# TOP NEWS OF J&K

**NATIONAL** 



JAMMU, TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2025

Daily Evening Newspaper

ENTERTAINMENT

**Sharad Kelkar returns** to television after eight years



PM Modi greets people

on 'Himachal Diwas'

**INTERNATIONAL** 

"Set an example": Barack **Obama as Harvard rejects** Trump's demands



e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-12 Issue-103 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

18

#### BRIEFLY

#### **Soldier** electrocuted after climbing atop train in Samba

JAMMU, Apr 15 (Agencies): A 24-yearold soldier was electrocuted when he came in contact with a live wire after climbing on top of a passenger train in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district, officials said on Tuesday.

Ramchandra Choudhary, a native of Rajasthan's Jodhpur, met with the accident near Bari Brahmana station late Monday night, the officials said.

They said the soldier was posted in the Territorial Army battalion in Srinagar and was moving to his new posting in Sikandrabad.

It was not immediately known what prompted him to climb on the roof of the train, the officials said, adding that the body was shifted to Government Medical College Hospital in Jammu for post-mortem.

#### Ten injured in minibus accident in Rajouri

JAMMU, Apr 15 (Agencies): Atleast ten people were injured after a minibus met with an accident in Ghambir Mughlan area of Manjakote in

Rajouri on Tuesday. Officials said that a minibus bearing registration number JK02Q2158 lost its control due to which turned turtle at Ghambir Mughlan area. Police along with locals soon reached the accident spot and started the

rescue operation. In this incident ten people were injured who were shifted to nearby hospital for treatment.

A police officer said that all passengers have minor injuries. Waqf

#### **Amendment** Act: Govt singling out Muslims, says NC's **Tanvir Sadiq**

SRINAGAR, Apr 15 (Agencies): National Conference (NC) Chief Spokesperson and MLA Tanvir Sadiq on Monday said the ongoing reforms in Waqf properties are aimed at targeting Muslims and questioned why similar measures are not applied to other commu-

nities. Speaking to the media, Sadiq, said the reforms were part of a larger plan that began under the late Mufti Muhammad Sayeed's government and have since been used to bring Waqf properties under government control.

Sadiq alleged that the ■Turn to page 9

#### **Amarnath Yatra: Devotees queue up at designated** bank branches for Registration

JAMMU, Apr 15 (Agencies): The offline registration for the upcoming annual Amarnath Yatra began with enthusiastic pilgrims making a beeline outside the designated bank branches here on Tuesday, hoping to get an opportunity to be part of the first batch to visit the revered shrine.

The 38-day pilgrimage is scheduled to begin on July 3 from the twin routes — the traditional 48-km Pahalgam route in south Kashmir's Anantnag district and 14-km shorter but steep Baltal route in Ganderbal district.

The yatra will culminate on August 9, coinciding with the Raksha



Bandhan festival.

Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB), which manages the annual pilgrimage, has designated a total of 540 bank branches across the country for advance registration of the pilgrims, in addition to the online facility for registration on its website which started on Monday.

According to the board,

no one below the age of 13 or above 75 and women with more than six weeks' pregnancy shall be registered for the pilgrimage.

"The advance yatra registration commenced this morning with intending devotees, both men and women, turning up early to secure their slot for the annual pilgrimage," an official of the

Rehari branch, said. He said the registra-

Punjab National Bank,

tion is a must for all the pilgrims intending to undertake the yatra.

Expressing happiness over the start of the advance registration, Ajay Mehra, a local resident, said they have been waiting for this day to be among the first to visit the shrine, housing the naturally formed iceshivling.

"This is my seventh yatra this year and I am happy to be here to get registered," he said, asking devotees to come for 'darshan of the Baba Barfani' as "the happiness you will get there cannot be found

Turn to page 9

#### Special Vande Bharat's trial conducted on Katra-Sangaldan Section in J&K



JAMMU, Apr 15 (Agencies): Ahead of its inauguration by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 19, a special Vande Bharat train's trial run was successfully conducted on Tuesday on the Katra-Sangaldan section of the 272-km Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Line (USBRL) which connects Kashmir with the rest of the country.

The trial run is part of the final arrangements for the inauguration of the world's highest railway bridge on the Chenab River, which falls in the Katra-Sangaldan section of the prestigious railway project, officials said.

Modi will flag off the Vande Bharat train from Jammu to Srinagar via Katra. The trial run of the special Vande Bharat train took place on the Katra-Sangaldan section on Tuesday, the officials said.

Prime Minister Modi is expected to travel in the train on this bridge as part of the inauguration. He will later flag off the first train to Kashmir from Katra to begin the operation of train services between Katra and Baramulla and connect Kashmir with the rest of

the country, they said. A multi-tier security setup has been put in place along the track and at vital locations in the Katra-Sangaldan section, as well as along the entire track to Kashmir, they said.

"We have made full preparations and now

Turn to page 9

## Different approach to Waqf resolution could have changed outcome: CM Omar

SRINAGAR, Apr 15 (Agencies): Amid criticism by opposition legislators and parties in Jammu and Kashmir. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday termed the adjournment motion on the Waqf Amendment Bill brought by members in the Legislative Assembly a misplaced action.

Speaking to reporters, Chief Minister said the Speaker had clarified everything on the last day of the session. "The adjournment motion brought by the members was an inappropri



motion aimed to contest the local government's decision. However, had the resolution been tabled differently, the outcome could have been different."

The Chief Minister further said the party has now approached the Supreme Court in this regard and added, "Let's wait for the court's response."

Regarding the restoration of statehood, the Chief Minister said they believe the time is right, as six months have passed since elections were held in Jammu and Kashmir.

He added that during the recent visit of Union Home Minister Amit Shah to the region, he met the minister separately. "I am hopeful that statehood will be restored soon," he said.

### Javed Rana pays tributes to Dr. B.R Ambedkar on 135th Birth Anniversary in Udhampur

**Top News Report** 

UDHAMPUR, Apr 15: The 135th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the principal architect of the Indian Constitution, was celebrated with solemnity and enthusiasm at Ambedkar Chowk,

(Jakhani Chowk), Udhampur.

The event was organized by the Ambedkar Welfare Organisation

Minister Javed Ahmed Rana, Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Tribal Affairs, graced the occasion as the Chief

minister, Vijay Lochan, Chairman SC Cell. JKNC, Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Central Zone were also present and paid floral tributes to Dr. Ambedkar.

The event commenced with Bhim Vandana and

#### Whistleblower IAS Officer seeks probe into **Former Chief Secretary** in Jammu Kashmir's Rs 6,000-Crore JJM Scam



SRINAGAR, Apr 15 (Agencies): As the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly's newly constituted House Committee prepares to begin its investigation into the alleged multi-crore Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) scam, whistleblower and former IAS officer Ashok Kumar Parmar has written to the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), seeking the prosecution of former Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta and three retired chief engineers of the

Jal Shakti Department,

the Wire news portal reported.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta. Chief Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir In a detailed letter

addressed to the ACB and citing recent court rulings dated April 12, Parmar has alleged that there exists "credible evidence" to prosecute Mehta, along with former chief engineers Manesh Bhat, Humesh Manchanda, and Basharat Jeelani Kawoosa, under provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, for their alleged involvement in a "criminal conspiracy to abuse public office, misappropriate public funds, and cause a massive loss to

the state exchequer." Parmar's letter accuses Mehta of abusing his position to facilitate large-scale irregularities in the procurement of

■Turn to page 9

#### AAP to field candidate for Budgam **Assembly** seat

SRINAGAR, Apr 15 (Agencies): The coalition partner of the National Conference (NC) in Jammu and Kashmir, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has decided to field its candidate on the Budgam Assembly seat.

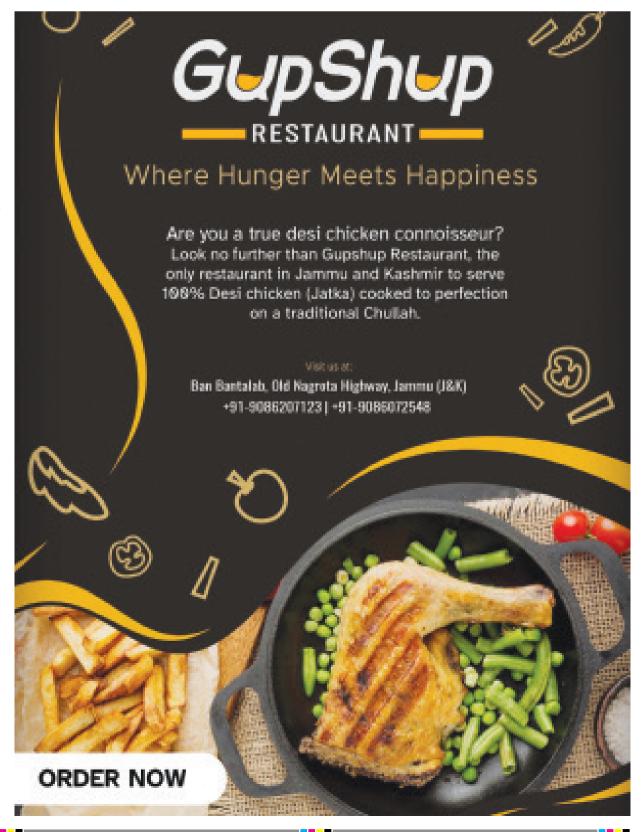
AAP Jammu and Kashmir President and Doda MLA, Mehraj Malik, has said that the party will contest in the Budgam assembly by poll.

The polls were necessitated after Chief Minister Omar Abdullah vacated the seat following his win in the Ganderbal assembly segment as well.

On contesting the elections from Budgam, Malik said, "Our party will contest the seat to win it."

Earlier, the NC's Srinagar MP, Aga Ruhullah Mehdi, urged Omar to field a local candidate on the assembly seat.

#### Guest. Besides Deputy (Trust), Udhampur, and witnessed the participa-Commissioner Udhamtion of several prominent pur Madam Saloni Rai political and social lead-Guest of Honor and Babu Rampal, former the unfurling of the **Turn to page 9** ers.



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

ndia Insurance, S/o Late Shri Som Nath Pandita,

R/o Karihama, Kupwara, presently residing at H.No. 6, Lane No. 5, Saraswati Vihar, Bohri, Jammu, who left for heavenly abode on 10th April

2025.
Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at Muthi Ghat on 19th April (Saturday) at 9:00 AM.
Grief Stricken
Mother - Smt. Dulari Pandita
Wife - Smt. Meena Ji Pandita
Daughter and Son-in-law
Smt. Manve Puran Pandita & Shri Robin Pandita

Smt. Mehak Puran Pandita & Shri Rohin Pandita

FIFTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform

Smt. Kran & Shri Suresh Pandita Contact Numbers: 9682353047, 9877939543, 8894096900

imt. Kamlesh & Shri Ravinder Pandita Sisters & Jija Ji Smt. Daizy & Shri Sri Krishan Raina

Smt. Sanjay & Shri Satish Thusoo Smt. Asha & Shri Vinod Dhar

April 13, 2025.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Brothers & Sister In Law:

Sister & Brother In Law:

#### TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of Sh. Avtar Krishen Razdan S/o Late Sh. Raghunath Razdan, originally resident of Ganpatyar, Srinagar on 9th of April 2025 at New Delhi.

TENTH DAY KRIYA shall be held at Bawana Canal Ghat, Near DTC Bus Depot, Sector 18; Rohini Bawana Road, New Delhi on Thursday, 17.04.2025 at 7.00 AM.

The CONDOLENCE ASSEMBLY will be held at our Residence at Flat No 487, GH 5 & 7, Meera Bagh, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi at 10.30 AM. **GRIEF STRICKEN** 

Smt. Nancy Razdan (Wife)

Smt. Chuni Razdan (Sister)

Sh. Sanjay Razdan & Smt. Ujala (Son & Daughter-in-law) Smt. Anjali & Sh. Sunit Razdan (Daughter and Son-in-law)

Brothers & Sisters-in-law Sh. Surinder & Smt. Girja Razdan

Sh. Vinod & Smt. Pushpa Ji Razdan

Brothers-In-law & Sister-In-law

Sh. Mohan Lal Raina, Sh. Ratan Lal Raina & Smt. Dutari Pandita

Shruf, Chhavi & Aaryan (Grand Children) ALL RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

MOB. NO.: 9711195487, 7570004299, 7798322547

#### 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 Hardwar, Murad Nagar,

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

**GRIEF STRICKEN:** 

Jyotsna & Navnit Pandita (DIL & Son) 882689 5896 88 26824896

Sarojini and Vinod Bhat (Daughter & SIL) Sunita & Tej Krishan Pandita (Daughter & SIL) Kusum & Sandeep Pandita (DIL & Son) Jyoti & Ashok Sahib (Daugter & SIL) Meenu & Deepak Tikoo (Daugter & SIL) Kamakshi & Abhishek Tathoo (Daugter & SIL)

Prana & Bansi Lal Pandita (SIL & BIL) Saria & Bihari Lai Pandita (SIL & BIL) Pinki & Rainder Pandita (SIL & BIL) Dura Koul (SIL)

G K Raina (BIL)

Tosha & Avtar Bhat (SIL & BIL)

Vijay & K K Bhat (SIL & BIL)

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



Sh. Avtar Krishen Razdan



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 Puran Singh Samyal R/o House No. 161 Sector-G, Sainik Colony, Jammu. Tenth Day will be performed on 13 Apr 25 (Sunday) at 09 AM at their residence.

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

(Wednesday) at 04.30 PM at their residence. Grief Stricken

Smt Sunita Rani (Wife) (Son & Daughter in law)

Col Rahul Dev Singh & Smt Ramni Anthal

Daughters & Sons in law

Smt Neena Salaria & Col Sanjay Salaria

Smt Reena Rathore & Col Omeesh Rathore

Brothers & Bhabis Sh Kulbir Singh Samyal & Smt Nishi Samval

Pawan Samyal W/o Late Prof. Parshotam Singh Samyal

Smt Manorma Samyal W/o Late Maj Randhir Singh Samyal Master Yaduraj Singh (Grand Son)

Grand Children

Vikrant, Rohan, Chandani, Viraaj

#### TENTH DAY

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

Tenth Day (Satsang) will be performed on 18-04-2025 (Friday) from 12:00 Noon onwards at Vishwakarma mandir near matador stand Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu. GRIEF STRICKEN: -

Smt. Krishna Kumari -Wife (Sister in Law & Brother)

Smt. Koushalya Devi & Sh. Chuni Lal Smt. Anita Kumari & Sh. Vijay Kumar (Sister & Brother in Law) Smt. Bimla Devi & Sh. Rattan Lal (Daughter in Law & Son)

Smt. Anju Bala & Sh. Rakesh Kumar Smt. Rani Devi & Sh. Pardeep Kumar



Col Kuldip Singh (Retd)

SH. TARA CHAND

(Daughter & Son in Law)

Smt. Nirmala & Sh. Harbans Lal Smt. Susheela Devi & Sh. Mohinder Lal Smt. Chander Kanta & Sh. Mahesh Kumar

CONTACT NO: 6005438801, 9541071083,

#### Ex Sub Major (27-03-1946 to 10-04-2025)

Grand Children Rateshwar, Pranav, Aarav,

# 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

#### **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 SRIAKHAND 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 SINGHADV. S. CHARANJIT SINGH KHALSA EX MLC BJP.

## TENTH DAY KRIYA

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

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

Smt. Uma W/o Lt. Lassa Koul - SISTER IN LAW SONS & DAUGHTERS IN LAW:

Sh. Maharaj Krishan Koul

Smt. Bimla Koul & Sh. Roshan Lal Koul

Smt. Nirmala Koul & Sh. Ramesh Kumar Koul

Smt. Sunita Koul & Sh. Nana Ji Koul

DAUGHTERS & SONS IN LAW:

Smt. Jeeta Bhat W/o Late Sh. Makhan Lai Bhat

Smt. Shanta Koul & Sh. Pran Nath Koul Smt. Sarla Dhar & Sh. Bhushan Lal Dhar

**GRANDSONS & GRANDDAUGHTERS** 

Ph: 9622217837, 9419878980, 9419874340, 9103839991

#### TENTH DAY KRIYA

Those we love do no go away, they walk beside us every day, unseen, unheard but always near, still missed and very dear"

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved Smt. Nirmala Koul (Kariholoo) W/o Late Girdhari Lal Kariholoo original resident of Dhraibhyar, Habba Kadal, Srinagar at present H.No. 170, Sector 23, Gurugram, Haryana.

