloved mother. The mother of Shabir Ahmad — DDC member from Nadihal Rafiabab and party in-charge for the Baramulla constituency, left for her heavenly abode on Saturday. According to a press release issued here, during this condolence visit Ghulam Hassan Mir was accompanied



by Provincial Secretary and Chairman DDC Srinagar Aftab Malik, District President Baramulla Shabir Ahmad Shah, Youth Leader Shoaib Dar, and others. The leaders met Shabir Ahmad and other members of the bereaved family, extending their solidarity over the immense loss. On this occasion, they prayed for eternal peace for the

departed soul and for strength and patience for the bereaved to endure the pain of this irreparable loss. They also conveyed a message of condolence on behalf of the party President, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari, to the bereaved family members and said that the entire party leadership stands in solidarity with them in this hour of grief.

For Amitt K Singh, the soul of the project and the director's vision are more important than the platform

Amitt K Singh's latest role as Reza in Mohrey is a far cry from the brave police officer he portrayed in Bhaukaal. He takes on a character unlike any he has portrayed before, showcasing a deeper emotional complexity and fresh approach to his craft.

As he is ready to reprise his role in Season 2, he says, "Reza has different shades to his character. He's impulsive, unpredictable, and his background and surroundings are very different from all the cast. Which was challenging yet fun to explore this character," he explains. His commitment to authenticity comes through in his work, as he notes that if an actor is true to his craft, the audience will naturally connect to the character. "I don't focus on making it relatable for the audience, I only try not to show 'effort' while shooting and be present in the moment," Amitt shares.

Evolution of an actor

Looking back at his journey, Amitt credits his growth to the passage of time and experience. "An actor grows with time and experience," he says. "For me, understanding the character, knowing the soul of the project, how my character is leading the story, and the director's vision are more important than



the medium or platform."

His transition from television to digital was a smooth one, as he views every project as an opportunity for learning. In fact, Amitt has a distinctive take on television. "I've never done any television show for more than three months. Somehow, I feel I'm unfit for that format," he admits, though he's open to surprises.

New projects

With his repertoire spanning diverse roles, from the sci-fi grandeur of Mission Mangal to the gritty crime thriller of Mohrey, Amitt isn't looking to be boxed into any one genre. In fact, a rom-com is high on his wishlist. "I am awaiting the opportunity to try my hands at

a genre that's often a departure from the intense characters I've portrayed so far."

Fans can also look forward to more intriguing roles in the near future. "A feature film Wahham, based on a true story, is set to release next year, where I'm playing a CBI officer along with Vijay Raaz," he reveals. Additionally, he's also involved in an international project, Courage, where he plays a doctor living in the US. "It was the official entry at The Festival de Cine Global de Santo Domingo (FCGSD) this season."

The changing landscape

With the changing contours of the industry and the rise of digital platforms, Amitt is optimistic about the future of content. "OTT

and 'current cinema' (excluding commercial) have definitely given more opportunities to talented actors," he says, acknowledging the increasing chances for actors to push their limits and perform in unique, diverse roles. "The content they are creating has a lot more chances for an actor to perform." It's this sense of opportunity that excites him about the future.

Beyond acting

When he's not acting, Amitt enjoys exploring other facets of life. "I love travelling, reading, and watching good cinema," he shares. These hobbies keep him grounded and creative, allowing him to continue honing his craft during downtime. "I also keep doing workshops when I'm not shooting," he adds, further emphasising his dedication to continual learning.

True to the craft

For Amitt, the journey is more about authenticity than perfection. Reflecting on his past roles, he says, "I'm a secure actor. Revisiting or doing things differently won't do any good. What I did was the best I could have done at that particular moment of being." This philosophy guides his work, allowing him to stay true to the essence of each character he portrays.

Actress Esha Pathak talks about the challenges of wearing a lehenga in hot weather



Weddings on television might look like a dreamy affair with stunning outfits, dazzling sets and romantic music, but behind the scenes it's a whole

different story. Esha Pathak, who plays the character Gauri in Sun Neo's show Rishto Se Bandhi Gauri, is currently shooting for one of the biggest highpoints

of the story - Gauri and Rudra's wedding. And while she looks breathtaking as a bride, the experience of shooting in such a heavy lehenga during summer is no easy task.

About the challenges she faces, Esha shared, "Right now, with so much drama going on in the show, my character is finally getting married to Rudra. And for the wedding, they've given me an extremely heavy lehenga to wear and in this heat it's definitely challenging. When we shoot scenes in such heavy costumes, it definitely gets tough. Moving around in this heavy lehenga is not easy at all. And if there's no AC or less ventilation, it becomes even more suffocating because of the weight and heat. But we still manage it, because the love and appreciation we get from the audience makes it all worth it."

Lady Gaga brings 'Mayhem' to the masses at Coachella

American singer Lady Gaga returned to a massive audience for the first time in eight years to headline the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival, dancing with model skeletons, fighting a dancer dressed as a monster and serving up a surprise encore.

"Welcome to my house of mayhem," the "Poker Face" singer said from the stage. Lady Gaga weaved together songs from her 2025 "Mayhem" album as well as older ones, including "Judas," "Born This Way," and "Poker Face."

"I love you," she said several times during the two-hour concert. In typically flamboyant style, she raced through costume changes, including a red gown, a black leotard, a feathery white dress and metallic armour with a cape.

Lady Gaga, an LGBTQ+ icon who affectionately calls her fans "Little Monsters," is known for activism within the community and openness about being a bisexual. Some men in the audience hugged and kissed, shouting their love for the 39-year-old.

Her 2011 song, "Born This Way," was dubbed a "gay anthem," eventually spawning her Born This Way Foundation, with the goal to end "bullying and promote mental health awareness, particularly within the LGBTQ+ community." The singer, songwriter and actor is known for upbeat pop music that incorporates electro-pop, dance, rock, house, jazz and experimental genres.

She is set to perform a series of concerts for her 2025 Mayhem Ball tour for



her "Mayhem" album.

"Mayhem" made its way to number one on the Billboard 200 chart, becoming her seventh chart-topping album. It also debuted at number one on the UK Albums Chart.

Her top-charting songs from the album include "Die With a Smile," which was a collaboration with singer Bruno Mars, and "Abracadabra." Lady Gaga filled in as Coachella headliner in 2017 for Beyonce after the "Cowboy Carter" singer dropped out when her doctors advised her to avoid a rigorous schedule, according to a statement posted to the festival's official Facebook page.

Beat route: For the Punjabi music industry, Canada is now both a launch pad and terra firma

When the 54th Juno Awards 2025, Canada's premium awards night, unfolded in Vancouver, it had a new category — South Asian Music Recording of the Year — specially constituted to recognise and celebrate the massive growth of South Asian music. To no one's surprise, the nomination list was dominated by Punjabi singers, including AP Dhillon, Karan Aujla, Chani Nattan, Inderpal Moga, Jazzy B and Jonita Gandhi. 'Arul', a fusion album of Carnatic and hip-hop by Tamil artistes Yan- chan Rajmohan and Sandeep Narayan, was the only other nomination. It was a testament to Punjabi music's growing prominence in the maple leaf country. Dhillon was the winner in this category.

Dhillon, Aujla and new entrant Sukha featured across other categories as well. Aujla, who won the TikTok Juno Fan Choice award last year, was again nominated for the award. Dhillon was nominated in the Breakthrough Artiste or Group of the Year category. The proceedings at the ceremony began with a performance by Jazzy B, Chani Nattan and Inderpal Moga.

If Diljit Dosanjh is the trailblazer behind the global appeal of Punjabi music, and Aujla has successfully synergised Bollywood and Punjabi music, it's the new generation of artistes that is charting a fresh course. These youngsters may not have any formal training, but they are gaining global recognition and creating waves in the industry.

Take Sukha, a rising star from Toronto. His songs '8 Asle' and 'Godfather' have resonated with audiences far and wide. His unique blend of traditional Punjabi sounds with modern beats is captivating listeners, while the signature dastar (turban) adds to his distinct style.

Harkirat Sangha of 'Gucci Gucci' fame may soon gain glory like the late Sidhu Moosewala, who also started his journey to stardom from Canada. Sangha blends classic Punjabi melodies with contemporary beats, creating music that appeals to both the traditional and the modern audiences.

Not far behind is the Punjabi pop duo of Grewal and Pathania, better known as Zehr Vibe. The two young artistes are already creating an impact. They fuse traditional Punjabi elements with modern influences, making their music accessible to a broader audience.

Boom & Boon

The Punjabi music scene in Canada is witnessing an explosion, with many young talented artistes coming from diverse backgrounds. They are experimenting with a fusion of styles,



often incorporating western music elements such as hip-hop, R&B and electronic music into traditional Punjabi music. This blending of genres is not only refreshing, but is also reflective of the multicultural fabric of Canadian society.

The integration of Punjabi music into mainstream events has further amplified its reach. Local basketball league matches and hockey games quite often feature Punjabi tracks during the interval, creating a lively atmosphere that resonates with fans. This crossover appeal is helping to break down cultural barriers, introducing Punjabi music to audiences who may have never experienced it before.

Live shows have become a cornerstone of this musical renaissance. Venues across Canada are increasingly hosting Punjabi musical events, drawing large crowds eager to celebrate their culture.

Punjabi artistes are also leveraging social media and streaming platforms to take their craft to a wider audience. Platforms like YouTube, Spotify and Apple Music have democratised music distribution, allowing the young artistes to share their music without the need for traditional record labels.

Accessibility & Availability
Surrey-based film and music video director Navjit Buttar says there are no restrictions, reservations or monopolies in the music industry any longer. "It is the best time to create, sell and enjoy Punjabi music," he adds.

Another advantage that Canada offers is the accessibility and availability of music studios because back home in Punjab, most artistes often face long waiting periods to either book music studios or get collaboration opportunities with producers. This ease of access has resulted in a surge of self-produced tracks, with artistes like Sukha and Sangha utilising the easily available technology

to create and distribute their music independently.

These small but technically sound music studios, often located in basements, are enabling singers to record and produce their songs in cost-effective settings. Guntaj, a leading Punjabi singer with Vancouver-based indie-pop band Hazard, is quick to add, "I could never imagine releasing a single in Punjab due to financial constraints and lack of support. But here in Canada, a friend handles all my technical work. I don't need any major label's backing. I can release my song on Instagram or TikTok."

Canada-based Punjabi artistes have also been able to blend traditional Punjabi sounds because of their broader exposure to Gen Z influences and slangs, creating a fresh, engaging sound that gels with younger audiences. This balance is something that artistes in Punjab often struggle to achieve, as many still rely on chaste Punjabi.

Collaborations, a new trend
In this evolving landscape, collaborations have become a major trend. Young artistes are teaming up with established names and performers from different genres, creating cross-cultural projects that expand their reach. Aujla's recent collaboration with pop band OneRepublic has garnered attention, bridging the gap between Punjabi music and the English music industry. These collaborations are not only introducing Punjabi music to new audiences (mostly white), but also enriching the artistes' creative process, allowing them to draw from each other's strengths.

Community role

As the Punjabi music scene continues to flourish in Canada, the role of the community in supporting and nurturing young talent has been tremendous. Local music studios, cultural organisations and mentorship programmes are helping aspiring musicians hone their craft and gain exposure. Various

public events celebrating Punjabi culture, such as Baisakhi and other cultural fairs, often feature local artistes, providing them with a platform to perform and connect with their heritage.

"This support system is crucial in fostering a new generation of artistes, keen to innovate and also committed to preserving the Punjabi music tradition," says Surrey-based Jaswinder Dilwari, managing director, Canada Tabloid. Other stakeholders from the industry such as producer-lyricist Bunty Bains are happy to see the increasing demand for Punjabi artistes to perform in Canada and North America. "We are seeing a surge in requests for performances by Punjabi artistes," he notes. Artistes like Josh Brar and Beant Kaur get dozens of calls daily to perform, underscoring the growing interest in Punjabi culture and music.

Winner of hearts

Diljit Dosanjh's appearances in Coachella Music and Arts Festival and the Jimmy Fallon Show have only broadened the appeal and reach of Punjabi artistes. Dosanjh's performances have introduced Punjabi music to newer audiences, making people sit up and take notice. His collaborations with global artistes have led to a ripple effect, encouraging other Punjabi musicians to seek similar opportunities.

Hollywood celebrities like Will Smith have followed Dosanjh on social media, while his collaborations with international artistes such as Australian singer Sia, English artiste Ed Sheeran and American Camila Cabello have taken Punjabi rhythms to a wider audience. Dosanjh's proclamation before every concert, "Punjabi aa gaye oye", sounds just about right.

— The writer is an entertainment professional based in Canada

Ease of making music

— The music industry in Canada presents many unique opportunities, often unattainable for artistes in Punjab. The country offers a more flexible and supportive environment for singers.

— One of the most significant challenges in Punjab is the financial burden associated with music production. A song's release can cost anywhere between

— Rs 7 lakh and Rs 10 lakh covering expenses like songwriting, production, shooting, marketing, etc. In Canada, the same process can often be completed for as little as \$2,000 (less than Rs 2 lakh). This affordability also allows artistes to be more experimental.

'Real humour is effortless, says actor Sidharth Sagar



Sidharth Sagar, a well-known name in the world of comedy, continues to entertain audiences with his impeccable timing and unique brand of humour. Having won hearts with his performances in Comedy Circus and The Kapil Sharma Show, Sidharth has now ventured into the digital space with his YouTube show What Non Sense.

The show has been gaining traction, thanks to its spontaneous humor and relatable content.

When asked about the concept of What Non Sense and how it aligns with evolving audience tastes, Sidharth describes it as a 'non-sensical funny podcast made purely for entertainment'. He believes that the show's appeal lies in its simplicity and spontaneity. "The comedy I do cannot be majorly written; it's more about physical humour, expressions, characterisation and spontaneous wit. That's what makes it funny and unique and I'm sure audiences will love it," he shares enthusiastically.

One of the show's standout features is Sidharth's ability to effortlessly slip into different avatars. He believes that versatility in comedy comes naturally to him. "Comedy should be effortless. The moment you try too hard, it loses its charm. Real humour is effortless."

The show keeps up with trending topics, and much of its success is credited to writer Mahesh Bhalla. "We keep trending topics in mind while conceptualising episodes. Mahesh Bhalla brings fresh ideas to the table, ensuring each episode is unique and engaging," says Sidharth.

Country dedicated to social justice due to Ambedkar's inspiration: PM Modi

NEW DELHI, Apr 14 (Agencies): Paying tributes to Bhim Rao Ambedkar on his birth anniversary, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday that it is due to his inspiration that the country is today dedicated to realising the dream of social justice.

His principles and ideas will strengthen and speed up the building of an 'aatmanirbhar' (self-reliant) and developed India, Modi said on X.

Later, Modi joined a number of other dignitaries, including President Droupadi Murmu, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and leaders of opposition in both Houses Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge, among others, in Parliament to pay homage to Ambedkar.

Ambedkar is recognised for his lifelong struggle for the empowerment of Scheduled Castes and his key role in drafting the Constitution.



Born in a Dalit family in 1891, he was a brilliant student who went on to study in foreign countries. The discrimination he suffered in Indian society turned him into a committed social reformer. He was India's first law minister. He died in 1956.

Modi government only pays lip service to Ambedkar, BJP-RSS his enemies: Kharge



NEW DELHI, Apr 14 (Agencies): Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday accused the Modi government of paying only "lip service" to B R Ambedkar's legacy but doing nothing to fulfil his wishes, and claimed the BJP-RSS were "enemies" of the architect of the Constitution.

Hitting out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his criticism of the Congress' treatment of Ambedkar, Kharge cited a letter by Ambedkar in which he blamed S A Dange and V D Savarkar for his defeat in the elections of 1952.

Speaking to reporters on the occasion of Ambedkar's birth anniversary, Kharge stressed the need for a nationwide caste census as well as implementation of reservation for SCs, STs and OBCs in private educational

institutions.

He said the Constitution is a gift from Ambedkar to citizens as it gives them the right of social, economic and political justice.

"In the AICC session, we have taken this forward. We forwarded the ideas of social justice in the AICC session," he said.

said the Congress wants to forward five issues that it is striving for and asserted that a nationwide caste census is necessary.

"The Centre is making policies on the basis of the 2011 census and nothing is known about the 2021 census that was supposed to happen. Policies are made on the basis of census. We demand that along with the general census, a caste census should also be conducted so as to know how much

which section has progressed," he said.

The Congress president said the government is not ready to get a caste census done.

He also asserted that the fundamental guarantee given under Article 15(5), introduced by the Congress on January 20, 2006, to provide reservation to OBCs, SCs and STs in private educational institutions must be implemented without delay.

He also highlighted the need for a central law for the SC/ST sub-plan and guarantee budgetary allocations in accordance with their population.

Kharge stressed the need to remove the 50 per cent cap on reservations.

The Congress president said that when the Women's Reservation Bill was passed two years ago, the party's demand was that it should be implemented immediately and there should be a quota for SC, ST and OBC women under it.

"The Modi government takes the name of Ambedkar but is not ready to fulfil his aspirations and wishes. They only pay lip service," he said.

Situation in violence-hit areas of Murshidabad peaceful: Police

KOLKATA, Apr 14 (Agencies): The situation in violence-hit areas of Murshidabad district, mainly Suti, Samserganj, Dhulian, Jangipur and Jangipur, was peaceful and under control on Monday, a senior police officer said.

Prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) remain in force in the violence-hit pockets where the roads were a deserted look and shops downed their shutters.

The internet remains suspended in the affected areas while security forces are conducting checks on vehicles along the main roads.

Three people have died and several others injured in the violence which raged in Suti, Dhulian, Samserganj



and Jangipur areas since Friday afternoon but there was no report of any fresh incident from anywhere in the district.

A total of 180 people have been arrested in connection with the violence following protests against the Waqf (Amendment) Act till Saturday afternoon, he said.

"The situation in and around these disturbed areas is peaceful and under control. There is no report of any untoward

"Every year, record airline passengers": PM highlights air travel growth

HISAR, Apr 14 (Agencies): Reiterating his party's commitment to fulfilling the dream of 'Viksit Haryana, Viksit Bharat', Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said, "When the BJP assigned me the duties for Haryana, I, along with several of my party companions, worked here."

"Their hard work has strengthened the BJP in Haryana, and I am proud that the BJP is extremely serious and working to fulfil the dream of 'Viksit Haryana, Viksit Bharat'," he said in his public address after launching the first commercial flight from Hisar to Ayodhya and laying the foundation stone of terminal-2 building at the Maharaja Agrasen Airport in Hisar that is expected to be completed within two years.

The airport terminal will be built at an estimated cost of over Rs 410 crore and is part of PM Modi's vision to make air travel safer, more affordable, and accessible to all.

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, along with several state ministers, attended the event.

PM Modi said, "Before 2014, there were 74 airports in the country, but today there are over 150 airports...Imagine 74 airports in 70 years?... Every year, there are record airline



passengers in the country. On one hand, our government is working on connectivity, and on the other, ensuring the welfare of the poor and social justice."

The inauguration of the Hisar airport marked a significant milestone in the state's development. It will boost regional connectivity and catalyse economic growth across the state.

Saying the Congress has only appeased fundamentalists, he said, "Haryana is that state where the youth in significant numbers join the army and serve the nation. The Congress for decades cheated regarding OROP."

He said that lakhs of hectares of land are in the name of Waqf. "Now, under the new Waqf law,

this Waqf Board will not be able to touch any tribal's land or property in any corner of India. The new provisions will respect the sacred spirit of Waqf. The poor and Pasmanda families of the Muslim society, women, especially Muslim widows, and children will get their rights, and their rights will also be protected. This is real social justice."

The Prime Minister said the Congress government in Karnataka took away the rights of SCs, STs, and OBCs and gave reservations based on religion. "But Babasaheb, Ambedkar clearly stated that religion-based reservation will not be facilitated. The Congress' politics of appeasement has not helped the Muslim community, it has only harmed them. Con-

gress chose to appease a few radicalists only."

The Congress, he said, stabbed the dream that Baba Saheb Ambedkar had seen -- the provision for social justice that he had made in the Constitution -- and turned the provisions of that Constitution into a means of appeasement.

PM Modi said the Congress turned the Constitution into a mere tool for gaining power. "Whenever they felt that power slipping from their hands, they trampled upon the Constitution, just as they did during the Emergency."

"The spirit of the Constitution clearly says that there must be one common civil code for all citizens, which I call a secular civil code. But Congress never implemented it. In Uttarakhand, we have implemented a secular civil code, but the Congress continues to oppose it," PM Modi said.

He said the Congress treated SCs, STs, and OBCs as second-class citizens in this country. "While Congress leaders enjoyed luxuries like swimming pools, only 16 out of every 100 households in villages had access to piped water, and among those affected, the most were SCs, STs, and OBCs," PM Modi added.

Lodha brothers settle Rs 5,000-crore title dispute day before High Court hearing

The Abhishek Lodha-promoted Macrotech Developers Ltd filed a Rs 5,000 crore suit against Abhinandan Lodha's real estate firm, House of Abhinandan Lodha, over the use of the 'Lodha' trademark.



MUMBAI, Apr 14 (Agencies): The Lodha brothers, Abhishek and Abhinandan, have amicably settled the ongoing Rs 5,000-crore 'Lodha' trademark dispute between them, an official statement said on Monday. They have reached a pact over the use of the title Lodha for their respective companies as agreed upon by both sides.

As per the settlement, elder brother Abhishek Lodha's Macrotech Developers Ltd (MDL),

will be the owner of, and will have the exclusive right to use the brand names 'Lodha' and 'Lodha Group'. His younger brother, Abhinandan Lodha, will be the owner of, and will have the exclusive right to use the brand name 'House of Abhinandan Lodha' (HoABL), the statement added.