Tenth Day Kriya will be held on 19-04-2025 (Saturday) at Shree Gauri Shankar Mandir, Gurugram, Pawala Khasrupur, Haryana at 8:00 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN** Sister-in-law and Brother-in-law Sunita and Jawahir Koul Kariholoo

Harshada and Neeraj Koul - Daughter-in-law & Son leeru and Anil Kapoor- Daug Arav, Arihan, Anvi, Tashi and Syona- Grand Children Shanta and H L Trakru- Sister-in-law and Brother-in-law Jyoti and J.L. Kak - Sister-in-law and Brother-in-law

Indra W/o Late Surinder Koul - Sister-in-law and Brother-in-law

## 10th Day / 13th Day (Kriya)

CONTACT NO: 9810506108, 9811800642, 8355825772

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

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

Smt. Meena Devi - Wife **Bhabi 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 Rail GRAND CHILDREN: Saloni, Yogesh, Aviral, Rajesh, Parth, Bhakti Mobile: 9419175459

## 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 Trehgam Kupwara at present TRT No. 3 Block-E Purkhoo Camp Domana Jammu who let us for heavenly abode on 07-04-2025. May Lord Gmnt 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 Wo 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

Nitish Bhat -Son Nitika Bhat -Daughter

All Nears & Dears Mob. No. 9797534928, 9797439449



S.SUCHWANT SINGH JI

RTD. DIRECTOR AGRI, CHIEF

SPOKESMAN MJR-47



SMT. NIRMALA KOUL



Sh. Krishan Singh

Rai

Smt Madhu Bhat

W/o Prithvi Nath Bhat

## Sister and brother in law

**Koul Family** 

All Langer Family



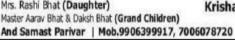
With extreme grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh. Maharaj Krishan Bhat S/o Lt. Shamboo Nath Bhat originally resident of Sheilteng Habbakadal Srinagar Kashmir A/p H.no. 7, Lane no. 9, Tumal Bohri Jammu on 8th April 2025.

The TENTH DAY KRIYA will be held on 17th April 2025 Thursday at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education office Jammu at 6.30 am and prayer assembly at 8 am. GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Sarla Bhat (Wife) Mr. Jatinder Bhat (Son) Mrs. Rashi Bhat (Daughter)

13TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to



inform about our beloved Rajesh Kuma (Romy) S/o Sh. Vinod Kumar R/o 68/A Karan Nagar, Lane No.3, Jammu, passe away on 4th April, 2025. 13th Day Kriya will be held at our res dence on 16th April, 2025 at 12 Noor GRIEF STRICKEN Father & Mother Vinod Kumar & Sudarshana Devi

Sheetal Sharma - Wife Yaksh Sharma - Son Taya & Tayee Ji M.R. Sharma & Raj Rani Sharma Chacha & Chachi Ji Ashok Sharma & Usha Sharma Brothers & Sisters-in-law

Rakesh Kumar & Savita Sandeep Kumar & Shilpi

Pankai Sharma & Meenakshi

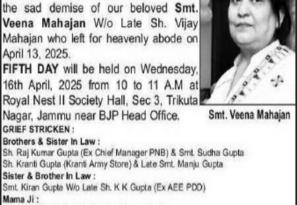




Contact: 9419263796,

#### **DISCLAIMER**

"Top News of J&K" does not take responsibility for



SHRI PURAN NATH

PANDITA

#### Sh. Bodh Raj Gupta (Ex Director Prosecution) Mob: 8825009033, 9419162198, 9419193495

FIFTH DAY With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh. Bipan Chand Kapoor Husband of Smt. Sunita apoor who left for his heavenly abode or (13th of April 2025) Sunday. Fifth Day will be held on 16th April 2025

Wednesday) from 11:00 A.M to 12 Noon at anch Mandir, Channi Himmat, Sector-2 Near Police Stataion. GRIEF STRICKEN habhi & Bhaiya

mt. Geeta & Sh. G.G Sawhney Smt. Anjana & Late Sh. K.G. Sawhney Smt. Sushil & Sh. Jyoti Sawhney Smt. Rajshree & Lt. Sh. Rakesh Sawhney

Sisters & Brothers-in-law Smt. Sarita Vii & Lt. Sh. Ravinder Vii

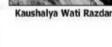
Smt. Jyotsana & Sh. Anil Sahi Mobile Nos.: 7889730266, 9419137452, 9622101989

#### 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.

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 CONTACT 9914884695,







## UTHALA / KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh. Ashok Gupta Langer S/o late Sh. Babu Ram Langer R/o Ward no. 5, Akhnoor. Kriya will be held on 16th of April Wednesday a 12:00pm at our residence and Uthala will be held at 4:00pm to 5:00 pm at Kameshwar Mandir Akhnoor. GRIEF STRICKEN

Mother: Smt. Kanta Rani Wife: Smt. Chetna Gupta Brothers and Sisters-in-law: Raman Langer and Shweta Sanjeev Langer and Suman

Sh. Rakesh Gupta and Sushma Gupta Son: Kapish Gupta Langer and Harshul Gupta Langer

Mob. No.: 7051112535, 9797372755, 9419100289, 9419188364

. Ashok Gupta Langer

(Exp. on 44-2025)



Sh. Maharaj Krishan Bhat



RAJESH KUMAR

Sisters & Brothers-in-law Sonia & Kuldeep Raina Monika & Rajeev Mohna 9596912834

the contents of the advertisements (Display/ Classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the contents on their own before acting there upon."

## Search operation extended after brief exchange of fire with terrorists in Poonch



**Top News Report** 

POONCH, Apr 15: Search operation has been extended in Lasana area of Surankote in Poonch district after a brief

exchange of fire with Terrorists. An official informed that contact was

established with terrorists during a joint operation with Jammu and Kashmir Police at Lasana in Surankote last night. He said that additional troops have been inducted, and search operations are ongoing to prevent the terrorists from escaping.

## Randhawa along with JDA officials visits Belicharana, addresses local issues



#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Apr 15: As part of his continued public outreach efforts, MLA Bahu and senior BJP leader Ch. Vikram Randhawa visited Belicharana ON Tuesday to meet with residents and listen to their griev-

During the visit, the MLA interacted with local residents, listened to their grievances, and assessed on-ground conditions firsthand.

The two primary demands raised by the public were including construction of a Shamshan Ghat (cremation ground) for the area and development of a public park to serve as a recreational space for families, youth, and senior citizens.

The presence of JDA officials enabled immediate site inspections and preliminary discussions on the feasibility of these demands. MLA Randhawa directed the officials to explore viable locations and initiate necessary formalities at

major demands, issues related to drainage, road infrastructure, electricity supply, and sanitation were also highlighted. Ch. Randhawa assured the public that their concerns would be addressed in a timebound and transparent manner.

Speaking during the visit, he stated, "The involvement of JDA offi-

cials today reflects our seriousness in resolving long-pending civic issues. The demands of the people of Belicharana are genuine and will be followed up

and public participation is the key to success." In addition to these positive response from the local community, who welcomed the joint initiative and expressed hope for early resolution

> This outreach is part of a broader effort by the MLA to ensure that public representatives remain connected with the people and work transparently to address their needs.

> of their long-standing

proactively. Develop-

ment is our top priority,

## Balwant Thakur shares art concerns, discusses importance of celebrations with IIM students

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Apr 15: In connection with the celebrations of World Art Day, Natrang Director Padma shri Balwant Thakur share his art concerns and dwelt in details about the importance of the celebrations of this day today all over the world. He discussed details with 130 students of performing arts at IIM, Jammu. Elaborating the history and the significance World Art Day Celebrations Balwant Thakur while quoting UNESCO said that recognising the importance of promoting, developing, disseminating, enjoying and appreciating the arts, the UNESCO General Conference, at its 40th session held in 2019, adopted World Art Day.

Our arts are the strength of our spirit and the cradle of creativity, innovation, and cultural diversity among peoples across the

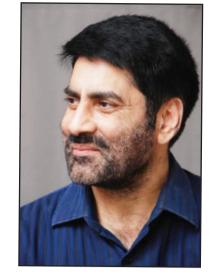
our progress, the dissemination and exchange of knowledge, the fostering of curiosity, and the impetus for dialogue. Art has always enjoyed this status, and nothing will change as long as we continue to support artists wherever they are, championing and protecting their artistic freedom. Art is an edifice; the higher we elevate it, the more it will soar toward a world of freedom and peace.

The vision of World Art Day, observed every year on April 15, is to strengthen the connection between artistic creativity and society, raise awareness of the diversity of these forms, and highlight the contribution of artists to sustainable development. This World Day also provides an opportunity to address the issue of art education in schools, recognizing the pivotal role of culture in paving the way cation for all.

World Art Day has much to learn, share, and celebrate. Today the whole world is celebrating this day in variety of ways, including discussions, conferences, workshops, cultural events, presentations, and exhibitions. In Jammu the day is celebrated by initiating a serious discourse with the brilliant future managers of India. "This World Art Day is a timely

reminder that art can unite and bring us together, even in the most difficult of circumstances. Indeed, the power of art to bring people together, inspire, heal, and foster exchange has become increasingly evident, most notably during the conflicts and crises of the past few years.

"This is the high time that we adopt arts as an integral part of our lives and ensure that art acquires the required space in



every home, every school, college and every educational institution. Let the authorities awake from a long slumber and start recognising the role of arts in shaping nations and generations" Balwant Thakur concluded.

## IIM Jammu's MBA Program recognized by CFA **Institute under University Affiliation Program**

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Apr 15: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu has achieved a significant academic milestone with its flagship MBA program officially accepted into the prestigious University Affiliation Program (UAP) of

#### Patient with large ovarian tumour given second lease of life at Narayana Hospital

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 15:. A 58-year-old patient from Jammu diagnosed with a large ovarian tumour has been given a new lease of life at Narayana Hospital, Gurugram.

The patient had been experiencing abdominal pain. Diagnostic investigations, including a PET scan, revealed an 8x6 cm left ovarian mass with a haemorrhagic component, necessitating surgical intervention.

Left ovarian mass removal was done and during surgery (on frozen report) pathologist confirmed the presence of tumour cells in left ovary, prompting the surgical team to perform an extensive surgery i.e Total Abdominal Hysterectomy with Bilateral Pelvic Lymph Node Dissection and Retroperitoneal Lymph Node Dissection to eliminate all possible spread and suspicious disease sites, ensuring the best possible outcome.

"Because of the efforts of our experienced surgical and anesthesia team, the six-hour procedure was successfully completed without complications," said Dr. Debasish Chaudhary, Senior Consultant and Clinical Lead, Narayana Hospital Gurugram. "Given the patient's

complex medical history, we took additional precautions to ensure her safety throughout the procedure. The successful removal of the tumour not only addressed her immediate symptoms but also ensured good disease control. The patient was discharged on the 5th post-operative day,' Dr. Debasish added. Dr. Vidur Garg, Associate Consultant-Surgical Oncology at Narayana Hospital Gurugram, added, "The presence of a haemorrhagic component within the large tumour may increase the risk of excessive bleeding, and confirmation of tumor cells in mass during surgery making this a particularly challenging case as taking the decision on extent of surgery and at same time ensuring the Complete removal of the tumour which was crucial to minimizing the risk of recurrence and ensuring the patient's longterm well-being."

Narayana Hospital Gurugram remains committed to providing advanced surgical care, ensuring optimal outcomes for patients facing complex medical conditions. The hospital's multidisciplinary approach, combined with stateof-the-art technology and an expert medical and surgical team, ensures patients receive comprehensive care tailored to their specific needs.

the CFA Institute, USA. This collaboration is

aimed at integrating the CFA Program's Candidate Body of Knowledge (CBOK) into IIM Jammu's curriculum, thereby reinforcing the institute's commitment to delivering globally relevant education in finance and investment management. The affiliation will provide students access to the CFA Institute's learning ecosystem, including exclusive scholarships, preparatory resources, and industry-aligned content.

The CFA Institute, globally recognized for setting high standards in investment education, acknowledges academic institutions that embed a substantial portion of the CFA Program curriculum into their coursework. The partnership is expected to significantly benefit students in terms of career readiness, placements, and global recognition in roles such as investment management, equity research, portfolio analysis, and corporate finance.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, noted that the affiliation is a testament to the institute's commitment to academic excellence and global standards. He emphasized that the recognition aligns perfectly with IIM Jammu's vision of producing future-ready leaders equipped with world-class knowledge in finance and investment and stated that it will open up new oppor-

tunities for our students. Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu, stated that the collaboration with the CFA Institute will further enhance the institute's curriculum, bridge academiaindustry gaps, and equip students with specialized skills sought after in the global financial

Through this strategic affiliation, IIM Jammu joins a select group of elite institutions worldwide recognized by the CFA Institute for academic rigor and curriculum alignment with the evolving needs of the investment profession.

This affiliation program serves as a testament to potential students, companies, and all stakeholders that the MBA curriculum at IIM Jammu adheres to international professional practices.

Dr. Praveen Kumar, Assistant Professor, Finance and Accounting is the principle contact person at IIM Jammu who serves as the primary point of contact for CFA Institute's University Affiliation Program. The collaboration holds particular significance for IIM Jammu as it facilitates the integration of practical knowledge into its curriculum, offering unique insights into the global industry.

#### Medical Camp organised for Gujjar and Bakarwal communities at Kotli Kalaban

**Top News Report** 

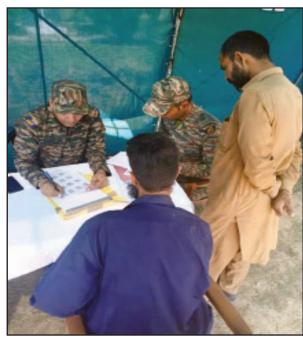
POONCH, Apr 15: In a committed effort to support the Gujjar and Bakarwal communities in preserving their traditional seasonal migration, the Indian Army recently organized a Dera Registration and Medical Assistance Camp at Kotli Kalaban.

This initiative ensures a safe, organized, and seamless movement of deras as they embark on their annual journey to the highland pastures north of the Pir Panjal range.

The Gujjar and Bakar-

wals, who practice nomadic pastoralism, undertake arduous biannual migrations with their livestock. These iourneys are not only vital for their sustenance but are also a testament to their rich cultural heritage and traditional ecological knowledge. As part of the camp, dera owners were registered and provided with laminated QR codes containing authenticated digital data related to the dera and livestock. This modern solution enables smoother coordination and secure verification at checkpoints

along the migration



route, improving both safety and efficiency. Recognizing the significance of proper documentation, the Indian Army coordinated with local civil administration to facilitate the renewal and updating of migration permits.

This collaboration ensures that the community's traditional practices are recognized and supported within contemporary governance frameworks. In addition, a medical camp was organized to address the healthcare needs of both the nomadic families and their livestock.

Army medical teams provided health checkups, essential medicines, and valuable advice on maintaining well-being throughout the challenging journey.

The initiative was warmly welcomed by the Gujjar and Bakarwal communities, who expressed deep appreciation for the Army's continued support.

These efforts not only uphold their traditional way of life but also strengthen the bond of mutual trust and cooperation between the Indian Army and the local populace.

## VC JU, Prof. Umesh Rai releases brochure of **Department of Lifelong Learning for 2024-25**

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Apr 15: Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor (VC), University of Jammu (JU) on Tuesday released brochure of Department of Lifelong Learning (DLL) for the year 2024-25.

The brochure highlights all the achievements and activities organised by different units of Department of Lifelong Learning during the year 2024-25. The Department is involved in various lifelong learning activities, skill based activities, career counselling activities and coaching etc. The Department's field based post graduate Masters of Rural Studies, updated in 2025, has huge potential for research. The first batch of MRS has been able to employee 7 students.



The Department has also initiated PhD programme from the academic session 2025-2026. The DLL through its units not only prepares the students for the world of work but also plays a facilitative role in fulfilling social needs as well as human resource requirements.

The Vice Chancellor congratulated Department of Lifelong Learning on this occasion and appreciated its efforts for providing field based educational and skill development pro-

grammes. The brochure was released in the presence Dr. Neeraj Sharma,

Registrar University of Jammu. Dr. Priyanka Sharma, Director, Department of Lifelong Learning, Prof. Kavita Suri, Dr. Vivek Sharma, Dr. Pallavi Sachdeva, Dr. Sandeep Singh (faculty Department of Lifelong Learning) and Dr. Rewa Khajuria, (Counsellor EIAB).

## **EDITORIAL**

## A Call for Vigilance

n the shadowed corners of bustling markets, along remote highways, across porous borders, and even beneath the veneer of legitimate enterprise, a dark economy pulses silently—the world of illegal trade. This silent predator not only corrodes the economy but also eats away at the soul of societies, undermining law, order, and human dignity.

Illegal trade, in its myriad forms—smuggling, counterfeit goods, wildlife trafficking, drug and arms trade, and illicit liquor manufacturing—has evolved into a sophisticated, deeply entrenched network. It thrives on corruption, weak enforcement, socio-economic vulnerabilities, and at times, even silent complicity. The need for a robust, sustained, and people-centric check on such activities has never been more urgent.

From illicit liquor dens in remote villages to counterfeit pharmaceutical markets in urban alleyways, illegal trade often flourishes where governance is thin and poverty thick. In many cases, desperate individuals fall prey to the lure of quick earnings, becoming pawns in the larger machinery of organized crime. The recent seizure and destruction of 2000 kg of Lahaan (illicit liquor raw material) and 50 litres of illegal alcohol in Kathua district, under the aegis of the Excise Eradication Wing, is a glaring reminder of the scale and frequency of such operations.