The Lodha Group and HoABL will have no connection with each other and both entities will communicate widely. Also, Abhinandan Lodha

will possess no rights or claims in the Lodha Group or MDL or other businesses of Abhishek, who will, on the other hand, have no rights or claims in HoABL or other businesses owned by Abhinandan.

After the settlement was reached, Abhishek Lodha and Abhinandan Lodha, sons of BJP leader and Maharashtra Skill Development Minister, Mangal Prabhat Lodha, thanked Bombay High Court judges Justice (retired) RV Raveendran for guidance in the mediation process and Justice Arif Doctor, for encouraging them to follow for mediation.

"The family is grateful to Justice Arif Doctor for encouraging them to follow the process of mediation. They also extend their sincere appreciation to all family elders and well-wishers

who provided their counsel and support throughout the resolution process. The family conveys its thanks to the media for their understanding and respect for privacy during this time. No further statements will be made on the matter," a press note released by the two parties said.

The Lodha brothers had been at loggerheads over the use of the Lodha trademark. Macrotech had filed an intellectual property rights (IPR) suit in the High Court against HoABL, claiming the name 'Lodha' was their trademark and no one else could use it.

The suit sought Rs 5,000 crore in damages from Abhinandan's company. In an interim application, Macrotech sought a perpetual injunction against the

defendants from infringing their trademark 'Lodha'.

Justice Doctor, while hearing the interim application in January, said since the dispute was primarily between two brothers, the possibility of an amicable resolution should be attempted.

The brothers agreed, after which a few rounds of meetings were held. On April 7, when the interim application came up for hearing, the lawyers of both parties informed the bench that the mediation was still going on.

Consequently, the bench extended the deadline for mediation and will be hearing the application on April 15, when the final decision of the brothers will officially be conveyed to the court.

Manipur celebrates 81st anniversary of declaring freedom in Moirang



MOIRANG, Apr 14 (Agencies): The Indian National Army (INA) Martyrs' Memorial, on Monday, commemorated the 81st anniversary of the historic flag hoisting in Manipur's Moirang, which marked a significant chapter in India's struggle for independence from British rule.

Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla, addressing the event,

said, "Moirang was the first territory to be declared free from British colonial rule. This was not merely symbolic; it was a bold declaration to the world that India would rise, reclaim its freedom, and unite in courage."

On April 14, 1944, Colonel Shaikat Ali Malik of the INA first unfurled the Azad Hind Fauj tricolour flag on Indian soil in Moirang, declaring it free

from British rule. This act, under the visionary leadership of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, ignited a flame of resistance and continues to be etched in the national memory as a symbol of courage and sacrifice.

The Governor emphasised that the INA's presence, though brief, carried immense symbolic weight and continues to inspire generations. "Though the INA's

presence in Moirang was brief, its legacy continues to inspire generations with the spirit of courage, sacrifice, and unwavering patriotism," he said.

The event was attended by public representatives, military veterans, government officials, and members of the local community. Among the attendees were MLA Thongam Shanti Singh, Lt. General (Retd.) K Himalay Singh, Major General (Retd.) JS Nanda, Major General S S Kartikeya, Brigadier Neeraj Sharma, DY IGAR (S), and IAS M Joy Singh.

A bike rally was also organised as part of the celebration, aimed at spreading awareness of Moirang's historical significance in India's independence struggle.

No one is “getting off the hook”, Trump after US appeared to dial down on China

WASHINGTON DC, Apr 14 (Agencies): US President Donald Trump has said that no one is “getting off the hook” on trade after his administration appeared to dial down pressure on China by issuing a notice exempting certain high-tech products from his “reciprocal” tariffs, Al Jazeera reported.

Trump said that there were no exceptions to the tariffs, as smartphones, laptops and other products were still subject to an existing 20 per cent duty and the items were being moved to a different tariff “bucket”, as per Al Jazeera.

“We will not be held hostage by other Countries, especially hostile trading Nations like China,” Trump said in a post on his Truth Social platform.

Speaking to reporters on board Air Force One, Trump said he would announce new tariffs on semiconductors over the next week.



“The tariffs will be in place in the not distant future,” Trump said, adding that there would be flexibility for some companies in the sector.

US Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick said earlier that the reprieve for high-tech products, many of which are manufactured in China, would be temporary and that semiconductor tariffs would be in place

within weeks.

“So what [Trump is] doing is he’s saying they’re [high-tech products] exempt from the reciprocal tariffs, but they’re included in the semiconductor tariffs, which are coming in probably a month or two. So these are coming soon,” Al Jazeera quoted Lutnick as speaking to local media.

Earlier in the day, China called

on the United States to correct its mistakes by “completely cancelling” its tariffs, describing them as “wrong practice” and urging Washington to return to a “path of mutual respect” towards Beijing, France 24 reported.

This appeal comes amid escalating trade tensions between the two nations, when US president Donald Trump announced a 90-day delay on tariffs for most countries, including the European Union, China was notably excluded from this reprieve.

This move has further heightened tensions between the world’s two largest economies, as per France 24.

“We urge the US to take a big step to correct its mistakes, completely cancel the wrong practice of ‘reciprocal tariffs’ and return to the right path of mutual respect,” a commerce ministry spokesperson said.

UAE President sends letter to Japan’s PM delivered by UAE Special Envoy



TOKYO, Apr 14 (Agencies): UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan has sent a written letter to Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, focusing on bilateral relations and ways to strengthen the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the two countries.

The letter was delivered by Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and UAE Special Envoy to Japan, during a meeting on Monday at the Prime Minister’s Office in Tokyo. The meeting was also attended by Noura bint Mohammed Al Kaabi, Minister of State, and Shihab Al Faheem, UAE Ambassador to Japan.

Al Jaber conveyed the greetings of President Sheikh Mohamed to the Japanese Prime Minister and expressed the UAE’s wishes for Japan’s continued progress and prosperity, along with his hopes for the success of Expo 2025 Osaka-Kansai.

Prime Minister Ishiba, in turn, conveyed his greetings to President Sheikh Mohamed and expressed his hopes for the UAE’s continued development and growth.

The two sides discussed ways to enhance bilateral relations under the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership signed in 2022.

Al Jaber reaffirmed the UAE leadership’s commitment to strengthening cooperation and advancing ties to new strategic levels. He highlighted the potential for deepening collaboration across vital sectors, including economy, trade, energy, industry and advanced technology, and space—areas that support sustainable development goals in both nations.

He also noted the enduring friendship between the UAE and Japan, which dates back to before the founding of the UAE, referencing Abu Dhabi’s participation in Expo 1970 in Osaka.

Greece signs deal to buy 16 anti-ship missiles from France

ATHENS, Apr 14 (Agencies): Greece signed a deal Monday to purchase anti-ship missiles from France as it seeks to bolster its defenses in a procurement program aimed mainly at addressing tensions with neighboring Turkey.

Greece’s Defense Minister Nikos Dendias signed the agreement for the 16 Exocet missiles with his French counterpart Sébastien Lecornu, who was on a one-day visit to Athens. The two did not disclose the cost of the deal.

It is the latest in a series of purchases of military equipment from France, with Greece having already bought two dozen Rafale warplanes and three Belharra-class frigates.

Dendias said discussions are progressing for the addition of a fourth frigate, adding that France is also providing Greece with NH-90 military helicopters.

Athens has said it will spend 25 billion euros (\$27 billion) over the next decade to adapt its military to evolving high-tech warfare technologies.

Although NATO allies, Greece and Turkey have long-standing disputes over boundaries in the Aegean Sea and eastern Mediterranean that have brought them close to war several times in recent decades.

“Greece does not threaten, but is threatened,” Dendias said in joint statements to the press with Lecornu. The

two ministers did not take questions.

Speaking in Parliament earlier this month, Dendias said Greece plans to shift from traditional defense systems to a high-tech, networked strategy centered on mobile, Artificial Intelligence-powered missile systems, drone technologies, and advanced command units — reducing reliance on conventional fleets.

Greece’s modernization drive — launched after years of defense cuts during the 2010–2018 financial crisis — already includes all branches of the armed forces and focuses on cooperation with France, Israel, and the United States.

IHC issues notice to authorities on Bushra Bibi’s plea for better facilities

ISLAMABAD, Apr 14 (Agencies): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday issued notices to jail authorities on a petition filed by Bushra Bibi, seeking improved facilities in prison, agency reported.

Justice Raja Inaam Ameen Minhas presided over the hearing. Lawyers Usman Gul and Zahir Abbas represented Bushra Bibi, wife of the incarcerated former Prime Minister Imran Khan.

The court issued notices to the Interior Secretary and the Superintendent of Adiala Jail, directing them to submit their responses. The hearing was adjourned for two weeks.

Earlier on April 7, Bushra Bibi approached



the Islamabad High Court (IHC) for improved jail facilities, agency reported.

She filed a petition through her lawyers, who argued that as a former first lady who resided in the Prime Minister’s House, she is entitled to better facilities under the law due to her standard of living and lifestyle.

Bushra Bibi’s lawyers claimed she requested better facilities from jail authorities, but received no response. The lawyers said that her husband, Imran Khan, is also receiving better facilities in the same Adiala jail.

petition cited the Jail Rules 1978, seeking court direction for the respondents to fulfill

their legal responsibilities and provide better jail amenities to Bushra Bibi.

The federal government, Superintendent Adiala jail and the Islamabad Chief Commissioner were made parties in the plea, as per agency.

Earlier, Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi filed petitions in the Islamabad High Court (IHC), seeking suspension of conviction in the £190 million case, agency reported.

petitions, filed through their lawyer Barrister Salman Safdar, argued that the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) had misused its authority and the conviction was based on incomplete investigation.

tions.

The petitions stated that the failure to obtain a declaration from the National Crime Agency (NCA) was a significant omission and that the NCA officials were not even investigated.

Furthermore, the petitions claimed that the prosecution had failed to present complete evidence and the conviction was rushed. The petitions requested that the conviction be suspended and that Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi be granted bail until the final decision on their appeal.

petitions assured the court that the accused would be present at every hearing of the appeal after the suspension of their conviction.

UAE Cybersecurity Council launching country’s first-ever Cybersecurity Excellence Awards

ABU DHABI, Apr 14 (Agencies): UAE Government Cybersecurity Council has announced the launch of nation’s Cybersecurity Awards & Recognition Programme, a pioneering initiative set to establish new benchmarks for recognising achievements in digital security.

This first-of-its-kind programme, scheduled for launch in the coming months, will create a competitive platform for organisations, enterprises, and innovators to showcase their contributions to cybersecurity advancement.

The nation’s first-ever Cybersecurity Excellence Awards, designed to foster competition among organisations, enterprises, and innovative individuals in the field of cybersecurity. This programme aims to stimulate creative talent, reinforce the UAE’s regional and global leadership in cybersecurity, promote sector collaboration, and recognise outstanding achievements in digital security.