While this raid is commendable, it represents only a small fraction of a much larger problem. For every den busted, several remain hidden. The stakes are high—not just in terms of lost revenue to the exchequer, but also in terms of public health, law enforcement fatigue, and erosion of trust in institutions.

The financial cost of illegal trade is staggering. According to global estimates, it siphons off billions of dollars annually, starving governments of tax revenue that could otherwise fuel public welfare programs. In regions like Jammu & Kashmir, where development is often hindered by topography and political complexity, this loss is even more significant.

Moreover, counterfeit and substandard goods—ranging from medicines to automobile parts—pose a grave risk to consumer safety. Illicit liquor, often brewed in unhygienic and unregulated conditions, is frequently laced with toxic substances that can cause irreversible health damage and even death.

Beyond money, the damage inflicted by illegal trade is cultural, social, and environmental. Smuggling of ancient artifacts robs communities of their heritage. Wildlife trafficking disrupts ecosystems and pushes endangered species closer to extinction. Drug and arms trade fuel violence, destroy lives, and destabilize entire regions.

What's worse, illegal trade often serves as a breeding ground for larger criminal activities, including terrorism. The profits from these underground markets are often funneled into insurgent and extremist activities, making it a matter of national security.

The first step towards curbing illegal trade is acknowledgment and accountability. Governments must empower enforcement agencies not just with legal authority, but with modern tools, training, and intelligence-sharing mechanisms. Cross-agency collaboration and interstate coordination are critical. Raids like the one led by the Excise Eradication Wing under ETO Saniya Malik should be institutionalized, expanded, and supported with follow-up legal action that brings perpetrators to justice.

The judiciary and administrative system must also treat illegal trade with the seriousness it warrants. Delays in prosecution, lack of deterrent punishments, and procedural loopholes embolden offenders. Legal reforms to expedite cases related to smuggling, counterfeiting, and related crimes can send a powerful message.

But this battle cannot be won by enforcement alone. Citizens must be vigilant—reporting suspicious activity, refusing to purchase counterfeit goods, and rejecting the temptation of cheap illegal products. Community-based monitoring systems, awareness campaigns, and school-level education can instill a culture of integrity and resistance to criminal commerce.

Furthermore, rehabilitation programs for those caught in the lower rungs of illegal trade—especially daily wage workers and youth lured by economic desperation—are vital. Vocational training, microcredit schemes, and employment generation in high-risk areas can sever the pipeline that feeds illegal operations.

A nation's strength lies not only in its defense or economy, but in its ability to safeguard the rule of law and uphold the dignity of its people. A multi-pronged, people-first approach to checking illegal trade can transform this persistent menace into a fading memory.

For in the end, the fight against illegal trade is not just about stopping crime—it's about restoring the sacred balance between what is earned and what is taken, between what is right and what is wrong.

## Should You Read Yojana and Kurukshetra Magazines for UPSC CSE Preparation?

By: Vijay Garg

ojana and Kurukshetra are particularly suggested for the UPSC CSE aspirants as there is a detailed discussion about the socioeconomic problems, government schemes, and rural development programmes in both the magazines. It is believed that these journals' impression is more objective as these sources deliberately state both advantages and disadvantages of a particular issue. These magazines hold a significant part in producing the knowledge capital of enthusiasts preparing for the IAS and other civil services. Significance of Yojana and Kurukshetra

for UPSC: Yojana: it is evident that Yojana magazine is aimed at addressing and reporting on socio economic aspects and government initiatives. It provides comprehensive details of numerous governmental activities, openings, policies and development scheme across different fields such as agriculture, health, education, infrastructure etc. these magazines are useful for prelims but plays a

major role in the mains examination. Kurukshetra: this magazine mainly deals with the topics related to the rural development. On its cover stories, it focuses on the policies and schemes for the development of rural India like agriculture which includes new innovations, rural infrastructure and industries related to them. Kurukshetra makes the applicants understand the ground realities by detailing about the rural schemes, the results, issues and best practices happening at the root level. It helps in both General Studies Paper-II (Governance, Constitution, Politics, Social Justice, & International relations) as well as Paper-III (Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity & Environment, and Security& Disaster Management).

Importance:

While comparing Yojana with Kurukshetra, one has to agree with the statement that both the magazines provide comprehensive information on the government schemes, policies, programmes, and on the various socioeconomic aspects.

Yojana focuses on the issues of a socioeconomic nature in different fields such as agriculture, health, education and construction; whereas Kurukshetra is devoted to the themes of rural developments and the schemes and programmes that recognize the importance of grassroots.

These journals provide the analysis of policies, issues in economy, perspectives of different scholar etc. Students study about economic theories, modes, and how they work on present day economy.

The last papers of Kurukshetra and Yojana help the aspirants to elevate their knowledge of a number of subjects. These journals cover many relevant areas of the UPSC curriculum which includes Socio- economic issues and rural development.

Ideas from the two periodicals are introduced in the course program for aspirants to have a proper preparation.

These two publications contain facts on events, trends, and regulations affecting students in the present society and world and the training they require. It is expected that the candidate possesses this knowledge while answering questions on current events in UPSC examinations.

The language used in these periodicals is clear, plain and the layout is rather official and systematic. The readers can be able to acquire efficient writing and presenting

Additionally, data, case studies, and expert opinions back up the papers; thus, the papers can be of considerable help to candidates looking for quality answers to

What role Does Yojana. plays in UPSC mains Examination:

According to Yojana, it covers the examination and review of government schemes, policies and programmes in various fields. Candidate learns all the contemporary concepts of balanced development and distribution of social imbalances. This information is especially valuable for UPSC Mains while composing answers on politics, economy and social aspects.

Information published in Yojana, is considered to be official. The content of the articles can be used to get factual information by the aspirants. Originality is vital in the Mains test as the answers have to be backed by credible sources.

Information available on Yojana is stretched free from any bias and gives a clear view on a policy or an initiative in terms of what it holds in store for the nation and its people at a positive and a negative angle. How government policies can be critically evaluated is taught to aspirants. Such an approach is necessary for developing outstanding answers in the Mains paper or during revisions of written work.

Yojana helps candidate prepare for the General Studies Papers-II and III in IAS Examination, such as governance, constitution, politics, social justice, international relations, technology, economic development, and biodiversity, environment, security and disaster management.

How Kurukshetra plays a significant part in the UPSC Mains examination:

It contains various government measures in several industries and Kurukshetra provides detail discussion on them. In this regard, aspirants get exposure and enriched with the contemporary knowledge regarding the recent activities being done for rural development, agricultural practices, health facilities, education and any other sector.

This information will be rather helpful in explaining things related to governance, policies and socioeconomic issues on the

The government magazine Kurukshetra is considered as credible source of information. Such content is more likely to provide accurate information hence the aspirants can depend on the content. The situation when well-researched answers are supposed occurs in the Mains where the formulations have to be authentic.

Kurukshetra emphasizes upon the development of villages, the issues, policies and projects which attempt to uplift the rural part of India. It refers to grassroots projects, their findings, challenges, and case use on success stories.

They are exposed to information on the administration of the rural areas as it falls under General Studies Paper II - Governance Panchayat, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International Relations and General Studies Paper III - Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Man-

Its articles include those on conservation of natural resources, ecological systems, and practice that foster environmental protection. This is the area where aspirants get to know about ecological problems and conservation activities.

Information of this kind is needed to solve problems relating to environmental sustainability to the Mains.

How these two magazines useful for Answer writing?

The magazine provides an account of environmental and social issues. Processing from these themes is possible and aspirants can use any of these themes when writing their answers.

It was noted that themes connected with Kurukshetra are used rather often in successful articles

Reading Kurukshetra ensures comprehensiveness since the aspirants learn updates on governmental programs, approaches to rural development, and environmental issues.

It was used in compliment to other materials and aided preparation.

It addresses almost all sectors of human life ranging from economic to social and environmental as well as cultural. These subjects can be a good source of ideas for the answer writing.

It has also been written that format of the articles is often accompanied by real life scenarios and policy suggestions apparently drawn from Yojana.

Aspirants are able to understand government's efforts to enhance environment, tackle challenges and promote growth through reading Yojana.

By critiquing content, Yojana assists the applicants in enhancing the kind of thinking that arises out of analysis. They learn how to comprehend policies, to think about the consequences, and to provide suggestions.

All these abilities are essential in order to write organized and complex answers in the Mains.

Benefits of reading Yojana and Kuruk-

Align with Syllabus Topics:

Try to establish connections between the issues in the magazine with the areas covered in the syllabi of UPSC.

Tip: Make revised abstracts of the facts, figures as well as cases for quick reference. Read major articles:

It is recommended to begin with the reading of the note of the Chief Editor provided at the start of each version. This gives a brief description of the edition and may be used as a guide for UPSC CSE.

Tip: On the matter of identifying the themes, you should search for them that have something to do with the syllabus. Engage Actively:

Do not just read it, but read it understand it, think about it, analyse it, contemplate over it, synapse over it, study on it.

Tip: Engage in a discussion on articles with other people, such as colleagues or tutors. How Yojana and Kurukshetra help in the

essav examination: Treasure houses

Kurukshetra and Yojana are treasure houses of articles based on extensive research. Based on the presented ideas, they address various topics such as socio-economic, rural, environmental, and cultural.

The applicants can use these articles for improving their essays as every article is a good source of inspiration. Regardless the issue being under discussion, whether it is economic reforms, social justice, or climate change these magazine are informative.

**Policy Perspectives:** 

Both magazines analyse government policies and programmes. The nature of politics and policies analysis is research based and intellectual, where both magazines take a research approach in analysing government policies and programs.

The aspirants get better insight of governance, constitutional aspect and socio economic issues.

**Balanced Viewpoints:** 

Yojana and Kurukshetra provide objective information, or sometimes may provide positive aspects and negative aspects of any policy. Aspirants learn critical analysis.

The situation also becomes rather advantageous in essays, as it allows you to learn how to make counterarguments, thus demonstrating your consideration of the matter from different viewpoints.

Real-World Examples:

From the magazines, one can learn about the specific cases, achievements and concerns which are related to the governmental programs. These can be incorporated into the essays by the aspirants.

It helps to provide real-life scenarios and case studies making the content of your essay more and more involving.

Current Affairs Relevance:

Connecting today's issues with general themes is necessary in most cases when a student has to write an essay. It is for this reason that the regular reading of these magazines avails you.

In general, in health, education, or rural development, arguments supported by the recent data or policy changes mentioned in such journals as Yojana and Kurukshetra highlight the body part of the essay.

Things that will help you in note making from these two magazines:

Stick to Source: The first step involves the correct reading of all the magazines through to the end. These are published by government and so the information being provided is accurate and can be used in the examination.

Furthermore, back up your reading with authentic papers like newspapers (Hindu, India express), government web pages, and normal text books.

Focus on Key Points:

While going through papers, it is important to identify key issues/ arguments, facts, and examples. Highlight or underline them.

They should focus on the government plans, measures, social conditions, and the programs regarding rural development appearing in the periodicals.

Summarize and condense:

Write a summary in your own words right after reading the article. For each specific fact it is best to use bullet points or the structure of several short sentences.

(Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational columnist street kour Chand MHR Malout Punjab)

# Rural women, climate shock: Beijing report warns in the form of a slow, toxic combination of thinking—all three are hampering the educares of thinking—all three are hampering the educares of the educares of

#### By: Priyanka Saurabh

ccording to the 2025 Beijing-India Report, climate change is disproportionately affecting India's rural women. They are highly vulnerable to climate risks due to limited resources, traditional social roles, and care responsibilities. Heat, drought, and extreme weather are adversely affecting their reproductive health, agriculture-based livelihoods, and job opportunities. Adivasi and Dalit women are doubly hit by caste-based exclusion. The report also points out that effective climate adaptation requires gender-responsive policies, gender-disaggregated data collection, strengthening of health infrastructure, and women-led local decision-making mechanisms. Women must be recognized not only as victims but also as agents of change. Mainstreaming gender perspectives in the fight against climate change not only strengthens social justice but also serves the goals of SDG-13 (climate action) and SDG-5

(gender equality). When we talk about climate change, the discussion often confines itself to melting glaciers, rising sea levels, and changing weather cycles. But its human face—particularly that of rural Indian women—is often forgotten. The Beijing India Report 2025 once again makes it clear that the climate crisis is not a "gender neutral" disaster. Its impacts are deep, unequal, and misogynistic. Millions of rural women in India are already burdened by resource scarcity, social limitations, and unpaid domestic responsibilities. Climate change makes this burden even heavier sometimes in the form of droughts, some-

times in the form of floods, and sometimes

malnutrition and exhaustion. The Beijing Report shows that the climate crisis is not only degrading the quality of women's lives but also depriving them of their biological, social, and economic dignity. Health facilities for rural women are already limited, but the nutrition crisis and heat stress caused by climate change severely impact their reproductive and maternal health. According to the report, persistent dehydration and anemia have led to a rise in the incidence of premature hysterectomies among women. This is not just a medical procedure but an assault on their bodily autonomy and dignity. Infertility, complicated childbirth, and difficulties in conceiving are now becoming common problems-and climate insecurity is clearly behind them.

Most of India's rural women either work in the fields or engage in small agricultural work, but they do not own the land. When rains are unseasonal, when crops dry up, or when soils turn barren, these women are the first and the worst hit. In regions like Bundelkhand, persistent droughts have not only led to a drop in production but also increased seasonal unemployment among women. Being cut off from the field means an empty kitchen, girls leaving school, and another round of debt. Women who were engaged in handicrafts, food processing, or small-scale businesses other than agriculture are also not spared by extreme weather. The Beijing report shows that women's incomes in the non-agricultural sector fell by an average of 33% during extreme climate events in 2023-24. This is not just an economic loss but also a blow to self-reliance and confidence. Climate-induced displacement, falling family incomes, and traditional

tion of adolescent girls. When families have limited resources, girls' education is one of the first to be cut short. They are pulled out of school and put into domestic work or prepared for early marriage. This broken chain of education limits their lifelong opportunities. Adivasi and Dalit women in particular who are already socially marginalized—are most vulnerable during climate disasters. During the 2020 cyclone Amphan, Dalit women in the Sundarbans region reported being excluded from relief centers and had no say in shelter decisions. Social discrimination becomes even more acute during a climate crisis.

The Beijing India Report not only highlights this crisis but also suggests clear ways to address it-most importantly, putting gender sensitivity at the center of climate strategy. State-level climate plans must incorporate women's specific needs. States like Odisha have begun incorporating gender indicators into their climate strategies, but this initiative needs to be replicated in every state. Gender-based data collection by village, caste, and economic status is essential for policies to be effective at the ground level. Creating a climate vulnerability index with a gender component at the panchayat level can be an effective step. Self-help groups and women's cooperatives can be strengthened by providing skills in areas of climateresilient agriculture, green jobs, renewable energy, and agro-processing.

Better resourcing of primary health centers, especially for reproductive and maternal care, is imperative—especially in areas affected by the climate crisis. Women-run Jal Samitis in Gujarat have proven that when women are part of policymaking and

resource management, solutions are more sustainable and responsive. Women's participation should be made mandatory in local disaster management, forest rights committees, and water management. Missions under the National Climate Action Plan—such as Ujala Yojana, PMUY, etc. should be redefined with a women-centric approach. Expansion of these schemes in climate-sensitive areas will not only strengthen health and livelihoods but will also promote gender justice.

Rural women are not just victims of climate change—they can also be agents of change. But this requires us to see them as partners, not just 'objects for help.' This is the message of the Beijing report—that if we are to tackle climate change effectively, gender and climate must be understood together, not separately. When a woman scrapes drinking water for her child from the mud of a drying pond, she becomes not just motherhood but the most tragic image of the climate crisis. It is time for policy, science, and society to listen to her voice seriously.

Science, Poet, freelance journalist, and columnist, Ubba Bhawan, Aryanagar, Hisar (Haryana)-127045 (Mob.) 7015375570 (Talk + WhatsApp) Facebook - https://www.facebook. com/PriyankaSaurabh20/ Twitter: https://twitter.com/ pari\_saurabh

(Priyanka Saurabh)

Research Scholar in Political

# Col Anshul addresses students on Agniveer Recruitment at GDC Tangdhar, Chamkote

**Top News Report** 

KUPWARA, Apr 15: In an effort to spread awareness and encourage youth participation in nation-building, Col Anshul Sharma, Director Recruiting, BRO, Srinagar, conducted an informative session on the Agniveer Recruitment Process under the Agnipath Scheme at Government Degree College (GDC) Tangdhar and Chamkote.

The lecture emphasized the transformational role of the Agnipath scheme in modernizing and strengthening the Indian Armed Forces.

Col Sharma elaborated on the selection process, eligibility criteria, training, and career

**Top News Report** 

RAMGARH, Apr

Degree College (GDC)

Ramgarh, organized a

seminar on "Cyber bul-

lying and Implementing

Anti-Bullying Policies

in Schools" under the

aegis of the National

**Human Rights Commis-**

The event was con-

ducted under the

esteemed guidance and

supervision of Prof. (Dr.)

Meeru Abrol, Principal

of the college with the

aim to raise awareness

about the growing con-

cern of cyber bullying

and the importance of

creating safe and inclu-

sive environments in

educational institutions.

sion (NHRC).

Government

the Agniveer initiative, aiming to dispel myths and inspire young aspirants from border areas to serve the nation.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from a large number of students.

A lively cross-question and answer session followed, allowing attendees to interact directly with the officer, clearing their doubts and gaining clarity about the recruitment process and life in the armed forces.

The session concluded with refreshments arranged by the Shakti Vijay Brigade, adding a warm touch to the inspiring and informative event.

This initiative not only

The whole event was

organized and coordi-

nated by Prof. Sand-

eep Kumari. Several

students took part in

the seminar with great

enthusiasm, present-

ing insightful and well-

prepared perspectives

on the issue of cyber

bullying and the impor-

tance of implementing

anti-bullying policies in

The presentations

were evaluated by an

esteemed panel of

judges comprising Prof.

Brham Dutt and Ashok

Chahat of Semester IV

secured the First Posi-

tion, while the Second

Position was jointly

awarded to Kirandeep

of Sem. VI and Har-

schools.

Kumar.

**GDC Ramgarh hosts seminar on Cyber** 

**bullying and Anti-Bullying Policies** 



bridged the gap between military services and the local youth but also

mandeep of Sem. IV.

The Third Position

was shared by Ruhi

showcased the commitment of the Indian Army to empower and engage young minds in remote regions like Tangdhar and Chamkote.

### **GDC Jourian organizes series** of activities to commemorate Dr. B.R Ambedkar's Jayanti

Top News Report

and Alisha, both from JOURIAN, Apr 15: Semester VI. The event NSS unit of Govt concluded with a warm Degree College (GDC) and appreciative vote Jourian in collaboraof thanks delivered tion with Department of by Prof. Brham Dutt, Political Science orgawho acknowledged the nized a series of meanefforts of all participants, ingful activities to comfaculty members, and memorate and spread organizers for making awareness about the the event a meaningful

life and contributions success of Dr. Bhimrao Ambed-The seminar also witkar under the worthy nessed active participadirection of Principal Dr. tion from faculty mem-Anuradha Pandoh. bers including Dr. Shivali The program included Panjgotra, Dr. Neeraj,

a documentary screen-Priya, and Anjali as well ing for the students, an as large number of stuextension lecture on the dents who contributed to life and struggles of Dr. the program's success Ambedkar followed by through their involvea quiz competition, and ment and curiosity.

to instill constitutional values among students.

The resource person for the extension lecture was Dr. Latief Ahmad Lone who delivered an insightful session highlighting Dr. Ambedkar's monumental contribu-

The entire program was coordinated by NSS Programme Officer Dr. Vandana Rajput with the active involvement of Dr. Latief Ahmad

## Ambedkar Memorial Award 2025 **Top News Report**

the Preamble pledge

The whole programme was conducted under the supervision of worthy Principal Dr Anuradha Pandoh.

tions to Indian society and the Constitution.

presently serves as Professor-cum-Principal at Guru Gobind College of Management and Technology, Gidderbaha, Punjab. He also holds the esteemed position of MTC Global Chair Professor of Banking

**Shanti Foundation Gonda honours** 

Artist Prof. Dr. Heeralal Chitrakar

for excellent work in social sector

Foundation

Gonda President Pinky

Devi, Secretary Gaya

Prasad Anand, Found-

er Shiv Prasad Anand,

Ramesh Anand Prin-

cipal Shanti Memorial

School, Sanjay Kumar

Media Incharge, Geeta

GGS College Principal Dr. R.K.

Uppal honoured with Dr. B.R.

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Apr 15:

Jodhpur's world record

holder, USA gold medal-

ist, international award-

ee world famous artist

Heeralal Chitrakar was

On the occasion of

Bharat Ratna Baba

Saheb Bhim Rao

Ambedkar's birth anni-

versary, social workers

and serving employees

doing excellent work in

various fields in the soci-

ety were honoured with

Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar

On this occasion,

JAMMU, Apr 15: The

Indian News Media

Council, registered with

NITI Aayog and MSME,

Government of India,

has conferred the pres-

tigious Dr. B.R. Ambed-

kar Memorial Award

2025 upon Dr. Rajinder

Kumar Uppal, recogniz-

ing his exceptional con-

tributions to education

and lifetime accomplish-

Dr. R.K. Uppal, an

**Emeritus Professor and** 

acclaimed academician,

National Award 2025.

honoured.

the Indian Institute of Finance, New Delhi. Internationally recognized for his groundbreaking work in Banking and Finance, Dr.

Uppal holds numerous

and Finance and is a

Research Professor at

national and international patents.

Devi Member, Patron

Padmashree Dr. Vijay

Kumar Shah, Guest Ajit

Kumar Uttar Pradesh

Police, Yogendra Bhard-

waj Uttar Pradesh Police

and Program Coordina-

tor Sunil Kumar Anand

said that people doing

excellent work in edu-

cation, service and

social sector are hon-

oured every year on

Baba Saheb Bhim Rao

Ambedkar's birth anni-

This time 100 people

have been selected

and awarded the Dr.

Bhimrao Ambedkar

National Award 2025.

versary.

A prolific author and researcher, he has penned an extensive body of scholarly literature and is actively engaged as a reviewer, discussant, and session chair for prestigious academic and professional organizations.

This latest honor adds to a long list of accolades recognizing Dr. Uppal's lifetime of service, innovation, and leadership in the field of education and finance.

His exemplary achievements continue to inspire future generations of scholars and professionals across the nation.

# **CEO Doda reviews functioning of educational institutions**

**Top News Report** 

BHADERWAH, Apr 15: As we strive for academic excellence, it is essential that we maintain a structured and productive learning environment, as a part of it, Chief Education Officer Doda Mohd Hafiz Sheikh paid surprise visit to various educational institutions of additional district Bhaderwah to assess the academic activities of the students.

The schools visited by the Chief Education Officer include PS Chinote, MS Hallian, LHS Nagar, MS Masjid, MS Mandir and HSS Sartingal.

The Chief Education Officer Doda passed various instructions for smooth and efficient functioning of the academic session. He directed to ensure Regular Class Schedules adhere to the prescribed class schedules and ensure timely commence-

ment and conclusion of classes.

He ask teachers to prepare detailed lesson plans in accordance with the curriculum, incorporating innovative teaching methodologies and assessment strategies. Beside focus on student engagement with active participation and engagement among students through interactive and inclusive teaching practices. He also directed staff to conduct regular assessments and provide constructive feedback to students, facilitating their academic growth and development. Maintain accurate and up-to-date records of student progress, attendance, and academic performance.

He urged upon them to collaboration and teamwork to achieve academic goals, share best practices, and support each other.

"Ensure strict adherence to the prescribed curriculum and syllabus, focusing on conceptual clarity and practical applications," said CEO Doda while addressing staff, adding adopt innovative and interactive teaching methodologies to engage students and promote active

He urged upon them to implement regular assessments and evaluations to monitor student progress, identify areas of improvement, and provide constructive feedback.

Beside focus was given to Teacher-Student Interaction by fostering a positive and supportive teacher-student relationship, encouraging open communication and mutual respect. Optimizing the use of available infrastructure and resources to create quality education. Establish a feedback mechanism to gather student feedback and concerns, ensuring their voices are heard and addressed.

## Rich tributes paid to Master Harkrishan Lal Kaith

**Top News Report** 

R.S.PURA, Apr 15: At a Shradhanjali Samaroh organised at Gegian today, thousands of people (mostly satsangi) hailing from different corners, paid tributes to Master Harkrishan Lal Kaith, who left for his heavenly abode few days ago.

To invoke blessings and peace for the deceased and to provide solace and comfort to the grieving family, a Satsang was also organised in S.P.Resort.



The religious teachers said, Satsang has the actual presence of God. If we participate sincerely and with yearning for God in a Satsang, we can definitely experience the presence of God element. Even if one gets a Satsang, one's internal spiritual emotion is also important for getting the desired benefits from the Satsang.

Messrs Pathi Darshan Kalsi, Dev Raj, R.L.Kaith, Hony Captain Girdhari Lal, Music Director Vicky Kaith, Gurdev Raj, Hardev Raj, Sukhdev Raj, Sikandar Lal, Sewa Ram, Mewa Ram, Jagdish Raj, Raj Kumar, Kamal Kishore and Surender Kumar were also seen among the Satsang attendees.

#### **Army celebrates Ambedkar** Jayanti at Behramgala and Naili **Top News Report**

RAJOURI, Apr 15: In commemoration of Ambedkar Jayanti, a day honoring the legacy and contributions of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, the Indian Army hosted a special celebration alongwith civilians. Behramgala and Naili were adorned with vibrant colors as civilians gathered to join Indian Army in paying homage to the profound impact of Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar's ideals on our nation's fabric. A lecture on importance of Education was organized during the celebration. Aim of the event was to foster the values deeply cherished by Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar on unity, equality and social justice. This celebration featured a rich tapestry of activities including informative exhibition and insightful talks, all aimed at highlighting Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar's enduring legacy and his pivotal role in shaping modern India. Attendees had the opportunity to engage with personnel of the Indian Army, fostering a spirit of camaraderie and mutual respect. The Indian Army extends its heartfelt gratitude to all members of the community who participated in this auspicious occasion and joined hands in celebrating the ideals of justice, equality and empowerment championed.

#### **Top News Report**

KISHTWAR, Apr 15: On the direction of State President Mohd Ashraf Sheikh, a delegation of the Jammu and Kashmir Teachers' Forum (JKTF), led by Provincial President Jammu Sanjeet Sharma, met with in the region.

The delegation urged MLA Parihar to address the vacancies of Headmasters, Masters, and Teachers in District Kishtwar.

The delegation sought MLA Parihar's intervention in resolving issues related to ATD and transfer policy for Teachers appointed under the ReTs Scheme. The JKTF delegation emphasized the need to reinstate the old pension scheme, citing the inadequacies of the New Pension Scheme (NPS). basis especially in hard zones, to ensure students' interests are protected. The delegation urged for timely release of salaries of employees of erstwhile J&K. As on date many employees haven't received their

salary thereby hampering their livelihood. The delegation requested detachment of all teaching staff from non-teaching assignments.

Delegation of JKTF meets with MLA Shagun Parihar

The delegation requested MLA Parihar to discuss the matter of AAYAS with higher authorities to ensure

resolved many issues on spot and assured the delegation that she would prioritize genuine concerns. She emphasized that she will work both for the betterment of employees and the student community.

Sanjeet Sharma also highlighted the shortcomings of NPS/UPS, stating that retired employees receive minimal pensions, and requested the MLA to raise voice so that old pension scheme will be reinstated for the walfare of lakhs of Government

Lal, Ashok Kumar, Suresh Kumar, Beer Singh, Manjeet Sharma, Arun Kumar, Manjeet Sharma, Arun Kumar, Sunil Kumar, Munshi Ram, Kuldeep Kumar, Bal Krishan, Jai Krishan, Krishan Lal, and others.



#### The delegation requestcontinuity of services for Employees. MLA Kishtwar Shagun ed MLA Parihar to that Pre-Primary students. The delegation includ-Parihar to discuss rationalization of Teach-MLA Shagun Parihar ed Swami Raj, Deepak pressing issues affecters should be on PTR took swift action and Raj, Jeevan Lal, Murli ing teachers & students

Edited, Printed, Published and Owned by: Rajiv Mahajan, Office: 17- New Rehari Jammu, Published from 17- New Rehari Jammu, and Printed from GK Offset Printing Press situated at Shivalik Puram Janipur, Jammu on behalf of Rajiv Mahajan. Senior Editor: M. K Bangroo, Executive Editor: Anita Gupta, Photo Journalist: Aman Sharma (9906198186), Head Office Jammu. Mobile No: (9906300707, 9086072548), Fax No: 0191-2561688.

e-mail: topnewsjk@gmail.com, editortopnewsjk@gmail.com

(All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent courts and forums in Jammu City).

## **Akshay Kumar and Ananya Panday visit Amritsar to** promote Kesari 2

Jallianwala Bagh massacre is not just a part of our history but a symbol of how pain and trauma can be felt across the generations. The starkest example of colonial violence and oppression, the massacre and its aftermath serves as a central subject of Kesari 2, a film helmed by Karan Johar's Dharma productions and Akshay Kumar's Cape of Good

The star cast of the film, including Akshay Kumar, R Madhavan and Ananya Panday, was in Amritsar on a promotional tour.

Akshay, who plays the character based on Sir C Sankaran Nair, distinguished lawyer and nationalist, said that this film is personal. "My grandfather lived in Katra Ahluwalia. He was among those to witness the aftermath of Jallianwala Bagh massacre. I grew up listening to the stories of martyrs from my father. So, bringing out the story of a man, who was no ordinary critic of the British and brought down the empire through law, was

really like life coming full circle," said Akshay, who looked sombre as he talked about his film.

Kesari 2 retells the

story of Sir C Sankaran

Nair, a civil rights advo-

cate from the time of

Indian freedom move-

ment, through the lens

of the book, The Case That Shook The Empire, written by his greatgrandson Raghu Palat. "The film presents a story that was forgotten in history. Not many people know about the case that Nair fought against the British, in an attempt to uncover the larger conspiracy behind the Jallianwala Bagh massacre," said Akshay. Reacting to the recent statements made by Caroline O Dawyer, the great granddaughter of General O Dawyer, calling 'people gathered at Jallianwala Bagh on April 13, 1919 as looters' in a 2019 documentary. Akshay said, "There will be a day when the British would say 'Sorry' themselves about what happened here in 1919."

not know Sir Nair R Madhavan, the bril-

'I feel guilty that I did



liant actor and master of his craft, will be playing a lawyer who challenges Akshay's character in the film, which is also a high voltage court room drama. Madhavan shared how he was a reluctant member of the cast initially." When Akshay got me on board, I had no clue who C Sankaran Nair was and what his case against the British was.

The film was a learning

experience in that way."

His most interesting aspect of working in Kesari 2, he said, was, "I am from South India and play a North Indian character and Akshay, a North Indian, plays a South Indian character. I think this is beauty if our film industry."

"Jallianwala Bagh is personal for Punjabis" Accompanying the Kesari 2 team were music legend Gurdas Mann and Gurpreet Ghuggi, who Akshay credited with bringing Kesari 2 alive. Sharing his views on taking up the forgotten narratives of martyrs and history of Punjab, Ghuggi said, "Barring a few names, history has not been kind to martyrs of Jallianwala Bagh massacre. We need to retell their stories, keep the eternal flame at Jallianwala Bagh alive forever and connect young generation through cinematic storytelling.

He along with Akshay also launched another song from the film, Kithe Gya Tu Saiyan, a poignant prayer for help and hope lost when the Jallianwala Bagh became a graveyard of innocent lives.

Gurdas Maan, who

was the guest of honour, called Jallianwala Bagh 'shaheedan, mureedan di dharti" (a land of martyrs, disciples of nationalism). Singer B Praak performed Mitti, the evoking super-hit number from Kesari as he shared why it's is important to share these stories of unsung heroes with younger genera-

## Katy Perry to sing in space



'I've got to sing in space!' says Katy Perry ahead of allfemale spaceflight Blue origin, Jeff Bezos, Katy Perry, Lauren Sanchez, Amazon, Elon Musk, Olivia Munn, Texas, commercial spaceflight,

entertainment The all women crew of New Shepard's 11th human flight, NS-31.

Six women, including pop star Katty Perry is set to blast off on April 14 on a self-driving private rocket by Blue Origin, the company owned by Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, for a joyride to space that is expected to last all of 11 minutes.

"I think I'm gonna sing, I've got to sing in space!" Perry said in a new post on Instagram. Perry (40) will be joined by broadcast journalist Gayle King (70) Lauren Sanchez (55) who is also Bezos' fiancee, Aisha Bowe (38), a former NASA rocket scientist, Amanda Nguyen (33), a bioastronautics research scientist; and Kerianne Flynn, a movie producer. It will be the 11th human flight for Blue Origin.

The mission known as NS-31 on a reusable rocket is set to lift off from Van Horn in Texas and will feature the first all-female crewed spaceflight in 60 years.

The first woman to travel in space was Soviet-era cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova. in a 1963 solo mission when she orbited Earth as part of the Vostok 6 mission that lasted just under three days.

## **Sharad Kelkar returns to** television after eight years

Tum Se Tum Tak, Zee TV presents a fresh and heartfelt love story that will go beyond societal conventions. While Niharika Chouksey has been roped-in to play the character of Anu, renowned actor Sharad Kelkar makes a highly anticipated return to television after an eightyear hiatus as he steps into the role of Aryavardhan.