This initiative seeks to highlight best practices, innovative models, and success stories while demonstrating their practical applications in an era of rapid cybersecurity evolution. As cybersecurity has become a cornerstone of sustainable growth, innovation, and resilience across all sectors, UAE Cybersecurity Council views this awards programme as a critical step in honouring industry pioneers and cultivating a culture of excellence, creativity, and competitive leadership in digital security sectors.

The award, established under the visionary directives of the UAE’s astute leadership, reflects their unwavering commitment to elevating the nation’s stature in the digital realm. As the first initiative of its kind in the UAE, it marks a pioneering step toward spotlighting exemplary practices and showcasing innovative, successful models in cybersecurity.

It serves as a vital platform to demonstrate how these advancements can be effectively harnessed across diverse sectors, reinforcing the UAE Cybersecurity Council’s dedication to cultivating a culture of ingenuity and excellence in tackling both emerging and evolving digital threats.

This initiative aligns with the UAE’s broader vision to encourage proactive measures to mitigate cyber risks, spotlight pioneering innovations and success stories in cybersecurity, and strengthen cross-sector awareness, resilience, and collaboration.

Mohammed Al-Kuwaiti, Head of UAE Cybersecurity, highlighted the significance of the initiative, “The Cybersecurity Excellence Awards represent a continuation of our ongoing efforts to nurture talent and foster the development of innovative digital solutions to combat cyber threats. By recognising

excellence at both individual and institutional levels, we’re not just celebrating achievements - we’re also inspiring the next generation of cybersecurity experts to redefine the boundaries of digital security.”

The award also aims to celebrate and honour exceptional projects and groundbreaking, innovative concepts in cybersecurity. It strives to bolster the capacity of institutions, corporations, and individuals to cultivate a dynamic, competitive, and motivating ecosystem that encourages the exploration of uncharted territories, fosters leadership and excellence, and plays a pivotal role in securing a safe, resilient, and sustainable digital future for all.

The awards ceremony will be held on 18th June 2025 at Space42 Arena in Abu Dhabi. Further details, including award categories, nomination criteria, and related updates, will be announced shortly.

National Party Senator calls federal govt’s attitude towards Balochistan’s issues “negative, non-serious”



ISLAMABAD, Apr 14 (Agencies): National Party Senator Jan Mohammad Buledi has criticised the federal government’s attitude towards Balochistan issues, describing it as “negative and non-serious,” Dawn reported. He stated that the federal government has made no serious efforts to defuse the grave situation in the province.

In his remarks at a seminar on the Balochistan issue at the Lahore Press Club, Buledi said the province has been the recipient of apathy and an unjust attitude from the federal government since the very beginning, escalating the sense of deprivation among its people.

Jan Mohammad Buledi said the federal government has adopted a colonial approach to deal with Balochistan’s

people and their rights since the creation of Pakistan despite the political, national and economic rights of the people of Balochistan being guaranteed by the constitution.

He said, “Over the past 77 years, instead of addressing these issues, the rights of the people of Balochistan have been consistently ignored, and the colonial mindset continues to this day.” Mujeeb-ur-Rehman Shami, Imtiaz Alam and others also expressed their views on the Balochistan issues, Dawn reported.

The NP leader noted that the issues of Balochistan had become complex over the years. However, the rulers were not willing to recognise the national and political rights of the people of Balochistan.

He said that Pakistan’s rulers speak about Balochistan’s resources

during conferences held in Islamabad to sell the minerals of the province at throwaway prices in the global market without consulting Baloch people and their leadership and ignoring their economic interests, Dawn reported.

The NP leader said, “Islamabad is interested only in Balochistan’s resources, but it has no concern or interest for the impoverished people of the province.”

He further said that the results of the digital census in Balochistan were rejected as the population was falsely recorded as eight million. He said the government was not ready to accept the population of half of Pakistan, fearing it would raise Balochistan’s representation and share in different institutions.

He said, “Pakistan’s major political parties and the powerful establishment have learned nothing from past mistakes. Major political parties of the country constantly make compromises on the rights of the people for the sake of getting power, sidelining national and public interests to accept temporary perks and privileges.”

10 terrorists, including two Sikh men, arrested in Pakistan’s Punjab

LAHORE, Apr 14 (Agencies): Two Sikhs are among 10 terrorists arrested by the law enforcers in Pakistan’s Punjab province, police said on Monday.

According to a spokesperson of the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) of Punjab police, it foiled a major terrorist plan by arresting 10 terrorists during operations in different areas of Punjab.

“Among the arrested terrorists are two Pakistani Sikhs — Suraj Singh and Badal Singh. Both Sikhs have been arrested from Rawalpindi. They hail from Nankana Sahib



district of Punjab and are active members of Jaey Sindh Muttahida Mahaz, a separatist political party advocating separation of Sindh province from Pakistan.”

The spokesperson further said it conducted 189 intelligence-based operations in different districts of the province last week and arrested the 10 terrorists and recovered weapons, explosives and other prohibited materials.

He said the other eight arrested terrorists are from banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). “The terrorists had planned to target important buildings in Rawalpindi and other cities of Punjab,” he said and added that nine separate cases have been registered against the arrested terrorists and further investigation is underway.

JKPDP pays rich floral tributes to Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar on his birth anniversary

Top News Report

R S PURA, Apr 14: Senior PDP leaders Narinder Sharma and Karan Singh along with other prominent leaders and workers today paid rich floral tributes to Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar on his birth anniversary at Panchayat Kotli Shah Doula, RS Pura constituency.

Popularly known as one of the architects of India constitution, Narinder paying tributes said that born into a poor Dalit family on April 14, 1891, BR Ambedkar was independent India's first Law Minister, the principal architect of the Indian Constitution and a founding father of the Republic of India. He also campaigned against the social discrimination of Dalits and inspired the Dalit Buddhist Movement in 1956. He was awarded the Bharat Ratna posthumously in 1990, said Narinder.

Narinder further said

that our nation's icon and Chief Architect of the Constitution, he strived for a society based on justice and equity. Let us all take inspiration from his vision and values, and resolve to imbibe his ideals in our lives," he said.

The champion of social justice will always be remembered for his untiring efforts to emancipate the underprivileged and downtrodden." His work & life are reflected in the robust transformational Constitution & strong democracy we have.

In his words, "Our Constitution is not only a political or legal document but also an emotional, cultural and social contract, added Narinder.

Narinder, while paying floral tributes to Baba Sahib, said that he devoted himself towards the cause of freedom of India from British and at the same time he fought bravely for inducing "Samrasta" in the soci-



ety.

He said that Baba Sahib will remain as a source of inspiration to all of us for centuries and India can never forget his great contributions. Baba Sahib used his education to spearhead the cause of equality, fraternity and liberty and everybody should follow his example.

The great legal luminary has left an indelible mark by his remarkable service to the nation and ameliorating the lot of down trodden and weaker segments of the society, added Narinder.

Karan Singh while remembering Dr Ambedkar, said that Baba Sahib was not just a dalit leader but a true visionary who dared to re-imagine and re-cast social relations and its structures of hierarchy into a more democratic and progressive system.

He said the best homage can be paid to Baba Sahib by respecting our constitution and implementing it in true spirit.

He said Ambedkar's vision of democracy

Shri Nandraaz Temple Trust Ashmuji holds two-day Maha Yagya with devotion

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 14: In a heartwarming display of faith and unity, the displaced Kashmiri Pandit community organized a two-day Maha Yagya in honor of Shri Nandraaz ji (Nundkeshwar Bhairav), seeking blessings for the welfare of Sanatan Dharma and invoking divine grace for peace, progress, and prosperity.

The spiritual gathering, held at Swami Mahesh Bharti Ashram, Lower Roopnagar, was organized by the Shri Nandraaz Prabandik Trust Ashmuji. Commencing on Purnamashi and culminating on the sacred festival of Baisakhi, the Yagya coincided with the advent of the Vaishak month, marking an auspicious beginning in the Hindu calendar.

Over 300 members of the village Bharadari—along with their families and even married daughters—gathered in soulful togetherness, partaking in the Navidham bhooj with devotional fervor. The Yagya was presided over by Guru Shri Pran Nath Ji, whose chants, along with the melodious echo of mantras and shlokas, created an atmosphere of divine resonance.

The spiritual glow of the event was further deepened by a captivating Bhajan Sandhya, orchestrated by the Shri Hari Kirtan Adhyatmik Jagriti Mission under the leadership of Dr. J.N. Raina. Devotional songs rendered by Basant Ji and Shubhan Raina Ji stirred the hearts of devotees, drawing them into a collective spiritual trance of rhythmic claps, soulful singing, and joyful dance.

As symbols of divine remembrance, postcard pictures of Nandraaz and Mata Shiva Bhagwati were lovingly distributed, along with Athoor, Atigut, and fruits especially offered to the village daughters. Juice packs were distributed among devotees in collaboration with Dabur India Ltd, courtesy of the Social Reform and Charitable Organization, reflecting the spirit of service that flowed through the event.

The committee, led by Ramesh Bhat,



also took a historic decision to initiate construction of a temple and Bhawan dedicated to Nandraaz, taking a forward step in preserving their cultural and spiritual legacy.

General Secretary Sanjay Bhat expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Bharadari for their unwavering support and reaffirmed the Trust's commitment to the mission of revival and service.

The event's success was made possible through the untiring efforts of dedicated volunteers and office bearers including Mahesh Pandita, Suresh Pandita, Sunil Bhat, Roop Krishen Bhat, Chuni Lal Ji, Sandeep Koul, Ashok Bhat Ji, and many others—each playing a part in weaving this beautiful tapestry of devotion.

As the flames of the sacred fire rose and the chants of the faithful echoed into the twilight of Baisakhi, the Maha Yagya concluded with sanctity and hope, rekindling a spiritual spark in the hearts of all who gathered—carrying forward the light of Shri Nandraaz Ji into the days to come.

NSS Units of GGM Science College celebrates Dr. Ambedkar's Birth Anniversary



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 14: The NSS Units of Government Gandhi Memorial (GGM) Science College, Jammu, celebrated the

birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar with great reverence and enthusiasm. Marking the occasion, around 50 NSS volunteers paid a heartfelt floral tribute

at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Chowk, near the Railway Station, Jammu, as part of a week-long series of events commemorating the chief architect of the Indian

Constitution.

The tribute ceremony was a highlight of the week's commemorative activities, which included a quiz competition centered around Dr. Ambedkar's life and legacy, as well as the administration of the Constitution Pledge to promote constitutional values among students.

The floral offering served as a symbolic gesture of respect and gratitude for Dr. Ambedkar's enduring contributions to Indian society, particularly in the spheres of social justice, legal reform, and education.

Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta, Principal of GGM Science College, while speaking on the occasion lauded the efforts of the NSS volunteers and emphasized the need to uphold the ideals of equality, liberty, and fra-

ternity that Dr. Ambedkar championed. He urged students to imbibe these principles in their everyday lives and continue striving for an inclusive and just society.

NSS Programme Officers Dr. Rahul Kait and Dr. Neha Sharma accompanied the volunteers during the tribute.

he students raised patriotic and inspirational slogans and also participated in various cultural activities, reflecting their deep commitment to community service and national values.

The event concluded with a renewed pledge by the volunteers to continue spreading Dr. Ambedkar's message of social empowerment and constitutional awareness among their peers and the community.

Simran Kaith felicitated for exhibiting wonderful painting



Top News Report

R.S.PURA, Apr 14: In a brief function held at Gegian today, Simran Kaith was felicitated with a medal for exhibit-

ing wonderful paintings. All present on the occasion were mesmerised by seeing her paintings and said to Simran, "You are going to have a big future if

you keep on painting like this". They congratulated Simran and her parents for this remarkable achievement, and wished her all the best for future.

FromPage No: 1

Lieutenant Governor inaugurates Manufacturing Unit of Superior Polymers India Private Limited at Kathua

Narendra Modi and Hon'ble Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, we are committed to the advancement of the industrial sector in Jammu and Kashmir.

"We have ensured a workforce prepared for industrial jobs. We have empowered marginalized sections of the society to broaden the skilled workforce. Our Handloom and Handicraft exports surged after building the industrial ecosystem," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He said, the progressive Industrial Policy and several key interventions in the last few years have strengthened investors' confidence in the UT of J&K and attracted private investment.

"We have been successful in creating a conducive environment for the growth of industries, enabling overall development. Our efforts are now yielding positive dividends with many industrial units started their operations and many more investment proposals are in the pipeline," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The unit set up with an invest-

ment of Rs 75 crore will generate hundreds of employment opportunities.

Shri Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary Industries and Commerce Department; Dr Arun Kumar Manhas, Director, Industries & Commerce, Jammu; Shri Pradeep Agrawal Chairman, Superior Group of Industries; Shri Vishal Agrawal, Vice Chairman, Shri Ashish Sethi, CEO, Dr Sunil Kumar Mishra, Chief Human Resource Officer, and other members of Superior Group of Industries and Superior Polymer India Private Limited were present.

Shri Rakesh Minhas, Deputy Commissioner Kathua along with other officials also joined through virtual mode.

CM Omar Abdullah pays tribute to BR Ambedkar on his birth anniversary

#AmbedkarJayanti, we honour the torchbearer of equality and justice."

"May his legacy continue to guide our path forward." the post reads.

Machail Mata temple reopens

for pilgrims after winter in Kishtwar

Padder-Nagseni Sunil Sharma and Kishtwar deputy commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan, the officials said.

During his visit, the divisional commissioner took a comprehensive review of the arrangements being made for the smooth and safe conduct of the annual Yatra.

The review included assessment of security protocols, provision of electricity, water supply, sanitation, accommodation, transportation, and healthcare facilities for the convenience of the visiting devotees, the officials said.

Deputy commissioner Shavan apprised the divisional commissioner about the arrangements being made by the civil and police administrations, besides the local stakeholders, to ensure a smooth and coordinated pilgrimage experience for the visiting devotees.

The Shree Machail Mata Yatra draws lakhs of devotees from across the country every year, the officials said.

The district administration has appealed to all the pilgrims to adhere to the guidelines and safety instructions issued in the interest of their health and well-being, the officials said.

Ex-armyman who killed wife arrested

ed 20 years after jumping parole

him. Inputs suggested his presence in Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh and later near his village in Sidhi, Madhya Pradesh. The team conducted ground-level verification and finally apprehended him," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime Branch) Aditya Gautam said.

During interrogation, Tiwari revealed that he was constantly on the move, working as a driver in various cities and ensuring no digital or financial trail was left behind. He also admitted to remarrying and now has four children from his second marriage, police added.

ICG and Gujarat ATS seize 300 kg narcotics worth Rs 1,800 cr near Gujarat coast

towards the IMBL. The alert ICG ship deployed its sea boat immediately for recovery of the jettisoned consignment whilst commencing a hot chase of the suspect boat," the statement said.

The proximity of IMBL and the initial separation between the ICG ship and the boat at the time of its detection helped the perpetrator to evade interception before

it crossed over the IMBL within a short time. The cross over resulted in termination of the hot chase and precluded the ICG ship to apprehend the suspect boat.

Meanwhile, the ICG team in a sea-boat, after thorough search in the tough night conditions, recovered the sizable amount of narcotics that was dumped into the sea.

The seized narcotics have been brought to Porbandar by the ICG ship for further investigations. The jointness of ICG and Gujarat ATS, which has led to 13 such successful law enforcement operations in recent years reaffirms the synergy for national objectives.

Punjab-born surgeon, 3 family members killed in US plane crash

border with Massachusetts State. Saini immigrated to the US with her parents and received her medical degree from the University of Pittsburgh where she met her husband, Michael Groff, who was a neurosurgeon.

According to the website of her medical practice in Boston, Saini was a urogynecologist and female pelvic reconstructive surgeon.

The family statement said that Groff was "an experienced pilot who fell in love with flying after being taught by his father at the age of 16."

Their daughter Karenna Groff was a medical student, and her partner James Santoro, an invest-

ment banker who planned to propose marriage soon, died in the crash, the family statement said.

Jared Groff, their son, and his partner, Alexia Couyutas Duarte, a law student, were also killed.

Saini and Groff are survived by another daughter of the couple, Anika, and Saini's mother, Kuljit Singh, according to the family.

This was the second crash in the US in three days.

This incident follows Friday's crash in South Florida, where a Cessna 310 aircraft went down near Boca Raton, killing all three people onboard.

A sightseeing helicopter with a family of five from Spain crashed in the Hudson River off Manhattan on Thursday, killing them and the pilot.

Two critically injured in road accident in Srinagar

The incident occurred at the fly-over near All India Radio Kashmir, Srinagar, where two motorcycles reportedly collided with each other.

The injured have been identified as: Abrar Ali, age 25, son of Gh. Ali, resident of Balhama.

Irfan, age 32, son of Mushtaq Ahmad, resident of Khrew Shar.

Authorities are investigating the circumstances surrounding the collision. The prompt action of the Dial 112 unit played a crucial role in ensuring both victims received immediate medical attention.

MAJK targets to prepare at least 3 sport climbers of J&K for 20th Asian Games



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 14: Mountaineering Association of J&K has set an ambitious target of preparing at least 3 sport climbers of J&K for selection in the Indian Sport Climbing team for participation in the next year's 20th Asian Games to be held at Aichi and Nagoya in Japan from 19th September to October, 2026. It is a matter of immense pride for Mountaineering Association of J&K that one of its climbers Shivani Charak, an international sport climber, has the unique distinction of being the first ever and the only female athlete of J&K to participate in any Asian Games during the last 78 years, he said.

This was announced by Ram Khajuria, Sr. Vice President of the Association while highlighting the detail of the activities included in the Calendar of Activities for

the year 2025-26 which was released in a very impressive function at Press Club of Jammu.

The Chief Guest on the occasion Anil Goswami, former Home Secretary of India along with Ashwani Sharma, former MLA, Padma Shri Awardee Prof Lalit Magotra, President, Dogri Sanstha, Jammu; Sumit Khajuria, Vice President; Shawetika Khajuria, General Secretary of Mountaineering Association of J&K; Vivek Chauhan, Patron of District Mountaineering Association Jammu; Sanjeev Gupta, Patron of District Mountaineering Association, Samba; Jameel Mustafa from Pulwama, Arti Sharma, Sr. Vice President, Mridhu Padma, Vice President and Sonam Sidharth, General Secretary of Tawi Trekkers J&K and senior members Navneet Gupta, Binder Pal Singh and Sunil Chakharia

released the Calendar in the presence of heads of various institutions and members of the Association and affiliated clubs.

Highlighting the activities to be undertaken by the Association and its affiliated District Mountaineering Associations and adventure clubs this year Sr. Vice President of the Association Ram Khajuria mentioned that the highlight of this year's major activity shall be a prestigious multi peak Mountaineering Expedition in Ladakh in which the team would attempt five peaks. Besides some other small mountaineering expeditions shall be conducted by the affiliated district associations.

Another important activity of the Association would be a U T level Sport Climbing Championship for Visually challenged climbers at Sport Climbing Wall in Sprawl-

ing Buds ICSE School, Bantalab in October, 2025.

The Association has also planned to host the North Zone Sport Climbing Championship at Jammu subject to availability of Sport Climbing Wall at MA Stadium and allotment of the championship to the Association by Indian Mountaineering Foundation, New Delhi.

Further, the Association shall organize 16 District Sport Climbing Competitions, a UT Championship besides participation in the Zonal and National Competitions.

Nine trekking expeditions, a specialised training camp for Shivani Charak under a National coach, 4 preparatory camps before participation of the U T team in the Zonal and National climbing competitions besides a camp for beginners shall also be conducted. To spot the talent at the grass root level the Association aims to train about 1000 sport climbers by organizing coaching cum competitions for school students throughout the year.

While releasing the Calendar of Activities the Chief Guest Anil Goswami hoped that this year our climbers would bring more laurels to the U T in all the forthcoming Sport

Climbing Competitions. He also congratulated Shivani Charak for her splendid achievements and promised her all possible facilities for her full preparation for the Asian Games-2026. The Presiding Guest Ashwani Sharma asked the sports Council for early completion of the Sport Climbing Wall at M A Stadium, Jammu so that our climbers can undergo training and coaching at Jammu instead of outside J&K. He hoped that with the commissioning of the climbing wall at Jammu J&K is sure to become a formidable force at the national and international level.

Earlier, Sonam Sidhartha, an Executive member of the Association highlighted the achievements of the Association during the year 2024-25. The function was very ably anchored by Arti Sharma, a senior member of the Association. Prof. Lalit Magotra who was recently conferred with Padma Shri Award was also felicitated on the occasion. He was profusely garlanded after being presented a colourful flower plant and a bouquet. The function concluded with a delightful tea party hosted by the Association in honour of Prof Lalit Magotra.

Late Rifleman Ajaz Shaurya Chakra Volleyball Tournament organised at Malut



Top News Report

RAJOURI, Apr 14: The Indian Army organized a Volleyball Tournament in Memory of Shaurya Chakra Awardee Late Rifleman Ajaz, a braveheart who laid down his life while fighting insurgents in Assam in the service of the nation.

The tournament was conducted at Malut, Rajouri, in which a total of 8 teams from villages

in Darhal block participated. The final match was conducted with the volleyball team, Dudaj emerging as winners and volleyball team, Darhal emerging as runners up.

The initiative was aimed at promoting sportsmanship and healthy living among youth and fostering a spirit of discipline, teamwork and physical fitness, while also rais-

ing awareness against drug abuse.

Through active participation and spirited competition, the event encouraged youth to pursue sports as a positive and empowering alternative to substance abuse. The Indian Army remains committed to nurturing young talent and honoring the legacy of its heroes through such meaningful engagements.

1st District Poonch Kalarippayattu Championship 2025-26 concludes



Top News Report

POONCH, Apr 14: The first district Poonch kalarippayattu Championship 2025-26 concluded on a high note at the Indoor Sports Complex, Poonch.