Sharad shared, "I am absolutely thrilled to return to television. I've been waiting for the right project and Tum Se Tum Tak felt like the perfect choice the moment I heard the story. It's fresh, unique and explores love in a way we don't often see on TV. This modern love story challenges conventional norms and beautifully proves that when two hearts truly connect, age is just a number. My character, Aryavardhan, is complex yet deeply relatable—he's suc-



cessful, grounded and has a mature outlook on life, but love takes him by surprise in the most unexpected way. That's what makes this story so special. I'm excited to bring this role to life and to collaborate with such an amazing cast and crew.

The energy on set is incredible, and I can't wait for the audience to experience this journey with us. I hope they embrace the show with as much love and excitement as we have while making it."

## Was obsessed with my child, needed to find my identity: Soha on acting comeback with 'Chhorii 2'

Actor Soha Ali Khan, who has returned to acting with "Chhorii 2" after a seven-year hiatus, says she found herself drifting away from movies when she became a parent and recently realised it was time to reclaim her iden-

The actor, known for films such as "Rang De Basanti", "Saheb Biwi Aur Gangster", "Tum Mile", and "Ahista Ahista", welcomed daughter Inaaya Naumi Kemmu with actor-filmmaker husband Kunal Kemmu in 2017. She was last seen in "Saheb Biwi Aur Gangster 3", which released in 2018.

"Truth be told, when I became a parent, because I'm an obsessive person, I became obsessed with my child. I forgot not just films but my family, friends, husband, and everyone. I was just obsessed with this child, and now she's older, she doesn't need me anymore. So, I need to find something, I need my identity," Soha told



"So, now I go back and say, 'Please, can I do some work again because nobody wants selves, and now I must find myself again. I love what I'm doing. So, I took a little hiatus, but I'm back," she added.

When "Chhorii 2" director Vishal Furia and producer Vikram Malhotra approached her for the role of the antagonist in the film, the 46-year-old actor said she took no time in saying yes.

"The actor in me was like. I want to play an antagonist, and I love horror. I think that it is one of the most compelling forms of cinema. If it's done well, it can absorb you, it can move you from your seat and stay with you for days and months. Like, when I saw my first horror (film) I was way too young, I couldn't sleep for three months. So, that's the kind of impact it has on you," she recalled.

"Chhorii", which released in 2021, revolved around a pregnant woman named Sakshi, played by Nushratt Bharuccha, whose unborn child is targeted by evil spirits. It was the remake of Furia's 2017 Marathi film "Lapachhapi".

The sequel, which is streaming on Prime Video, is a continuation of events in Sakshi's story. It will bring back some key characters as well as introduce new scares.

Despite initial excitement, Soha said she had concerns regarding her look as an antagonist in the film.

"My first concern, as a girl, was how am I going to look as a slightly monstrous (woman) I don't want it to look badly done or tacky. I don't know how Indian horror has been done.' "So, it's a leap of faith.

But I'm also the kind of person who takes a leap of faith and I trust my team. I'm so glad I did because we've seen the film and it's looking phenomenal. It exceeded my expectations." "Chhorii 2" is a T-Series, Abundantia Entertainment, Psych, and Tamarisk Lane Production.

#### Gujarat man who threatened Salman Khan turns out to be mentally ill; issued notice

A man who allegedly issued a death threat to actor Salman Khan has been traced to a village in Gujarat's Vadodara district and found to be mentally unstable, police said on Tuesday.

The Mumbai police on Monday apprehended the 26-year-old man, Mayank Pandya, and issued a notice to him, asking him to appear before them whenever required, they said.

The accused, resident of a village in Waghodia taluka of Vadodara, has not been arrested, the police said.

Mumbai Traffic Police's WhatsApp helpline received a message on Sunday wherein the sender threatened to blow up Salman Khan's

car with a bomb and assault the Y-Plus-protectee by entering his residence.

The Worli police in Mumbai subsequently registered a case against the then unidentified person under section 351(2)(3) (criminal intimidation) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and tightened security outside Khan's residence in Bandra area

Following an investigation, the Mumbai police learnt the threat message was sent by a person living in Waghodia taluka of Vadodara, district Superintendent of Police Rohan Anand

told reporters. "A team of Mumbai police, accompanied



by Waghodia police, reached the suspect's house at a village in Waghodia on Monday. However, it turned out that the 26-year-old man, who had sent the message, is mentally unstable and undergoing treatment," Anand

said.

"The Mumbai police served him a notice for appearance and left," the official added

As per the notice, the man has to appear before the Mumbai police for investigation whenever required, another official said.

In April last year, two

motorbike-borne persons fired four rounds outside Khan's residence at the Galaxy Apartments in Mumbai's Bandra area.

Khan previously faced threats from the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, which warned him of consequences if he did not apologise to the Bishnoi community over the alleged killing of a blackbuck.

Following these threats, the Mumbai police provided him with Y-Plus security.

Weeks after the firing incident last year, Navi Mumbai Police claimed to have uncovered a plot by the Bishnoi gang to kill Khan when he travelled to his farmhouse at Panvel near Mumbai.

#### Brazilian DJ Alok rocks Coachella, while some other international artistes cancel



Brazilian DJ Alok brought a beaming blend of electronic dance beats to the stage at the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival despite the growing fears of international artistes about the future of performing in America.

me anymore at home.

So, that's the truth, that

you mustn't lose your-

self. I'm one of those

people who lost them-

"For me as a Brazilian, it's always been hard to get a visa. So, for us, it didn't change much," Alok said in an interview backstage at Coachella, held in Southern California.

But, of course, for Europe and others, they changed the rules,

right?" he added. Alok heard about other Coachella performances being cancelled in 2025 due to visa issues and feels fortunate that he made it to the festival when other international

artistes could not. "For us, we were very lucky. The team were all here from LA, so that was amazing," he said.

In the first week of April, British singer FKA Twiggs, who was scheduled to perform at Coachella, cancelled her performance.

She said that she was bowing out due to "visa issues" on the social media platform Instagram.

She also cancelled her entire North American

March, British punk rock band member of UK Subs, Alvin Gibbs, shared on the social media platform Facebook that they were allegedly denied entry into the US while traveling to their performance at LA Punk Invasion

2025.

# Make special efforts for upliftment of underprivileged: Murmu

NEW DELHI, Apr 15 (Agencies): President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday asked a group of newly inducted IAS officers to make special efforts for the upliftment of the underprivileged.

Asserting that being in the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) gives them an opportunity to bring about transformative changes in the lives of countless people, she said officers should keep in mind the rights and duties of civil servants.

"The duties of a public servant are their responsibilities and their rights are the means to fulfil those duties," Murmu said addressing the IAS officers from the 2023 batch, who are currently serving as assistant secretaries in various Union ministries and departments.

Addressing the IAS officers, Murmu said that they had become IAS officers through extraordinary determination and hard work.

"This has brought about a transformative change in their personal lives. Now with even more determination and dedication, they have the opportunity



to bring about transformative changes in the lives of countless people," she said.

Their area of service and authority are so vast that they can make the lives of many fellow citizens better in their first posting itself, the President

She advised them to make special efforts for the upliftment of the underprivileged.

Murmu also advised them to visit the places of posting during their career journey after some time and see the far-reaching results of their work.

The President told officers that their real career story would be created by their work, not by increasing the number of followers on social media.

"Their real social net worth would be determined by their good work," Murmu was quoted as having said in a statement issued by the President's office.

The President said that every public servant should work with honesty of purpose.

"We all face the challenges of environmental pollution and climate change. Pollution of immorality and erosion in values are also very serious challenges. There should be no need to say anything else about being devoted and honest.

"The people who move ahead following life values of honesty, truth, and simplicity are happier. Honesty is the most desirable policy in public service. It is expected from the public servant that they would present examples of integrity and sensitivity in every sphere of life," she said.

Murmu said that in the digital era, people's aspirations are

"They are becoming aware of the accountability of administrators," she told the officers, who had called on the President, at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre here.

Murmu advised officers to develop closeness with their fellow citizens and increase their participation in local efforts.

She also advised them to resolve public interest issues raised by people's representa-

The President said that the development and public welfare work done by them at the local and state level would help in achieving national goals.

### PM Modi greets people on 'Himachal Diwas'



NEW DELHI, Apr 15 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday greeted people of Himachal Pradesh on

the anniversary of its formation as a province in 1948 by merging several princely states following Independence.

PMModi noted on X that the 'dev bhumi' is famous for its glorious culture, and that its people are known for their hardwork and valour.

He wished people prosperity and good health, and the state's continued development.

While April 15 is celebrated as 'Himachal Diwas', the province was granted full statehood on January 25, 1971.

## Bengal is burning: Yogi Adityanath slams Mamata Banerjee over Waqf violence

LUCKNOW, Apr 15 (Agencies): Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yoqi Aditvanath on Tuesday launched a scathing attack on his West Bengal counterpart Mamata Banerjee over the violence in Murshidabad during protests against the Waqf Amendment Act, accusing her of remaining silent.

Addressing a public gathering in Hardoi, Yogi Adityanath said, "Bengal is burning and the Chief Minister is silent. She calls rioters messengers of peace. Laaton ke bhoot baaton se kahan manne wale hain (Those who understand only the language of beatings don't understand words)"

Yogi Adityanath also accused the Trinamool Congress-led West Bengal government of giving freedom to rioters to trigger violence in the state. "In the name of secularism, they have given complete freedom to rioters to create unrest. The entire Murshidabad has been on fire for the last week, yet the government remains silent. Such anarchy must be brought under

BJP Govt will reduce everything to 'zero' before



control," he added.

Expressing gratitude towards the judiciary, Adityanath said, "I thank the respected court in West Bengal for facilitating the deployment of central security forces to protect minority Hindus".

The firebrand BJP leader also criticised national opposition parties, alleging a deliberate silence on the matter. "Congress is silent, Samajwadi Party is silent, Trinamool is silent. They are shamelessly supporting what happened in Bangladesh".

Violence flared across parts of North Bengal's Murshidabad during demonstrations against the controversial Wagf Amendment Act, resulting in three deaths and the destruction of seven eral homes. The Calcutta High Court, taking note of the deteriorating law and order situation, directed the immediate deployment of central forces. Troops are now patrolling volatile zones to restore public confi-

The unrest escalated further in Bhangar on Monday, where supporters of the Indian Secular Front (ISF) clashed violently with police. The confrontation left multiple injured, while public property was vandalised and several police vehicles were set ablaze.

The flashpoint came when police intercepted ISF protestors en route to Kolkata's Ramlila Maidan, where party leader and Bhangar MLA Naushad Siddique was scheduled to the Waqf Act.

## "Zero Tolerance": Delhi Chief Minister cracks down on school after fee hike

NEW DELHI, Apr 15 (Agencies): The Delhi government has adopted a zero tolerance policy on arbitrary fee hikes in schools and harassment of parents and students won't be tolerated, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said today. During a public interaction, a group of parents complained to the Chief Minister about how their children were expelled from Queen Mary School in Model Town after they objected to illegal fee hikes. A video posted by the Chief Minister on X shows her asking an official to inform the school authorities that its registration will be cancelled.

The Chief Minister has said schools cannot threaten students and increase fees abnormally. "There are rules and regulations (for fee hikes) that must be followed. If any school is found indulging in all these, it will have to suffer. We will issue notices to all schools we have received complaints about," she told the media

In her post on X, she said the Delhi government is committed to transparency, equal opportunity and protecting children's rights in the education sector. "Any form of injustice, exploitation and irregularity will be tackled with a zero tolerance policy. Our pledge is clear -every child should get justice, respect and quality education," Ms Gupta said.

clear message against

school fee hikes comes amid the Opposition AAP's allegations about the BJP's links with the Action Committee of Unaided Private Schools, which had earlier contested the AAP government's stand against fee hikes. "Bharat Arora, president of the Association of Unaided Private Schools, is an officebearer of the BJP and actively campaigned for the Chief Minister ahead of the Assembly polls. And as soon as the BJP formed the government, news of school fee hikes started coming in," former Delhi minister Saurabh Bharadwai has

alleged. The BJP has, however, accused AAP of pushing BJP President Virendra



Sachdeva said, "There are more than 1,650 private schools in Delhi, but the Arvind Kejriwal government managed to audit the accounts of only 75 schools in a year. Taking advantage of this, almost all private schools have been raising fees substantially."

Mr Sachdeva alleged that Arvind Kejriwal, former Minister Saurabh Chief Minister Atishi are spreading lies and confusion on social media. "The AAP leaders are relentlessly trying to build a false political narrative against the BJP in Delhi. When their propaganda failed on issues like the Women's Prosperity Scheme, Avushman Bharat, and power cuts, they have now taken up the school fee hike issue for political mileage -- but they will

not succeed.'

#### One dead, 200 patients evacuated as fire grips Lucknow's Lok Bandhu hospital

LUCKNOW, Apr 15 (Agencies): A fire that broke out late on Monday night at the government-run Lok Bandhu Raj Narayan Combined Hospital here resulted in the death of one patient and prompted the emergency evacuation of nearly 200 others, according to official sources.

The fire originated on the second floor of the hospital building, which houses the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and High Dependency Unit (HDU). At the time of the incident, approximately 40-50 patients were admitted to various wards on the affected floor, and several attendants were also pres-

Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak, who holds the health and medical education portfolio in the Uttar Pradesh government, visited the hospital to oversee the rescue efforts.

Speaking to mediapersons, he said, "After smoke was seen emanating from the second floor, evacuation of patients was immedi-



ately initiated. Approximately 200 patients in total have been moved to safety."

While Pathak maintained that there were no injuries during the evacuation, sources confirmed that one patient, identified as Rajkumar Prajapati (61), who had been admitted to the ICU with hypertension-related complications, died allegedly due to disruption in oxygen supply caused by the fire.

Another patient, Kanti (26), remained in critical condition and was shifted to the trauma centre of Balrampur Hospital.

The cause of the fire is suspected to be a short circuit, though authorities have ordered a detailed investigation

into the incident. Patients were shifted to various governing Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Hospital and Balrampur Hospital. Critically ill patients were transferred to the ICUs of King George's Medical University and the Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences. Pregnant women were relocated to Jhalkari Bai Hospital, officials said.

Eyewitness accounts described scenes of urgency, with hospital employees and fire personnel reportedly carrying patients on their shoulders and evacuating them through windows of the affected wards.

"All available medical and paramedical staff, along with the hospital superintendent, coordinated the evacuation efforts," Pathak said.

## its exit, says Akhilesh LUCKNOW, Apr 15 words.

(Agencies): Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Tuesday accused BJP governments in Uttar Pradesh and at the Centre of not delivering on their promises and alleged that the party was repackaging old schemes with new names to mislead the public.

"Before they become zero themselves, everything around them is turning into zero," Yadav said in a swipe at the BJP in a post on X.



"Just like their 'zero tolerance' has become zero, the slogan of 'zero poverty' will also turn out to be a BJP-style jumla," the former chief minister

India gave the world the concept of zero in mathematics, "not for distributing lies among people", he added.

"Poverty is eradicated through actions, not

And when it comes to action, the BJP Government stands at zero," Yadav said, claiming that the Government will leave everything in a state of "shunya" (zero) before its exit.

He also criticised the BJP for renaming rural development schemes.

"They may continue their old tradition of deceit by renaming schemes like Ambedkar Village and Lohia Village, and presenting them in new formats but they have nothing original to offer," he added.

Yadav called on the BJP to fulfil its promises.

"Before making new promises, they should transfer Rs 15 lakh into people's bank accounts. visit the adopted villages to witness their plight and wipe the dust that has settled on the unfulfilled promises of homes for all and water in every home," he said.

"At least stop lying to the poor," he said terming the BJP's approach as "deplorable".

#### Three killed, 19 injured as truck hits bus in Maharashtra's Buldhana

BULDHANA, Apr 15 (Agencies): Three persons were killed and 19 others injured when a truck hit a bus in Maharashtra's Buldhana district on Tuesday morning, police said.

The accident took place at around 8 am on Khamgaon-Nandura road.

The Madhya Pradesh

Transport bus was going from Amravati in Maharashtra to Burhanpur in MP when a truck hit it at Amsari fata, the Buldhana police said.

Three persons were killed and 19 others suffered injuries in the incident, the police said.

The injured persons were taken to hospital in Khamgaon, they added.

#### Teen kills woman in Hyderabad, then records video of him jumping on body

HYDERABAD, Apr 15 (Agencies): A 75-year-old woman was murdered by a migrant worker at her house here, who later recorded a video of him jumping on her body, police said on Tuesday.

The incident occurred in Kushaiguda on April 11 and came to light after the teenager shared the video to a relative of the victim and police were subsequently informed about it on Monday,

The teen, who worked at one of the shops owned by the woman, allegedly killed her by bludgeoning her head with an iron rod, police said.

After murdering her, he put a sari around her neck and tied it to the ceiling fan. He then recorded a video of him jumping on the septuagenarian's body on his phone, a senior police official said.