The championship witnessed enthusiastic participation from around 100 athletes representing different schools of Poonch, showcasing their exceptional skills and competitive spirit.

The event was organized by the District Poonch Kalarippayattu Association with the aim of promoting Kalarippayattu in the region and providing a platform for young athletes to excel in the sport.

The valedictory function was graced by Rajesh Raina (Ex

BJP President District Poonch,) as the Chief Guest. Irshad Azam (Principal Hackia International School), attended as the Guest of Honour. Other esteemed dignitaries present included Saad Chouhan, Anil Sharma, Pervaiz Malik Afridi (Senior Cricket Coach District Poonch), as special guests.

And Rudrakshit Gupta (Executive Member Kalarippayattu Association of J&K) as special invitee and observer of the Championship.

The championship was held under the technical supervision of Abhay Raina Secretary (District Poonch Kalarippayattu Championship), with the assistance of Ashiq Hussain. Their expertise and leadership ensured

the smooth execution of the event.

Speaking on the occasion, Rajesh Raina sir praised the efforts of the District Poonch Kalarippayattu Association in promoting the sport and providing a competitive platform for young athletes. He also encouraged participants to continue their dedication to sports and bring laurels to the region.

The championship concluded with medal distribution and recognition of outstanding performances by the athletes.

The District Poonch Kalarippayattu Association expressed gratitude to all participants, coaches, and officials for their contributions towards making the event a grand success.

Fire Service Day observed with tribute and renewed commitment to public safety

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 14: The Fire and Emergency Services Department of Jammu and Kashmir today observed Fire Service Day with heartfelt tributes and renewed dedication to its life-saving mission. The day commemorates the bravery of firefighters, particularly in memory of those who laid down their lives during the 1944 Bombay Dock Explosion.

The main ceremony took place at the Fire & Emergency Services Headquarters, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, where senior officers, jawans, and dignitaries gathered in solemn remembrance. A wreath-laying ceremony at the Martyrs' Memorial

marked the beginning of the event, followed by two minutes of silence and a ceremonial salute in honour of the fallen heroes—firefighters who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

Speaking on the occasion, Alok Kumar, IPS (ADGP) and Director of Fire and Emergency Services, highlighted the department's ongoing efforts to build a safer society through rapid emergency response and continuous modernization. "Our force is equipped and trained to respond swiftly to any crisis," he remarked, "but our greater mission is to cultivate a culture of fire safety across the Union Territory." A significant highlight of the day was the department's

"Har Ghar Fire Fighter" campaign, launched in August 2022. This initiative has empowered citizens—especially students, healthcare staff, and industrial workers—to act as first responders during fire emergencies. As of March 2025, the department has conducted 7,551 awareness programmes, covering 3,949 educational institutions, 1,057 healthcare facilities, and 2,555 establishments, training over 8.23 lakh people in fire safety, evacuation, and first aid.

The theme for this year's Fire Service Week (April 14–20), "Unite to Ignite a Fire Safe India," underscores the shared responsibility of citizens and institutions in fire prevention. Public engagement initiatives

include a fire safety documentary, distribution of posters and handbills, awareness lectures, essay writing and painting competitions, as well as health check-ups and first aid training sessions.

The Director called upon every citizen to be vigilant, practice basic safety measures, and report fire hazards without delay. "Our strength lies in unity," he said. "Together, we can prevent fires before they start."

Similar ceremonies were held at Range Headquarters in Srinagar and all District Command Headquarters, where officers paid floral tributes, reinforcing the department's enduring commitment to its motto—"We Serve to Save."

Bukhari voices concern over reduction in private Hajj quota



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Apr 14: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari has expressed deep concern over the reduction in the private Hajj quota. He has appealed to the Union Minister of External Affairs, Dr. S. Jaishankar, and the Union Minister for Minority Affairs, Kiren Rijiju, to take up the matter with the Saudi government and ensure that the decision is reversed. Bukhari wrote on his X handle: "The reduction in Hajj slots (private Hajj quota) for Indian pilgrims, is a

matter of deep concern, as it will deprive thousands — approximately over 40,000 — of deserving aspirants of the opportunity to undertake the sacred pilgrimage this year. Most of these aspirants have already made payments in anticipation of fulfilling their long-cherished spiritual journey."

He further added, "I humbly request the Minister of External Affairs, @DrSJaishankar, and the Minister of Minority Affairs, @KirenRijiju, to take up the matter with the Saudi authorities to seek a reversal of this decision."

DDC Member, Adv Dev Raj pay tribute to Dr. Ambedkar on birth anniversary

Top News Report

R S PURA, Apr 14: BJP DDC Member Vidya Motton, senior BJP leader Adv Dev Raj Sharma along with prominent dignitaries today paid floral tribute to Dr. BR Ambedkar on his birth anniversary at Miran Sahib, RS Pura constituency. Speaking on the occasion Motton, said, "This is a very special day for all of us. It's the birth anniversary of Dr. BR Ambedkar, who is the architect of our constitution and who brought about a complete social transformation. His message continues to be as valid today as it was when he was drafting the Indian Constitution."

Motton exhorted the present day politicians should emulate the ideology of Ambedkar for the economic uplift of

the downtrodden and underprivileged in society. She said PM Modi Govt has implemented several schemes for the empowerment of SCs and STs in the country during its 10 year rule. The BJP-led NDA Government at the Centre has done a lot for welfare of Dalits during its 10-month rule, she said. She recalled the contributions of Ambedkar for the uplift of the downtrodden. As long as there was discrimination and injustice against the downtrodden in society, the life and fighting of Ambedkar would continue to inspire people to fight against all sorts of discrimination, Motton added.

Adv Dev Raj Sharma paying his respects to the father of Indian Constitution said that, it is time to reaffirm the ideals of liberty, equality,

fraternity and justice, which he truly championed. Social transformation is the foundation for any progress.

NOTICE

I, Gourav Dogra, S/o Sh. Balak Ram, R/o Jambal (Bhatyari), Tehsil Dansal, District Jammu, have clarified my wife Smt. Neenu Devi gave birth to a daughter Mehak Devi on 27/04/2018 at home, a daughter Manvi Devi on 09/11/2020 and a son Harash Dogra on 04/06/2022 at PHC Dansal. I am applying for the Date of Birth (D.O.B.) Certificates for my children, whose births have not been registered with any Birth/Death Registration Office. Objection if any may be conveyed to concerned authority with 7 days of publication of this notice

Ace golfer Lt. Col. Deepak Sirohi scores hole-in one at JTGC

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 14: Lt. Col. Deepak Sirohi an ace golfer from Jammu, on Monday scored a hole-in-one during trotterz Cup 2025 Golf Tournament at Jammu Tawi Golf Course (JTGC).

Lt. Col. Deepak Sirohi is the 13th ace golfer of this golf course who made a hole-in-one shot during play at Hole No: 13.

Scoring hole-in-one is a great achievement for the player which added one more feather in his cap.

In golf, hole-in-one commonly occurs on Par 3 holes when a ball hit from a Tee to start and finishes at a hole in



a cup. Expressing deep joy and pleasure, Secretary, Jammu Tawi Golf Course, Manav Gupta on behalf of Manage-

ment of JTGC and its member congratulated Lt. Col. Deepak Sirohi and wished him all the success in his future life.

Desperate CSK look to arrest steep slide against LSG

CSK have never lost five games in a row, including unprecedented three at Chepauk, their proverbial fortress

LUCKNOW, Apr 14 (Agencies): Chennai Super Kings have never experienced a worse phase in the Indian Premier League and their faltering batters will have to deliver to arrest their steep slide in a must-win game against an upbeat Lucknow Super Giants here on Monday.

CSK have never lost five games in a row, including an unprecedented three at the Chepauk, their proverbial fortress. If there is anyone that can get CSK out of the doldrums, it is MS Dhoni but even his return to captaincy following Rituraj Gaikwad's injury could did not turn their fortunes in their previous outing on Friday.

Considering their struggles against spinners at home, the batters would not mind playing an away game in a desperate attempt to find form. The absence of their best batter, Gaikwad, thus makes their comeback bid all the more difficult.

CSK have been accused of sheltering players past their prime in the past and those questions have expectedly resurfaced after a record losing streak. The lack of power-hitters in their squad has also become a talking point with Dhoni himself conceding that even targeting 60 runs in the powerplay is a tad too ambitious for them.

Openers Rachin Ravindra and Devon Conway are two fine bat-



ters but expecting them to go hammer and tongs from ball one goes against their style of play.

Rahul Tripathi, coming in place of Gaikwad at three, will be under immense pressure to perform. The team also needs to get more out of veteran all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja.

Shivam Dube needs more support on the power-hitting front and best placed to do that is Dhoni himself but his constant change of batting position, the last outing was at no.9, makes the task tougher for the World Cup winning skipper.

After the last game, CSK batting coach Mike Hussey said that his team is not going to throw in the towel just yet.

"I still think we've got the right players. There's a lot of talk about the style of our play. But the players we've got, we don't want to ask them to play in a completely different way; that's natural to them," said Hussey

after the loss to KKR.

Their opponents, LSG, will be looking for their fourth win on the trot having gained some much-needed consistency in a tournament of fine margins.

Their bowling was their weakest link at the start of the competition with injuries to main pacers but it was the bowlers who helped them tide over Gujarat Titans here on Saturday.

It was remarkable how the likes of Avesh Khan, Ravi Bishnoi and Shardul Thakur were able to stem the flow of runs at the back end of Titans' innings after a flying start from the opposition.

The Lucknow pitch, traditionally slow, has been better for batting and that is suiting the likes of Nicholas Pooran, who is striking the ball as cleanly as ever.

The absence of Mitchell Marsh at the top of the order allowed Rishabh Pant to open alongside

an in-form Aiden Markram on Saturday.

Short of runs, Pant did alright at the top of the order but will he give himself more opportunities as an opener following Marsh's return?

The Australian has been one of their best batters thus far, making Pant's promotion to the top trickier.

Squads:
Lucknow Super Giants: Rishabh Pant (c&wk), David Miller, Aiden Markram, Aryan Juyal (wk), Himmat Singh, Matthew Breetzke, Nicholas Pooran (wk), Mitchell Marsh, Abdul Samad, Shahbaz Ahmed, Yuvraj Chaudhary, Rajvardhan Hangargekar, Arshin Kulkarni, Ayush Badoni, Shardul Thakur, Avesh Khan, Akash Deep, Manimaran Siddharth, Digvesh Rathii, Akash Singh, Shamar Joseph, Prince Yadav, Mayank Yadav, Ravi Bishnoi.
Chennai Super Kings: Rituraj Gaikwad ©, MS Dhoni, Ravindra Jadeja, Shivam Dube, Matheesha Pathirana, Noor Ahmad, Ravichandran Ashwin, Devon Conway, Syed Khaleel Ahmed, Rachin Ravindra, Rahul Tripathi, Vijay Shankar, Sam Curran, Shaik Rashid, Anshul Kamboj, Mukesh Choudhary, Deepak Hooda, Gurjanpreet Singh, Nathan Ellis, Jamie Overton, Kamlesh Nagarkoti, Ramakrishnan Ghosh, Shreyas Gopal, Vansh Bedi, Andre Siddarth.

MI end Delhi's unbeaten run with thrilling win



CHENNAI, Apr 14 (Agencies): Delhi Capitals suffered their first defeat of the new Indian Premier League season after Mumbai Indians eked out a 12-run victory to rekindle their fading hopes of making the playoffs.

Karun Nair led Delhi's pursuit of 206 with a scintillating 89 but once he departed, the wheels came off their innings and the Capitals were all out for 193 — losing their last three wickets to a hat-trick of run-outs in a bizarre finish.

Delhi, who had won four matches in a row, are now behind table-toppers Gujarat Titans on run rate, though the

Capitals have played one match fewer. Five-time champions Mumbai climbed to seventh place after their second win in six matches.

Earlier, former captain Rohit Sharma's lean run continued but Tilak Varma's breezy half-century provided the bedrock of Mumbai's strong 205/5 after being put in to bat. Mumbai lost Rohit (18) in the power-play but Ryan Rickelton (41) and Suryakumar Yadav (40) ensured they did not completely surrender the momentum.

Delhi spinner Kuldeep Yadav removed both the batters but Varma smashed 59 off 33 balls, three of which

went soaring over the boundary rope, before falling in the final over. Naman Dhir made a quickfire 38 not out as Mumbai posted their second 200-plus total this season.

"Whenever I get the chance I want to make the most of it. I just want to focus on my process and the rest is not in my hands," said MI spinner Karn Sharma, who was named the Player of the Match.

Brief scores: Mumbai Indians: 205/5 in 20 overs (Varma 59; Yadav 2/23, Nigam 2/41); Delhi Capitals: 193 all out in 19 overs (Nair 89; Sharma 3/36, Santner 2/43).

Rough third day for Indian origin trio at Masters; McIlroy, DeChambeau in title race

AUGUSTA, Apr 14 (Agencies): The Indian-origin trio at the 89th Masters had a rough day in the third round of the Masters. After two of the three being in Top-10 following the first round, two of them Sahith Theegala and Aaron Rai are tied-30th, while Akshay Bhatia was T-52.

Sahith Theegala (73), dropped late bogeys on the 14th and the 18th which wiped out his two birdies on the 16th and the 17th.

Debutant Aaron Rai suffered three bogeys on the fourth, sixth and 10th, but rallied superbly with four birdies in a row from the 13th only to finish bogey-bogey for a 73. Theegala and Rai were both 1-over for 54 holes and Tied-30th.

Akshay Bhatia (75), who also joined like Sahith, had two birdies against five bogeys and was T-52.

Bhatia will play the final round with former Masters winner Hideki Matsuyama as Rai and Theegala play together.

Meanwhile, at Rory McIlroy was all set to take on Bryson DeChambeau in a thriller that will mark the final round at the 2025 Masters. If McIlroy, who has won four Majors, wins he will complete a career Grand Slam and join Gene Sarazen, Ben Hogan, Gary Player, Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods in the elite club.

A career Grand Slam is said to have been achieved when a player has won all Majors at least once.

This is the sixth time McIlroy is holding the lead going into the final round

of a Major and the first time since at the Masters since 2011, when as a 21-year-old, he failed on the fourth day for an 80 and finished T-15.

The other four times he has held at least a share of the lead after 54 holes, McIlroy has won.

The Northern Irishman (72-66-66) shot a second straight 66 to get to 12-under, while DeChambeau (69-68-69) shot a third straight round in the 60s to get to 10-under.

Defending champion Scottie Scheffler (72) needs a big final round as he is seven behind and in tied sixth place with overnight leader Justin Rose (75), Shane Lowry (72) and Jason Day (71).

Other stars in contention, albeit a little distant, are Corey Connors of Canada carded 70 to be third at 8-under. Past Masters champion Patrick Reed (69) was fourth at 6-under with Swede Ludvig Aberg (69).

McIlroy, who started the third day two behind the 36-hole leader, Justin Rose (73), opened with a sizzling birdie-eagle-birdie run and then added one more to go 5-under through six holes. He faltered with bogeys on the eighth and the tenth, before finding his momentum a second time in the day with a birdie on the 13th and a second eagle on the 15th followed by a stream of steady pars to get to 12-under.

DeChambeau, too, began superbly with birdies on the first two holes, but bogeys on the third, seventh and the 12th pushed him back though he again closed with three birdies to be 10-under.

IPL 2025: Salt, Kohli power Royal Challengers Bengaluru to 9-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals

JAIPUR, Apr 14 (Agencies): Phil Salt's explosive 33-ball 65 laid the foundation and Virat Kohli's 100th T20 fifty provided the finishing touch as Royal Challengers Bengaluru cruised to a dominant nine-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals in the IPL here.

RCB's decision to bowl first paid off on a surface that stayed low and offered variable bounce, even as rising India opener Yashasvi Jaiswal's fluent 75 off 47 balls stood out in Rajasthan Royals total of 173/4.

On a slow, tacky Sawai Mansingh Stadium pitch where stroke-making was far from easy, Salt's counterattack stunned the hosts.

He smashed six sixes and five fours in his fiery innings, putting RR's bowlers under pressure from the start.

His assault, followed by Kohli's ice-cool 62 not out off 45 balls (4x4, 2x6), helped RCB chase down 174 with ease, finishing the job in just 17.3 overs.

This was RCB's fourth win of the season—all



coming in away matches.

Salt signalled his intent from the outset, top-edging Jofra Archer for a six in the opening over and also survived a close lbw shout.

He constantly shuffled across the stumps to access the leg-side and raced to his second fifty of the season in just 28 balls, bringing the required target under 100 in the eighth over.

He had moments of fortune along the way. On 23, a powerful flick ricocheted off Sandeep Sharma's outstretched hand in a tough return catch attempt.

Later, on 40, Jaiswal dropped a sharp low chance at cover, which also offered a run-out opportunity, but the stumps weren't hit. Salt

made the Royals pay dearly for those lapses.

Meanwhile, Kohli was happy to play second fiddle, beginning cautiously with just seven off his first six balls.

He too had an early life—a miscue off Sandeep's slower ball was put down by Riyan Parag at mid-off, a straightforward chance. But the RCB's iconic batter regrouped quickly and settled into his anchor role.

Together, the duo stitched a 92-run opening stand, with 65 runs coming in the powerplay alone, a phase that decisively tilted the contest RCB's way.

Salt was eventually dismissed for 65, bowled by Kumar Kartikeya, leaving RCB needing just 82 from 68 balls.

Hockey India announces 26-member Indian Women's squad for Australia tour

NEW DELHI, Apr 14 (Agencies): Hockey India on Monday announced a 26-member Indian Women's Hockey Team squad for the upcoming tour of Australia, scheduled to take place from April 26 to May 4 at the Perth Hockey Stadium. The five-match series will see India take on Australia A in the first two games, followed by three matches against the senior Australian team.

The squad will be led by dynamic midfielder Salima Tete, with experienced forward Navneet Kaur serving as the vice-captain. The tour will be a crucial preparatory assignment ahead of the team's European leg of the FIH Pro League 2024-25, set to be held in June, as per the Hockey India press release.

Seasoned goalkeeper Savita and young talent Bichu Devi Kharibam will share responsibilities between the posts, providing a strong last line of defence, Hockey India said.

Jyoti Singh, Ishika Chaudhary, Sushila Chanu Pukhrabam, Sujata Kujur, Suman Devi Thoudam, Jyoti, Ajmina Kujur, and Sakshi Rana will feature in the defensive lineup, reflecting a mix of experience and promising young talent.

In the midfield, captain Salima Tete will marshal the centre with support from Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke, Neha, Sharmila Devi, Manisha Chauhan, Sunelita Toppo, Mahima Tete, Pooja Yadav, and Lalremsiami, bringing depth and creativity to the side, Hockey India said.



The forward line comprises of Navneet Kaur, Deepika, Rutaja Dadaso Pisal, Mumtaz Khan, Baljeet Kaur, Deepika Soreng, and Beauty Dungdung.

Notably, five players—Jyoti Singh, Sujata Kujur, Ajmina Kujur, Pooja Yadav, and Mahima Tete - have earned a call-up to the senior team and will be eager to make

their senior team debuts, an official release read.

Sharing her thoughts on the squad, Harendra Singh, Chief Coach of the Indian Women's Hockey Team said, "This tour to Australia is an important opportunity for us to test our skills and strategies against top-level competition. We've selected a balanced squad that combines experience with fresh energy. It's great to see young players earning their spots through consistent performances in national level tournaments and senior camps. It will be exciting to see how they adapt and rise to the challenge at the international level."

Additionally, Bansari Solanki (goalkeeper), Anjana Dundung and Lalthanluangi (defenders),

Sakshi Shukla and Khaidem Shileima Chanu (midfielders), and Dipi Monika Toppo and Sonam (forwards) have been named standby players, it added.

"We've had a solid block of training at the national camp in Bengaluru, and the team is in good shape—both mentally and physically. Playing against Australia A and the Hockeyroos will help us fine-tune our game before the European leg of the FIH Pro League. We are in the process of strengthening key areas such as fitness, decision-making, and building a resilient mentality that allows us to stay composed and competitive in high-pressure situations. We aim to maintain the fighting spirit we showed in the Pro League recently," Singh added.

Ganesh Sharma’s sculpture “Synergy Of Soul” installed at Eco-Vista at Raika Park



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 14: Ganesh Kumar Sharma well known eminent senior contemporary internationally acclaimed Sculptor’s art work Sheesham Wood Sculpture titled “Synergy Of Souls” has been Installed at” Eco - Vista” a State - of - the - Art Museum at Raika Park Jammu.

The artist want to express through this art work the bond we share with the mother earth. This Sheesham Wood Sculpture “Synergy of Souls” depicts the connection between the human and nature at the level of soul. It embodies unity, harmony and the essence of life i.e. two faces - one spirit. “Eco Vista” has been developed as a state-of-the art museum,

by the Department of Ecology, Environment, and Remote Sensing, Jammu and Kashmir UT and dedicated to show casing the rich, diverse and invaluable forest treasures of Jammu. Ganesh Kumar Sharma senior Sculptor son of the soil is working for the promotion of art and culture from more than forty five years. On the inauguration occasion, Sh Javed Rana,

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribale Affairs, Commissioner Secretary, Forests, Ecology and Environment, Sheetal Nanda and Sh Suresh Kumar Gupta ji, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, honored and very much appreciated and praised Ganesh Sharma for his contributions to develop the state - of - art museum, “ Eco - Vista”. Many senior dignitaries of different departments were also present on the inauguration function. It is to mention here that Ganesh Kumar Sharma has donated his wonderful artistic creativity, “Synergy of Souls” to “Eco - Vista” the state of the art museum, Raika Park, Jammu. Ganesh Sharma belongs to International border village Sanooora of Samba district presently residing at Hiranagar of Kathua District, recipients of Gold - Medal and Jammu and Kashmir State Award, J & K State Award by

Academy of Art, culture and languages, National Award by Govt. Of India, two times Gold Medalist from USA and have achieved thousands Awards and honors from international and national art organizations from India and abroad. Sculptor Ganesh Kumar Sharma works in different mediums like marvel stone, granite, terracotta, Kashmir Devar stone, different kinds of Woods, iron scraps etc. His creative art works are in permanent collections of different art galleries in India and abroad. Mr. Ganesh has organized successfully 25 solo shows of his wonderful creations at different parts of the country and abroad on line as well as physically. He has participated in thousands of art exhibitions / art events/ art competitions at National and international levels. More over Ganesh Sharma’s articles and art works are published in national and international journals and magazines.