He then went away after locking the house and later shared the video to a relative of the woman. After being informed about the video on Monday, police went to the house and broke open the locks and found the decomposed body of the woman. The teenager seems to have bore a grudge on the woman, a native of Rajasthan, for allegedly abusing him. However, police said they were verifying all angles.

The official added that they were ascertaining whether the teenager is a minor and evaluating his mental condi-

## Israeli airstrike hits hospital entrance in Gaza, killing medic and wounding nine other people

The military has struck hospitals on several occasions during the 18-month war, accusing Hamas militants of hiding out in them or using them for military purposes.

DEIR AL-BALAH, Apr 15 (Agencies): An Israeli airstrike hit the northern gate of a field hospital in the Gaza Strip on Tuesday, killing a medic and wounding nine other people, a spokesman for the hospital said.

The strike hit the Kuwaiti Field Hospital in the Muwasi area, where hundreds of thousands have sought shelter in sprawling tent camps.

The wounded were all patients and medics, and two of the patients were in critical condition after the strike, said Saber Mohammed, a hospital spokes-

There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military.

The military has struck hospitals on several occasions during the 18-month war, accusing Hamas militants of hiding out in them or using them for military purposes.

Hospital staff have denied the allegations and accused Israel of recklessly endangering civilians and gutting the territory's health system.



On Sunday, Israel struck the last major hospital providing critical care in northern Gaza after ordering an evacuation. A patient died during the evacuation, and the strike severely damaged the emergency room, pharmacy and surrounding buildings, according to Al-Ahli Hospital.

The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, which runs the hospital, condemned the strike.

Israel said it targeted a Hamas

command and control center

within the facility, without pro-

viding evidence. Hamas denied

the allegations. The war began when Hamasled militants attacked southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting 251. Fiftynine hostages are still inside Gaza. 24 of whom are believed to be alive, after most of the

rest were released in ceasefire agreements or other deals.

Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed over 51,000 people, according to an updated toll released by Gaza's Health Ministry on Tuesday. That includes more than 1,600 people killed since Israel ended a ceasefire and resumed its offensive last month to pressure Hamas to accept changes to the agree-

The ministry is led by medical professionals but reports to the Hamas-run government. Its toll is seen as generally reliable by U.N. agencies and independent experts, though Israel has challenged its numbers. Israel says it has killed some 20,000 militants, without providing evi-

The ministry does not say how many were civilians or combatants but says women and children make up more than half of the dead. The offensive has destroyed much of the territory and displaced around 90% of its population of roughly 2 million Palestinians.

#### 3 cops killed, 18 injured in bomb explosion in Pak; gunmen kidnap 2 Polio workers



KARACHI,, Apr 15 (Agencies): A powerful roadside bomb exploded near a vehicle carrying security personnel in Pakistan's restive southwest on Tuesday, killing three officers and wounding 18 others, officials said.

Separately, gunmen also abducted two polio workers in the northwest.

The first attack occurred in Mastung, a district in the province of Balochistan, according to government spokesperson Shahid Rind.

No group has immediately claimed responsibility for the bombing, but suspicion is likely to fall on ethnic Baloch separatists, who frequently target security forces and civilians in the province as well as other parts of the country.

Balochistan has been the scene of a long-running insurgency in Pakistan, with an array of separatist groups, including the outlawed Balochistan Liberation Army which was designated as a terrorist organisation by the United States in 2019, staging attacks.

The separatists seek independence

from the central government in Islam-

Jammu, Tuesday, April 15, 2025

Top News of J&K

Although Pakistani authorities say they have quelled the insurgency, violence in Balochistan has persisted.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, in a statement, denounced the attack and vowed to continue the "fight against terrorism" until it's eradicated.

Meanwhile, gunmen attacked a vehicle and abducted two polio workers who were on their way home after visiting a health facility in Dera Islamil Khan, a district in restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, according to a local police officer Zahid Khan.

The kidnapping happened ahead of a nationwide anti-polio campaign which will begin April 21 to vaccinate 45 million children.

It wasn't immediately clear who was behind the abductions but authorities have previously blamed militants for such attacks.

Insurgents falsely claim the vaccination campaigns are a Western conspiracy to sterilize children despite the government and medical experts' vehement denials

Pakistan has reported six new cases of polio since January.

According to the World Health Organisation, Pakistan and neighboring Afghanistan remain the only two countries where the potentially fatal, paralysing virus has not been eradicated.

#### Mistakenly deported El Salvador citizen will not be sent back to US, says President Bukele

SAN SALVADOR, Apr 15 (Agencies): El Salvador President Nayib Bukele said on Tuesday that he won't return Kilmar Abrego Garcia to the US, after Attorney General Pam Bondi told reporters it's "up to El Salvador" whether the man mistakenly deported to an El Salvador prison returns to the US, agency reported.

Bukele and Bondi made the comments in the Oval Office alongside US President Donald Trump, as the two world leaders met.

Over the weekend, the US Justice Department said in court filings that they're willing to take "all available steps to remove any domestic obstacles" to facilitate his return, as per CBS News.

"How can I return him to the United States?" Bukele asked the press. "I smuggle him into the United States or what do I do? Of course, I'm not going to do it. The question is preposterous.

Bukele referred to Abrego Garcia as a terrorist, and said I don't have the power to return him to the United States." Bondi, speaking before Bukele, said it's "up to El Salvador if they want to return him." Bondi said that "first and foremost, he was illegally in our coun-

"That's not up to us," Bondi said. "The Supreme Court ruled, President, that if El Salvador wants to return him... we would facilitate it, meaning provide a

But the Supreme Court offered no qualifier of whether El Salvador wants to return Abrego Garcia. The court ruled that a lower court order properly required the government to "facilitate" his release from El Salvador's custody.

The US Supreme Court on Thursday (local time) said the Trump administration must facilitate the release of the man, who lives in Maryland, from custody, but ordered additional proceedings before a federal district court, as

Abrego Garcia's lawyers insist he has no affiliation with MS-13, and has never been charged or convicted of any criminal offenses in the US or El Salvador. The Trump administration acknowledged that his deportation to the highsecurity prison in El Salvador known as CECOT was an "administrative error", as per agency.

Abrego Garcia, a Salvadoran national, entered the US illegally sometime around 2011, but an immigration judge in 2019, after reviewing evidence, withheld his removal. That meant he could not be deported to El Salvador but could be deported to another country. A gang in his native country, the immigration judge found, had been "targeting him and threatening him with death because of his family's pupusa business," agency reported.

## "Set an example": Barack Obama as Harvard rejects Trump's demands

WASHINGTON, Apr 15 (Agencies): Former US President Barack Obama on Tuesday said Harvard University has "set an example" by rejecting President Donald Trump administration's demands to limit activism on campus.

Harvard President Alan Garber on Monday said they would not bend to the government's demands, which included bringing broad government and leadership reforms to America's oldest university and changes to its admissions policies. It also demanded the university audit views of diversity on campus and stop recognizing some student clubs.

"Harvard has set an example for other higher-ed institutions - rejecting an unlawful and ham-handed attempt to stifle academic freedom, while taking concrete steps to make sure all students



at Harvard can benefit from an environment of intellectual inquiry, rigorous debate and mutual respect. Let's hope other institutions follow suit," Obama posted on X.

On Monday, a Department of Education task force on combating antisemitism accused Harvard of having a "troubling entitlement mindset that is endemic in our nation's most prestigious universities and colleges - that federal investment does not come with the responsibility to uphold civil

rights laws."

"The disruption of learning that has plagued campuses in recent years is unacceptable. The harassment of Jewish students is intolerable. It is time for elite universities to take the problem seriously and commit to meaningful change if they wish to continue receiving taxpayer support," it said.

Garber, however, in a public letter to the Harvard community, said the university "will not surrender its independence or relinquish its constitutional rights". He said the Trump

administration's demands would allow the federal government "to control the Harvard community" and threaten the school's "values as a private institution devoted to the pursuit, production, and dissemination of knowledge."

"No government regardless of which party is in power - should dictate what private universities can teach, whom they can admit and hire, and which areas of study and inquiry they can pursue," he wrote.

Hours later, the government froze \$2.2 billion in Harvard's federal funding.

"Harvard's statement today reinforces the troubling entitlement mindset that is endemic in our nation's most prestigious universities and colleges -- that federal investment does not come with the responsibility to uphold civil rights laws," Trump's Joint Task Force to Combat Anti-Semitism said.

"The disruption of learning that has plagued campuses in recent years is unacceptable. The harassment of Jewish students is intolerable. It is time for elite universities to take the problem seriously and commit to meaningful change if they wish to continue receiving taxpayer support," it added.

Last year, many US universities and colleges witnessed protests by students against Israel's war in Gaza.

Trump, who came to power in January, and other Republicans have accused the activists of supporting Hamas, a US-designated terrorist group whose deadly attack on October 7, 2023. against Israel sparked the Gaza war.

## Singapore dissolves Parliament, paving the way for May 3 general election

SINGAPORE CITY, Apr 15 (Agencies): Singapore's Parliament was dissolved on Tuesday, paving the way for general elections in which the city-state's long-ruling People's Action Party will seek to strengthen its dominance under Prime Minister Lawrence Wong.

The election will be held on May 3, the **Elections Department** said later in the afternoon. Victory is virtually assured for the PAP, which has led Singapore since its independence in 1965.

"We are witnessing profound changes in the world. It is becoming more uncertain, unsettled and even unstable," Wong wrote on Facebook. "The global conditions that enabled Singapore's success over the past decades may no longer hold. That is why I have

called this General Election," adding that Singaporeans should choose "the team to lead our nation"

Wong, who was sworn in as Singapore's fourth leader in May last year, wants to clinch a stronger win after the PAP suffered a setback in 2020 polls over voters' rising discontent with the government.

He succeeded Lee Hsien Loong, who stepped down after two decades at the helm. Lee's departure marked the end of a family dynasty started by his father, Lee Kuan Yew, Singapore's first leader, who built the former colonial trading outpost into one of the world's richest nations during 31 years in office.

In the 2020 polls held during the COVID-19 pandemic, the PAP maintained its supermajority with 83 out of 93



seats. But it ceded more seats to the opposition, which increased its parliamentary representation from six to 10, the highest ever. The PAP's share of popular support also slipped to a near-record low of 61 per cent.

As Wong heads into his first general election as PAP chief, he has sought to reach out to disgruntled younger voters. He launched a "Forward Singapore"

plan that aims to give Singaporeans a say in how to develop a more balanced, vibrant and inclusive agenda for the next generation.

The PAP will field more than 30 new candidates to refresh the party. Wong has warned that "who you have in the cockpit matters" amid economic uncertainties as US tariffs hit the global trading system.

"The biggest contest we face isn't between political parties, it's Singapore vs the world," Wong said in a Facebook post earlier this week. "Our mission ... is clear: to keep our nation a shining beacon of stability, progress and hope".

While Singapore has flourished as one of the world's wealthiest nations, it has also become one of the most expensive cities to live in. The PAP has been criticized for tight government control and a government-knowsbest stance, media censorship and the use of oppressive laws against dissidents.

Issues like widening income disparity, increasingly unaffordable housing, overcrowding caused by immigration and restrictions on free speech have also loosened the PAP's grip on power.

## China pursuing 3 alleged US operatives over cyberattacks during Asian Games

BEIJING, Apr 15 (Agencies): China said Tuesday it was pursuing three alleged US operatives accused of carrying out cyberattacks on Chinese infrastructure during the Asian Games held in the city of Harbin in February.

A notice from the Harbin Police headquarters named them as Katheryn A. Wilson, Robert J Snelling, and Stephen W Johnson and said they worked through the National Security Agency. The police said nothing about how they obtained the names or where the three were believed to be at present.

The alleged attacks targeted the systems for managing the Games themselves, such as registration, competition entry and travel, all of which stored "vast amounts of sensitive personal data of individuals associated with the Games," the police said.

The attacks continued during the Games in an attempt to "disrupt them and undermine their normal operations", according to the official news

The report also alleged the NSA cyberattacks targeted critical infrastructure in Heilongjiang province, which includes Harbin, such as energy, transportation, water resources, telecommunications, and defence research institutions. The

hackers also attacked Chinese technology company Huawei, agency said.

The report alleged that the NSA "transmitted unknown encrypted data packets to specific devices running Microsoft Windows operating systems within the province".

The US Embassy in Beijing did not immediately respond to messages seeking comment.

It's not clear why the alleged attacks would have been timed to the Asian Games, unless it was expected that China might ease some of its strict internet controls while hosting the competition.

The US and China have long accused each other of cyberattacks, with the US also naming Chinese individuals who worked for military hacking units, even issuing wanted posters for them.

Just last month, the Justice Department and others announced coordinated efforts to disrupt and deter the malicious cyber activities of 12 Chinese nationals, including two law enforcement officers, the DOJ reported.

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence last month called China "the most active and persistent cyber threat to US government, private-sector, and critical infrastructure networks".

## MLA Bishnah directs to setup Joint Control Room for summer preparedness

businesses and essen-

tial services. The Power

Development Depart-

ment must take proac-

tive measures to ensure

a stable and reliable

power supply throughout

the summer months,"

Dr. Bhagat asserted.

He called for exploring

all possible avenues,

including optimizing

power distribution net-

works and ensuring ade-

quate power availability.

the meeting was dedi-

cated to addressing the

alarming issue of fire

incidents in agricultural

fields caused by elec-

tric shocks during the

cultivation season. Dr.

Bhagat expressed seri-

ous concern over the

losses suffered by farm-

ers due to such incidents

and directed the PDD

officials to implement

stringent measures to

prevent their recurrence.

the backbone of our

economy, and it is our

responsibility to pro-

tect their livelihoods.

The incidents of fire in

agricultural fields due

to electric shocks are

unacceptable and must

be stopped," Dr. Bhagat

stated emphatically.

He instructed the PDD

to conduct thorough

inspections of power

lines passing through

agricultural areas, rec-

tify any sagging wires or

faulty infrastructure, and

implement safety proto-

cols to prevent electric

leakages.

"Our farmers are

A significant portion of



#### **Top News Report**

BISHNAH, Apr 15: Anticipating the challenges of the approaching summer season, Dr. Rajeev Bhagat, MLA Bishnah, on Tuesday convened a high-level meeting with key officials from the Jal Shakti Department, Mechanical Department, and Power Development Department (PDD).

The primary focus of the meeting was to proactively address potential issues related to water supply, power outages, and the critical concern of fire incidents in agricultural fields caused by electric shocks during the cultivation season.

The meeting, held at the MLA's Office Chamber in Bishnah, witnessed the presence of Executive Engineer Power Development, Executive Engineer Irrigation, and the Executive Engineer of the Jal Shakti Department, along with their respective subordinate engineering wings. Dr. Bhagat emphasized the need for seamless inter-departmental coordination to mitigate the hardships faced by the residents and the farming community during the summer months.

A key directive issued by the MLA was the immediate establishment of a Joint Control Room. This centralized hub will serve as a crucial platform for real-time monitoring of essential services, prompt grievance redressal and efficient information sharing among the three departments. Dr. Bhagat stressed that the Joint Control Room should ensure round-the-clock operation throughout the summer.

"The summer season brings with it a unique set of challenges, particularly concerning water availability and power supply. It is imperative that the Jal Shakti Department and the Power Development Department work in tandem to ensure uninterrupted services to the people of Bishnah," stated Dr. Bhagat.

Addressing the issue of frequent power cuts, a major concern for residents, Dr. Bhagat instructed the PDD officials to formulate a comprehensive plan to minimize outages. He urged them to undertake necessary maintenance and upgrades to the power infrastructure well in advance of the peak summer demand. The MLA also emphasized the need for transparent communication with the public regarding scheduled maintenance and any unavoidable disruptions.

"Unscheduled power cuts not only inconvenience the general public but also impact

The Executive Engineer Power Development, Executive Engineer Irrigation, and the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department assured the MLA of their full cooperation and commitment to implementing the directives issued. They outlined their respective departments' preparedness plans for the summer season and pledged to work collaboratively through the Joint Control Room to address any emerging challenges effectively.

The Executive Engineer Power Development assured that efforts are underway

to enhance the power infrastructure and minimize disruptions. The Executive Engineer Irrigation highlighted the measures being taken to ensure adequate water supply for both domestic and agricultural purposes. The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department detailed the steps being taken to maintain the water distribution network and address any potential water scarcity issues.

The meeting concluded with a commitment from all departments to work in close coordination and prioritize the well-being of the citizens of Bishnah.

## Baisakhi Festival celebrated in Gurudwara at Sangiot



**Top News Report** 

POONCH, Apr 15: The festival of Baisakhi was celebrated by the Indian Army at Sangiot with great pomp and enthusiasm.

All ward and village heads, along with other prominent individuals from the villages of Dhanna, Khetan, Bhata Dhurian, Chandrasi, and Kallar Mohra, were invited to partake in the vibrant celebrations at

Sangiot.
The event commenced with prayers at the Gurudwara located inside the Sangiot

camp, followed by a traditional Langar.

Members of the local community actively participated in the Langar, contributing to the spirit of togetherness and celebration. Informal interactions were held throughout the duration of the Langar, fostering camaraderie and mutual respect.

The attendees expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the Indian Army for the delicious meal and warm hospitality, and extended their festive wishes before departing for their respective villages.

# Fitness for students at Mallan Top News Report

DODA, Apr 15: As part of the Indian Army's ongoing outreach and capacity-building initiatives, the Indian Army organized an informative lecture on physical fitness at Government Middle School, Mallan.

The lecture aimed to educate students about the significance of regular physical activity for overall well-being.

Key benefits such as enhanced physical health, improved mental health and better academic performance were discussed.

The session also included practical tips to help students incor-



general public about the key changes

in criminal laws, their implications, and

the urgent need to fight drug abuse at

Addressing the gathering, the speak-

ers emphasized the pivotal role of

awareness and community cooperation

in building a safe and drug-free society.

The programme concluded with an

interactive session where students and

participants shared their views and

raised queries, which were addressed

Anantnag Police reiterated its com-

mitment to public welfare through sus-

tained awareness and preventive mea-

sures, and encouraged citizens to come

forward in the fight against drug abuse

and contribute positively towards law

enforcement initiatives.

by the panel of officers and experts.

both individual and community levels.

porate fitness into their daily lives and make healthier lifestyle choices.

**Army conducts Lecture on Physical** 

**Anantnag Police organized awareness** 

programme on new criminal laws,

anti-drug campaign

**Top News Report** 

ANANTNAG, Apr 15: Anantnag Police

on Tuesday organized a comprehen-

sive awareness programme at District

Police Office (DPO) Anantnag, focusing

on the newly introduced criminal laws

and ongoing efforts under the anti-drug

The event was presided over by SSP

Anantnag, Dr. G.V. Sundeep Chakra-

varthy, and saw the active participation

of SP HQRS Anantnag Sajad Ahmad,

DySP DAR Aijaz Ahmad, In-charge

Drug De-addiction Centre Anantnag

Dr. Mudasir Aziz, and other senior offi-

cers. Students from various educational

institutions across the district also took

part in the programme. The aim of the

initiative was to educate youth and the

campaign.

es.
This initiative not only fosters a positive image of the Indian Army among school children but also motivates them

to consider a future in uniform.

Events like these play a vital role in strengthening civil-military relations and reinforcing the Indian Army's commitment to community engagement.

## FromPage No: 1

#### Amarnath Yatra: Devotees queue up at designated bank branches for Registration

anywhere else".

Amid chants of 'Bham Bham Bole' by the devotees, he said that the experience of visiting the shrine cannot be described in words.

Sham Lal Dogra, another pilgrim waiting in the queue, said this will be his 45th visit to the shrine this year, while several women said they are visiting the shrine for the first time and are excited for getting their prayers fulfilled.

"I waited for many years and this time my dream to visit the shrine will get fulfilled," Asha Devi said.

Atika, a college student, said almost all her family members including parents had visited the Amarnath shrine and "this time it is my turn to pay obeisance there".

Kusum Gupta (50) said she just wanted to go there and offer her prayers. She is part of a six-member family group and they have chosen the Baltal route to complete their first yatra.

Last year, over 5.12 lakh pilgrims visited the shrine which was the highest in the past 12 years.

#### Special Vande Bharat's trial conducted on Katra-Sangaldan Section in J&K

this USBRL section is ready for the inauguration and flag-off cer-

emony. This entire area is very important from the religious, tourism and connectivity points of view of Kashmir," a senior railway official said.

The official further said two Vande Bharat Express trains — one from Srinagar to Katra and another from Katra to Srinagar — will run on the inauguration day.

The Railways has conducted eight trials over the past three months on various segments of the Katra-Kashmir track, including major milestones such as India's first cable-stayed rail bridge, the Anji Khad Bridge and the iconic arch bridge over the Chenab at Kauri — the world's highest railway bridge.

The Railway officials said stretching 1,315 metres across the Chenab River near the Salal Dam, the bridge features a main arch span of 467 metres and can withstand wind speeds of up to 266 kmph.

The bridge surpasses the Eiffel Tower in height and is nearly five times taller than the Qutub Minar from the riverbed to the rail level.

The construction of this engineering marvel involved over 28,000 metric tonnes of steel. It introduced a first-of-its-kind cable crane system which was used to ferry materials across a 915-metre-wide gorge with two massive cable cars and pylons towering over 100 metres high, they said.

The bridge is part of the USBRL project and connects "not just terrain but aspirations — linking the Kashmir Valley to the rest of India with an all-weather, reliable rail route". The ministry claimed that it is the "world's highest railway bridge" at 359 metres above the riverbed.

Out of the total 272-km USBRL project, 209 km was commissioned

in phases, with the first phase of the 118-km Qazigund-Baramulla section commissioned in October 2009, followed by 18 km Banihal-Qazigund in June 2013, 25 km Udhampur-Katra in July 2014 and the 48.1-km-long Banihal-Sangaldan stretch in February last year.

The work on the 46-km Sangaldan-Reasi section was also completed in June last year, leaving a 17-km stretch between Reasi and Katra, which was finally completed in December 2024.

#### Javed Rana pays tributes to Dr. B.R Ambedkar on 135th Birth Anniversary in Udhampur

National Flag, followed by a welcome address, cultural performances, oratories, and addresses by the dignitaries.

In his address, Javed Ahmad Rana paid glowing tributes to Dr. Ambedkar, hailing him as the principal architect of the Indian Constitution and a towering champion of social justice. He lauded Dr. Ambedkar's relentless efforts in laying the foundation of an egalitarian society based on the ideals of liberty, equality, and fraternity.

Javed Rana emphasized the pressing need to preserve and propagate Dr. Ambedkar's vision in today's era to shape a more inclusive, just, and progressive India. He called for the creation of an environment where every citizen, irrespective of caste, creed, or background, enjoys equal rights and opportunities, as envisioned by Dr. Ambedkar.

Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Madam Saloni Rai, highlighted the enduring relevance of Dr. Ambedkar's philosophy and reiterated the commitment of the Government to continue working for the upliftment of the marginalized and downtrodden sections of society

Babu Rampal, senior National Conference leader and former minister, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell and Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Central Zone remembered Dr. Ambedkar's unparalleled contribution to the nation. They called upon the youth to follow the ideals of Dr. Ambedkar and become torchbearers of social reform and unity. They highlighted the importance of Ambedkar Jayanti as an opportunity to renew the collective commitment to social

harmony and constitutional values. Earlier Chairman of the Ambedkar welfare organization (Trust) Udhampur highlighted the aims and objects of the Trust and welcomed Javed Ahmad Rana Honble Minister, Madam Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Madam Saloni Rai, Rattan Lal Gupta and other dignitaries of Udhampur.

The programme concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Govind Ram Trustee and Preeti Bhoj, marking a fitting tribute to the legacy of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

# Whistleblower IAS Officer seeks probe into Former Chief Secretary in Jammu Kashmir's Rs 6,000-Crore JJM Scam

pipes worth Rs 6,000 crore under the centrally sponsored JJM scheme. The former top bureaucrat is alleged to have misled both the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Home Affairs, resulting in financial loss and delays in the implementation of the scheme, which aims to provide potable drinking water to every household in the Union Territory

in the Union Territory.

According to Parmar, Mehta bypassed mandatory administrative approvals from the Lieutenant Governor-chaired Administrative Council for the large-scale pipe procurements. Despite Parmar raising objections, Mehta allegedly failed to cancel irregular contracts, thereby enriching suppliers and contractors at the cost of public funds.

Launched on August 15, 2019, by the BJP-led Union government, the JJM has missed multiple deadlines in Jammu and Kashmir, with only 80.5 per cent of the targeted 18.69 lakh households covered so far. Parmar's letter claims the delays are not merely bureaucratic but stem from deliberate mismanagement and misappropriation of funds.

#### Waqf Amendment Act: Govt singling out Muslims, says NC's Tanvir Sadio

transformation of the Waqf Board into a government-controlled body began in 2003 during Mufti Sayeed's tenure, which he said, marked the beginning of systematic interference in the religious institutions.

He said that traditionally, local people managed Waqf affairs, but now the government officials can decide ownership of shrines, mosques and graveyards due to lack of documentation.

He said Waqf is a matter of community trust, created through voluntary contributions, and should be safeguarded from state interference. "Only Muslims can manage it. No government has the right to take away what was given for the welfare of the community," he said.

Sadiq said that his party has taken the matter to the Supreme Court and expects a fair verdict. He also questioned why reforms are not introduced for Hindu temple properties, claiming that over 8 lakh acres of temple land remain untouched. "In a secular country, reforms should apply equally to all religions," he said.

Responding to BJP leader Sunil Sharma's remarks about the NC, Sadiq dismissed as 'ineffective'. He accused the BJP of failing both in government and opposition, citing their inconsistent stance on the Jal Shakti scam during assembly sessions.

He said BJP's decade-long governance in Jammu and Kashmir had led to destruction, and this continued after the party aligned with the PDP. "The real damage was done in 2003 and again in 2014 when Mufti Muhammad Sayeed forged an alliance with BJP," he said.

Sadiq also referred to the recent disruption in the assembly, where the NC opposed the Waqf Amendment Bill

He said the Bill was discriminatory and the party's stance is now part of the assembly's official

record.

He said that the party had warned about these developments earlier, adding that the closure of Jamia Masjid for key religious occasions contradicts the administration's claim of "organic normalcy" in Kashmir. "If things are normal, why are Friday and Eid prayers not allowed?" he asked.

"We went to the Supreme Court for this very reason to prevent attempts to take over Muslim properties under flimsy pretexts," he said.

## Sunderbani Premier League Cricket Tournament organised at Sunderbani

**Top News Report** 

RAJOURI, Apr 15: In a profound stride towards fostering unity, sportsmanship and community development, the Indian Army in cooperation with Sunderbani Cricket Association, successfully orchestrated a transformative Cricket Tournament in Sunderbani (Sunderbani Premier League) from March 16 to April 14, 2025.

An initiative synonymous with goodwill and harmony, resonated with the vibrant beats of athleticism as youth across the region enthusiastically participated in the one-month cricket extravaganza. This event epitomized the essence of emphasizing community engagement and the holistic development of the

A total of 14 teams across the Sunderbani region of Rajouri district participated in the tournament and the final was played

this Monday between BPS (Blasters and Knight Riders), of which the former emerged as the winner and were felicitated by Indian Army.

The Indian Army congratulated the winning team and highlighted the importance of sports and sportsman spirit in upbringing the character of the youth.

The winners were given a prize money of Rs 1,00,000 alongwith winner trophy and the runners up were given a sum of Rs 50,000. The tournament not only showcased the athletic prowess of the young talents but also served as a platform for display of zeal and camaraderie.

The Sunderbani Premier League was not merely a competition, rather it was a celebration of potential and promise.

By providing a stage for budding talents to shine, the Indian Army is aiming to nurture a culture where sports become a catalyst for positive change, personal growth and community



development.

As the tournament concludes, the Indian Army extends its gratitude to the Sunderbani Cricket Association, participants and the Sunderbani community for their enthusiastic participation

and support.

This event marks a signifi-

cant chapter in the bonhomie between the security forces and youth, where sports and unity converge for the betterment of

#### in the top order, but he is yet to get an dangerous Abhishek Sharma if providopportunity to play there. However, the ed opportunity at the top. moves like Lucknow Supergiants (LSG) Samad has the distinction of scoring sending him to bat before David Miller in six centuries at the Ranji Trophy with the game against Chennai Super Kings

Abdul Samad showing class,

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Apr 15: J&K's talented batter

Abdul Samad who loves to bat up in

the order but gets an opportunity to

bat lower down the order at the IPL

scene, despite all odds, is showing

class, maturity, consistency and explo-

siveness, thus staking his claim for the

Despite getting an opportunity to play

very few balls in each game at the IPL

circuit, a natural top order batter Samad

has made his presence count in each

Samad scored 22 off just 8 balls

against strong Sunrisers Hyderabad

(SRH), 27 off just 12 balls against

PPBKS, 4 off 2 balls versus Mumbai

and 20 off 11 balls against Chennai

A murderous on-slaughter against fast

bowling, Samad though loves to play

can make all the difference in his crick-

bigger stage.

Super Kings.

eting career.

maturity, consistency, explosiveness

five off them in very much less than 100 balls (mostly in 60s). A special talent needs to be given more opportunities Experts believe that Samad can prove at the top order.

as devastating and murderous as the

## MAJK to start 24th Jammu District competition on April 26

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Apr 15: Mountaineering Association of J&K (MAJK) shall start its District Sport Climbing Competitions with the 24th Jammu District competition to be conducted on 26th April, 2025 at Sprawling Buds ICSE School, Bantalab, Jammu.

The competition shall be organised by District Sport Climbing Association, Jammu. It shall be followed by Udhampur and Reasi District competitions on 27th April, 2025.

In the Jammu district competition about 300 climbers from various institutions of Jammu district are likely to vie for honors

and the competition may extend to the next day in case the competitions are not completed on the first day

The competitions shall be conducted on the pre fabricated 40ft high Tenzing Norgay Sport Climbing Wall in Sprawling Buds ICSE School campus in eight categories of Men, Women (born in 2008 and earlier), Boys, Girls (born in 2009, 2010& 2011); Sub Jr. Boys / Girls (born in 2012 and 2013) and Mini Boys/Girls (born in 2014 and after).

The competitions in all the categories shall be held in 'lead climbing' only. However, there shall be demonstrations in speed climbing by international

climbers at the time of inauguration of the championship.

For further information interested climbers/ institutions should contact the General Secretary of Mountaineering Association of J&K Shawetica Khajuria on Mob. No: 7006099855 on or before 23rd April. 2025.

On the spot registration shall also be done at Sprawling Buds ICSE School from 8 am to 8.30 am on 26th April, 2025 for limited number of participants.

Shawetica Khajuria, General Secretary of the Association and an international judge in sport climbing shall be the President of the Jury of the Competition,

Sonam Sidharth, General Secretary of District Mountaineering Association, Jammu is the Organising Secretary of the competition.

Senior climbers, Shilpa Charak, Navneet Gupta, Sushil Singh, Shashi Kant Sharma, Sourav Deep Singh are also a part of the organizing committee along with Sunil Chakharia, Prerna Charak, Vikas Singh and Ulfat Khan. Technical and logistic support, however, shall be provided by Indian Mountaineering Foundation North Zone Committee, New Delhi. The district championship has been sponsored by J&K Sports

# Congress failed Ambedkar, BJP fulfilling his dream of social equity: Kavinder

Says Dr. Ambedkar's vision honoured best under Modi regime



**Top News Report** HIRANAGAR, Apr 15: Former Deputy Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Kavinder Gupta on Tuesday paid heartfelt tributes to Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on his 135th birth anniversary during a function held at Village Mareen, Hiranagar in district Kathua.

On the occasion, Adv Vijay Sharma, MLA Hiranagar Constituency, Bharat Bhushan, MLA Kathua, District President Updesh Andotra, Col Mahan Singh DDC Chairman, Karan Attri DDC Member, Mukesh Padha Mandal President, Rajinder Bakshi Vice President

Addressing the gathering, Kavinder Gupta lauded Dr. Ambedkar's unparalleled contributions as the principal architect of the Indian Constitution and a relentless crusader for social justice.

The former deputy Chief Minister took a critical stance against the Congress party, accusing it of historically sidelining Dr. Ambedkar's legacy. "For decades, the Congress failed to give Dr. Ambedkar the recognition he deserved, often marginalizing his contributions to our nation's foundation," he stated. He emphasized that it was only under the leadership of Prime Minister

Narendra Modi that Dr. Ambedkar's vision has been earnestly honored and integrated into national policy.

The senior BJP leader highlighted several initiatives by the Modi government aimed at preserving and promoting Dr. Ambedkar's ideals. He noted the establishment of the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi, envisioned as a hub for research and dialogue on social justice and empowerment. Additionally, he mentioned the development of the "Panch Teerth," five key sites associated with Dr. Ambedkar's life, transformed into places of pilgrimage to inspire future generations.

Kavinder also referenced welfare schemes like the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, focusing on providing affordable housing to marginalized communities, reflecting Dr. Ambedkar's vision of dignity for all. "The Modi government's actions are not mere symbolism; they are a testament to our commitment to Dr. Ambedkar's dream of an equitable society,"

he asserted. MLA Kathua, Bharat Bhushan, in his address. emphasized the importance of embracing Dr. Ambedkar's teachings in contemporary governance and praised the Modi government's efforts in bringing social reforms that align with Ambedkarite principles. He also highlighted initiatives aimed at uplifting marginalized communities and ensuring equal opportunities for all citizens.