‘The ChatterBox’ celebrates two years, inaugurates new office in Jammu



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 14: The ChatterBox, a popular infotainment platform celebrated for its vibrant blend of entertainment and cultural storytelling, marked a major milestone today by celebrating its second anniversary alongside the grand inauguration of its new office in Jammu.

The inauguration ceremony turned into a festive gathering, graced by an illustrious array of personalities from Jammu’s cultural, artistic, and media circles. The ribbon-cutting was performed by the mother of Mr. Shivam Singh, the visionary founder of The Chatter Box and a recipient of the prestigious National Scholarship from the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

Among the dignitaries present were senior artists, renowned theatre personalities, cultural activists, journalists, social media influencers, and youth icons, each lending their voice to the celebration of a platform that has rapidly evolved into a cultural force in the region.

Notable attendees included Padmashree Balwant Thakur, Neeraj Kant, Anil Tickoo, Sanjeev Gupta, Sumeet Sharma, Pankaj Sharma, Sunita Pandit, Sunny Mujoo, Ravinder Singh, Akash Dogra, Deepak Singh, Irfan Nasrat Malik, Shabir Malik, Sahil Jerry, Abhimanyu Sharma, Karan Sharma, Kanhaiya Sharma, Sahil Beyal, and Ravi Raghuvanshi. The event was further enlivened by captivating performances. Shivam Singh, Amit Singh Andotra, Anadhi, Ayush Sharma, Sidharth Sharma, Rajan Janyal, and Rohit Verma showcased their talents through powerful acts of theatre, magic, poetry, and stand-up comedy, offering a true taste of the platform’s artistic diversity. Over the past two years, The ChatterBox has carved a unique niche with its innovative approach to heritage exploration, storytelling, and grassroots engagement. With a mission to unearth the hidden gems of Jammu’s culture and history, the platform has sparked a renewed sense of pride and curiosity among the region’s youth.

A central figure in this journey has been Ms. Meenakshi Bhagat, a fellow National Scholar, widely recognized as the backbone of the initiative. Her creative leadership and unwavering commitment have played a pivotal role in shaping the platform’s identity and expanding its reach. Addressing the gathering, Mr. Shivam Singh expressed heartfelt gratitude for the continued support from the people of Jammu. “The ChatterBox is more than a media platform, it is a movement to rediscover our roots and amplify the unheard narratives of our land,” he stated. He also acknowledged the crucial support received from Mohd. Yaseen, Rahul Singh, Rajat Mathur, Amit Andotra, Mahikshit Singh, and Anadhi, who have stood by him throughout the platform’s journey, helping it grow from a vision into a vibrant reality.

Dr. Rajeev Bhagat pays tribute to Dr. BR Ambedkar, celebrates ‘Samrasta Diwas’ in Bishnah



Top News Report

BISHNAH, Apr 14: Dr. Rajeev Bhagat, MLA Bishnah, paid a heartfelt floral tribute to Bharat Ratna Dr. BR Ambedkar on his 134th birth anniversary. The commemorative event, held at Sant Shiromani Bhawan Chak Avtara and Budh Vihar Bishnah, was observed as ‘Samrasta Diwas’, emphasizing

social unity and equality. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Bhagat highlighted Dr. Ambedkar’s monumental contributions to the nation, stating, “Dr. BR Ambedkar is not just an icon for the Dalit community, but a beacon of inspiration for the entire nation. He dedicated his life to the pursuit of social equality and justice. As the architect of the Indian Constitution, he laid a robust and inclusive foundation for our country.”

He further elaborated on the significance of celebrating Dr. Ambedkar’s birth anniversary as ‘Samrasta Diwas,’ noting, “It is crucial that we carry forward the ideals of social harmony that Dr. Ambedkar championed throughout his life. True homage to him lies in fostering unity and amity within our society. The event witnessed the presence of numerous dignitaries who lauded Dr. Ambedkar’s legacy and pledged to uphold his principles. Born on April 14, 1891, in Mhow, Madhya Pradesh, Dr. BR Ambedkar was a distinguished social reformer, economist, and politician. He waged a relentless battle against untouchability and caste discrimination, striving to secure the rights of the Dalit community. His pivotal role in drafting the Indian Constitution is indelible.

He incorporated special provisions to safeguard the interests of Dalits and other marginalized sections of society, advocating for social equality, justice, and fraternity. ‘Samrasta Diwas’ serves as a tribute to Dr. Ambedkar’s vision of a harmonious society. It is a day dedicated to promoting social equality and cohesion, aiming to foster unity and brotherhood among all citizens. The event saw enthusiastic participation from a large number of citizens who reaffirmed their commitment to Dr. Ambedkar’s ideals. The celebration of Dr. BR Ambedkar’s birth anniversary as ‘Samrasta Diwas’ is a commendable initiative. It not only propagates his ideals but also reinforces the values of social unity and equality in our society.

GDC Neeli Nallah concludes celebrations of birth anniversary of Dr Ambedkar



Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Apr 14: GDC Neeli Nallah concluded the celebration of birth anniversary of B.R. Ambedkar as knowledge of symbol and organized a series of activities under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Seema Arora, Principal of the College. The activities included documentary video of B.R. Ambedkar, pledge taking ceremony, awareness lecture, Poster making competition, and Padyatras. On Day 1 NSS UNIT showed a Documentary

on the life and work of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar to commemorate 134th Birth Anniversary of our first law minister. The Principal motivated the students on equality as a core principle, advocating for a society where everyone, regardless of caste, creed, or gender, has equal opportunities and rights, reflected in his work on the Indian Constitution and his fight against social injustice. On Day 2 a pledge taking ceremony was organized in which students and faculty members took pledge

to uphold the values and principles of equality, justice and fraternity as envisioned by B.R. Ambedkar. On day 3, an awareness lecture was given by Prof. Shaista Yasmeen, NSS PO in which she made aware the students about the role of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in framing the constitution of India. She also showcased them the books written by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in the college library. This was followed by a poster making competition on Day 4, in which students portrayed their views and art through posters. To conclude, a Padyatra was launched from college premises in which students and the faculty members took part with great zeal and enthusiasm. The padyatra was flagged off by the Principal from the college premises, went to the nearby village and culminated back to the college. This aimed to promote Ambedkar’s contributions to Indian Society

and promote unity and social harmony. The event was organized under the conve- nership of Prof. Shaista Yasmeen, NSS Programme Officer. It was

celebrated by all the staff members by paying rich tributes to Dr. BR Ambedkar as Principal architect of Indian Constitution and champion of social justice.

Guru Gobind Singh College of Management and Technology celebrates Ambedkar Jayanti

Top News Report

GIDDERBAHA, APR 14: Guru Gobind Singh College of Management and Technology, Gidderbaha, commemorated the 134th birth anniversary of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar, the principal architect of the Indian Constitution, with great respect and devotion. The event was organized under the supervision of Prof. Amanjot Kaur, Head of the Department of Political Science, and held under the guidance of Dr. R.K. Uppal, Principal of the college. The celebration began with a floral tribute to Dr. Ambedkar, as staff and students gathered to honor his enduring legacy. Principal Dr. R.K. Uppal addressed the gathering and spoke about Dr. Ambedkar’s immense contribution to Indian society. He highlighted Dr. Ambedkar’s role as a visionary leader, constitutional expert, economist, and social reformer who dedicated his life to the empowerment of marginalized communities and the establishment of a just and equitable society. Dr. Uppal emphasized the need for today’s youth to imbibe the values of equality, justice, and education that Dr. Ambedkar advocated.

Hundreds of people pay tribute to Prof Roshan Lal Kataria, Founder Aryans Group



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 14: Shardhanjali Samaro- h of renowned educationist Late Prof. Roshan Lal Kataria, Founder, Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura, near Chandigarh was organised. Prof Kataria passed at the age of 76 on 26th March, 2025 in Chandigarh. He was the founder of Aryans Group, Chandigarh. On the occasion, prominent figures of Punjab, including Politician, Social workers, representatives of Universities & Colleges Associations, NGOs conveyed their condolences to his son, Dr. Anshu Kataria, Chairman, Aryans Group. Eminent persons including Harnirpal Singh Kukku, Former MLA, Sri Muktsar Sahib; Dr Naresh Pruthi, Congress leader Harcharan Sotha; Shammi Teria, President, Municipal Committee, Sri Muktsar Sahib, Rajinder Bhandari, Setia Paper Mill, Sandeep Girdhar Gurdas Girdhar, Satish Bhat- ja, Raj Kumar Melu, Ashwani Girdhar, Raman Girdhar Shiv Tirpal Ke, Panjab University Hostel Association were present. Members of Punjab Unaided Colleges Association (PUCA) & Punjab Unaided Technical Institutions Association (PUTIA), Joint Association of Colleges (JAC), Nursing Association, Lala Lajpat Rai Group of Institutions, Moga;

SVIET, Chandigarh; Sukhjindra Group, Gurdaspur; Bharat Group, Mansa; BIS College, Moga; Desh Bhagat, Moga, ISF College, Moga, Alpine College, Baghapurana, Malwa Nursing College, Kotkapura, Baba Farid Bathinda, KCT College, Lehragaga, Shivalik School, Jaito, Muktsar Palace and Resort Association ets were present. Prof Roshan Lal Kataria completed his Master’s in Economics from Dehradun in 1973. He served in various educational institutions, including Government College Sri Muktsar Sahib, Government College Jira, and DAV School Sri Muktsar Sahib. Kataria also ventured into entrepreneurship and started restaurants including Moon Light in Sri Muktsar Sahib (1983-1988), Red Rose in Fazilka, and Saki in Jalalabad (1988-1991). His son Dr Anshu Kataria is the Chairman of the Aryans Group, President of the Punjab Unaided Colleges Association (PUCA), and President of the Federation of Self-Financing Technical Institutions Association, All India (FSFTI). Dr. Anshu Kataria has emerged as a young and dynamic entrepreneur, successfully carrying forward his legacy. Also, Chaman Lal Kataria, Former Vice President Municipal Committee, BJP Leader Ravinder Kataria, State Awardee Chanchal Kataria and others.