MLA Hiranagar, Adv Vijay Sharma called upon people and youth to draw inspiration from Dr. Ambedkar's life and work towards building a more inclusive and just

## Abdul Rahim Rather expresses anguish over delay in Vailoo-Singhpora and Sudhmahadev-Dranga tunnel projects

**Top News Report** 

SRINAGAR, Apr 15: Senior Congress leader and former MLA Abdul Rahim Rather has expressed deep anguish over the disapproval of the vital Vailoo-Singhpora and Sudhmahadev-Dranga tunnel projects by the Public Investment Board (PIB), terming it a serious setback to the long-standing aspirations of the people of Chenab Valley and South Kashmir.

Calling the move a betrayal, Rather said, "These tunnels were not just infrastructural projects; they were lifelines of development, connectivity, and progress for the people living in the mountainous regions of Doda, Kishtwar, and Anantnag. Denial or delay of such transformative projects at this stage is a betrayal of public trust."

He recalled that it was the visionary leadership of Mufti Mohammad Sayeed that first envisioned connecting the Chenab Valley with Kashmir through strategic tunnel links. "I invested my best efforts during my tenure as MLA to pursue the sanction of the Vailoo-Singhpora

I consistently followed up the matter at all appropriate levels, fully recognising its critical role in bridging geographical, economic, and social gaps between the two regions," he said. "Leaving the project

midway is not only a grave injustice to the people at both ends of these tunnels, but a loss for the entire Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. These proposed tunnels have the potential to revolutionise inter-regional connectivity, boost tourism, facilitate trade, and improve access to healthcare and education for thousands living in remote and underserved areas,

he added.

Abdul Rahim Rather urged Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to take up the matter with the concerned authorities, particularly the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India, for the immediate initiation of construction work on these two vital tunnels, as all required formalities have been completed and the projects already stand tendered.

## Chitra, Ananaya in BCCI's CoE **Emerging U-23 Women's High Performance Camp**

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Apr 15: For their fabous display of batting and bowling skills, talented batting all-rounder, Chitra Singh Jamwal and right-arm wrist spinner Ananaya Sharma have been selected for the BCCI's prestigious Centre of Excellence (CoE) U-23 Women's High Performance Camp 2025 to be held at Bengaluru from April 21 to May 15,

Chitra got the selectors nod for her fabulous show with the willow, scoring 270 runs in the tournament including elegant 65 against strong Madhya Pradesh in the historic quarter-final, besides scoring a magnificent century against formidable Goa in the Women's U-23 One-Day Trophy.

Earlier, in January 2025, Chitra represented India Team-C in Senior Women's One-Day Challenger Trophy.

It may be recalled that Chitra Singh Jamwal has the distinction of scoring six centuries in her illustrious career.

Ananaya got the National Selectors nod for emerging top wickettaker for J&K in all three formats of Senior Women's T20 Trophy, Senior Women's One-Day Trophy and U-23 Women's One-Day Trophy.

Ananaya has also the distinction of being selected as Net Bowler for Mumbai Indians in Women's Premier League WPL-2024.

Ananaya got 7 wickets in 5 matches with an average of 14.42 and economy of 5.05 in Senior Womens T20 Trophy. She was ranked 34th all over India.

In Senior Women's One-Day Trophy, Ananaya got 12 wickets in 8 matches with an average of 19.16 and economy of 3.90. She ranked 31st all over India. For her brilliant bowling display, she was also selected in Senior Women's Challenger (One-Day) Trophy.

In Women's U-23 Trophy. Ananaya got 10 wickets in 5 matches with an average of 17.60 and economy of 3.91. She was ranked 15th upto league matches and 24th after the knockout stage.

## True Respect for Dr. Ambedkar has been shown only by BJP: Dr. Gaikwad

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Apr 15: Paving floral tributes to the statue of Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar in the grand premises of Maharashtra Sadan in Delhi, former Member of Parliament from Latur, Dr. Sunil Baliram Gaikwad, while speaking to the media, stated clearly, "The true honor of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar has been upheld only by the Bharatiya Janata Party till date.'

Dr. Gaikwad criticized the Congress party, saying, "Congress has consistently disrespected Babasaheb Ambedkar. It wasn't the Congress but the government of V. P. Singh, supported by the BJP, that conferred the Bharat Ratna upon him in 1990. That was a historic and much-deserved recognition."

He further added. "The BJP governments under Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Prime Minister Narendra Modi constructed a grand memorial for Babasaheb in Delhi. Similarly, under the leadership of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, the Maharashtra government purchased Babasaheb's residence in London and transformed it into a worldclass memorial. These initiatives reflect



the global respect given to Babasaheb's thoughts." Dr. Gaikwad firmly stated, "It is the Bharatiya Janata Party that has truly understood and spread Babasaheb Ambedkar's ideas and legacy across the nation—not for political power, but for genuine social transformation."

### Two carpenters injured after falling from height in Shopian

**Top News Report** 

SRINAGAR, Apr 15: Two carpenters were injured after they fell down from a height during work in Turkwangam South Kashmir's Shopian district.

An official said that

two carpenters received injuries when they fell down from a height in Turkwangam Shopian.

They have been identified as Asif Ahmad son of Gh Nabi Wani and Rayees Ahmad son of Jalaluddin Wani, both residents of Kakapora

Pulwama.

He said that both were shifted to district hospital Pulwama from where Asif was referred to B&J hospital Srinagar for further treatment.

Meanwhile police have started an investigation in this regard.

## IPL 2025: Dhoni's chase mastery ends CSK's five-match losing streak; defeat LSG by five wickets

LUCKNOW, Apr 15 (Agencies): Skipper MS Dhoni's masterclass brought an end to Chennai's lean patch as the Super Kings stamped their authority with an invaluable five-wicket win against Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) in the ongoing edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL).

Dhoni's special and Shivam Dube's composed vet belligerent display in patches ended Chennai's five-match unbeaten streak. Dhoni stayed unbeaten on 26 from 11 deliveries, with four boundaries and a six while Dube struck 43\* from 37 deliveries as CSK emerged triumphant in the final over with three balls to spare

Chennai began the 167-run pursuit with a sizzling opening stand between IPL debutant Shaik Rasheed and Rachin Ravindra. The young Kiwi southpaw set the tone with back-to-back boundaries in the opening over off Shardul Thakur.

Rasheed flexed his boundaryhitting muscles by targeting Akash Deep. The young debutant found his first boundary in the IPL by timing his flick to perfection. With his impeccable timing, he finished the over with back-to-back deliveries to set the tempo of the chase.

The duo went from strength to strength and raised a 52-run opening stand before Rasheed (27) perished against Avesh Khan. The experienced bowler reduced his pace and clocked 125 kph to lure the 20-year-old into committing a mistake and hole it to Nicholas Pooran.

In his 100th IPL game, Rahul Tripathi had fortune on his side. Abdul Samad dropped a sitter. allowing the experienced batter an extended stay on the crease. The Super Kings were flying high in the chase, but Aiden Markram trapped Ravindra in



to 24 needed in 12, Shivam

Dube unleashed a relentless

onslaught in the penultimate

over. Shardul Thakur, with his

crafty pace, got decimated.

Dube placed the ball with pre-

cision to guide the ball to the

boundary rope. On the next

delivery, he clobbered the ball

into the stands for a maximum.

LSG's woes increased when

Bishnoi floored the chance

of sending Dhoni back to the

dressing room on 20. The ball

came quickly at him; it was a

regulation catch, but the ball

Dhoni punished Lucknow for

its mistake by dispatching the

ball for a four on the final over to

finish the over with a staggering

19 runs. The winning runs came

off Dube's bat as CSK ended its

Earlier in the match, after being

put to bat first by CSK, LSG

was off to a poor start. Khaleel

Ahmed continued his first-over

heroics in the season, getting

opener Aiden Markram for just

six in six balls at the conclusion

of the first over, thanks to a fine

diving catch from Rahul Tripathi.

CSK put another roadblock on

LSG's path as Anshul Kambhoj

got the big wicket of an in-form

five-match losing streak.

burst through Bishnoi's hands.

front of the stumps on 37(22) against the run of play.

CSK lost another wicket in the space of four deliveries after Tripathi (9) cushioned the ball back into the hands of Ravi Bishnoi and returned to the dressing room with another flop show.

Shivam Dube tried to stage a comeback with Ravindra Jadeja, but Bishnoi found the breakthrough to put Chennai on the backfoot. Jadeja set his eyes on the boundary but holed it to Markram close to the edge of the boundary.

Vijay Shankar failed to make a much-needed impact and departed cheaply. With CSK needing a player to finish off the game, Dhoni stepped up to lead his side to victory. The crowd welcomed the stalwart with thundering applause as Dhoni formulated the blueprint for success

With two successive boundaries on the final deliveries of the 16th over, Dhoni began chopping the required rate. On the final delivery of the 17th over, Dhoni muscled the ball away to clear the boundary rope for a one-handed maximum.

As the equation came down

Nicholas Pooran for just eight in nine balls. LSG was 23/2 in four overs.

Mitchell Marsh and skipper Rishabh Pant rebuild the innings, with both taking to the attack against the pacers. At the end of six overs, LSG was 42/2 in six overs, with Mitchell (22\*) and Rishabh (6\*) unbeaten.

LSG reached the 50-run mark in 6.3 overs, thanks to a reverse scoop by Pant that went for a

The 50-run stand between the duo ended with Ravindra Jadeja getting Marsh clean bowled for 30 in 25 balls, with two fours and two sixes. LSG was 73/3 in 9.3 overs. At the end of 10 overs, LSG was 78/3, with Ayush Badoni (5\*) joining Pant (28\*).

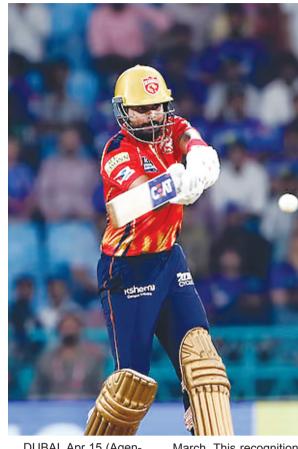
Badoni tried to ease off some pressure, hitting Jamie Overton for two successive sixes at the end of the 12th over. LSG reached their 100-run mark in 12.3 overs. A fine stumping from MS Dhoni ended Badoni's (22 in 17 balls, with a four and two sixes), giving Jadeja his second wicket. LSG was 105/4 in 13.4

Pant eased off some pressure, hitting Matheesha Pathirana for two sixes, completing his first IPL 2025 fifty in 42 balls, with four boundaries and three sixes. The 18th over by Pathirana brought 18 runs for LSG.

The next over bowled by Khaleel helped LSG get 16 runs, including a six each by Pant and Samad. LSG reached the 150run mark in 19 overs.

The final over was somewhat fruitful for CSK as they got Abdul Samad run out for 20 in 11 balls, with two sixes and Dhoni caught Pant (63 in 49 balls, with four boundaries and four sixes) off Pathirana's bowling. LSG ended at 166/7 in their 20 overs, with Pathirana getting Shardul Thakur (6) on the final ball.

## **Shreyas Iyer wins ICC** Men's Player of the Month award for March 2025



DUBAI, Apr 15 (Agencies): Stylish Indian batter Shreyas Iyer on Tuesday secured the ICC Men's Player of the Month award for March after playing a stellar role in India's Champions Trophy triumph.

lyer finished as the highest run-scorer with 243 runs during the ODI event to win the honour, overcoming competition from New Zealand's Jacob Duffy and Rachin Ravindra.

"I'm truly honored to be named the ICC Men's Player of the Month for

March. This recognition is incredibly special, especially in a month

where we lifted the ICC

Champions Trophy, a

moment I will cherish

forever," lyer said in an

ICC release. "Being able to contribute to India's success on such a big stage is something every cricketer dreams of. I'm grateful to my teammates, coaches, and support staff for their unwavering support and belief. A heartfelt thank you to the fans as well; your

energy and encourage-

ment keep us going every step of the way," he added.

India thus won the award back-to-back, with Shubman Gill winning the honour for Feb-

lyer helped India progress through the middle overs with his masterful stroke-play and his knack for anchoring the innings and forging crucial partnerships played a vital role in steering his side through a victorious campaign.

The 30-year-old scored 172 runs across three matches in March, averaging 57.33, with a modest strike rate of 77.47, which included some spectacular knocks

lyer scored 79 off 98 balls which included 4 fours and 2 sixes in a win against New Zealand in a Group A fixture of the Champions Trophy, an innings that gave India a competitive total of 250 in the first innings on a tricky pitch.

He scored 45 off 62 balls to assist in India's victorious chase over Australia in the semifinals and finished his tournament with a clinical 48 off 62 balls as India sealed victory over New Zealand in the summit clash.

#### ICC considers change in current two-ball ODI playing conditions

NEW DELHI, Apr 15 (Agencies): The International Cricket Council (ICC) is considering a change to the existing two-ball playing conditions in ODIs with an aim of restoring the balance between bat and ball in the format, according to ESPNcricinfo.

The ICC men's cricket committee, headed by Sourav Ganguly, recommended introducing the change to board of chief executives. According to the recommendation, each inning will start with two new balls, which is the current case, but the fielding side will be allowed to select which ball they wish to bowl with after the 34th over, by which time both balls will be 17 overs old. The ball that isn't chosen will be kept as a spare and will be used in case the need arises

According ESPNcricinfo, the cricketing boards are expect-



ed to give their feedback on the tweak by the end of this month. If there is a general agreement. the suggestion will be formalised in the playing conditions, likely at the ICC's annual general meeting in July.

The ICC introduced the current playing conditions in October 2011. Until the 2011 World Cup in India, the ODI playing conditions called for a mandatory change in the ball after the 34th over of an innings, where a similarly used ball would replace the ball, but with one that was cleaner and easier to see

addition, the boards will consider and provide their feedback on implementing a 60-second stop clock in Test cricket. This regulation will help combat the slow over rates in the format. It has already been in place for T20Is and ODIs since last

Teams that are running behind time in the completion of their overs are penalised by bringing one extra fielder within the 30-yard circle. The committee members also discussed the bonus-point rewards system in the World Test Championship. However, the view around it was that it would be too complicated to imple-

## Delhi Capitals seek maiden win at 'first home' against struggling Rajasthan Royals

NEW DELHI, Apr 15 (Agencies): Jolted by a dramatic loss at home after a dream start to the season, Delhi Capitals will look to put the setback behind them when they take on a faltering Rajasthan Royals in the IPL here on Wednesday.

Riding high on a four-match winning streak, the Axar Patelled Capitals looked like a welloiled machine before a stunning batting meltdown against Mumbai Indians halted their momentum here on Sunday.

What was meant to be a triumphant return to base ended in despair as the loss saw them slip to second on the points table.

In contrast, Rajasthan Royals find themselves in a precarious position with just two wins from six matches, languishing

Their season has been marred by inconsistency.

Impact substitute Karun Nair, fresh off a prolific domestic season, led Delhi's chase against MI with a dazzling 89 in pursuit of 206 in their first game at the Feroz Shah Kotla this season.

At 119/1 in 10 overs, the match

looked all but sealed. But what followed was a jaw-dropping collapse, which included three run-outs in the penultimate over. DC were eventually bowled out for 193 in a chase of 205.

Though the Capitals will undoubtedly rue the missed opportunity of collecting two points, they have little time to dwell on the defeat with another crucial clash looming.

Once again, the spinners will hold the key for Delhi.

Despite the challenge of the evening dew, wrist spinners Kuldeep Yadav and 20-year-old Vipraj Nigam will look to weave their magic.

Both these bowlers have been DC's standout performers this season, their spin variations bamboozling opposition bat-

However, skipper Axar Patel is

yet to leave his mark. As captain, he has led the side admirably but the left-arm spinner has gone wicket-less in 14 overs across six matches, conceding runs at an economy that is a touch lower than 10. Known for his batting heroics as well, the all-rounder is yet to get going in the tournament.

Young Jake Fraser-McGurk, who set the stage ablaze last season with his power-hitting, has been a shadow of his former self this time around. His high-risk game has completely backfired, yielding a meagre 46 runs, including two ducks.

With Faf du Plessis still sidelined due to injury, Nair looks to have firmly secured his spot in the team.

Delhi's middle-order looks strong this season thanks to the experience of KL Rahul. the firepower of Tristan Stubbs, Ashutosh Sharma, and the promising Nigam.

The Royals, meanwhile, have been plagued by inconsistency. Their batting unit, which is heavily reliant on Indian stars, has mis-fired repeatedly.

While Yashasvi Jaiswal notched a fluent fifty in the previous outing in the loss to RCB. his overall form remains patchy. Skipper Sanju Samson is yet to produce a defining knock, while the young guns Riyan Parag and Dhruv Jurel have shown potential without lasting impact.

On the bowling front, Jofra Archer seems to have shaken off the rust after copping the most expensive spell in IPL history. But the Royals' attack as a whole has been toothless.

Apart from Sandeep Sharma, their other bowlers have struggled to control the scoring rate Squads:

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

Rajasthan Royals: Sanju Samson (c), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubham Dubey, Nitish Rana, Riyan Parag, Dhruv Jurel (w), Shimron Hetmyer, Jofra Archer, Maheesh Theekshana, Tushar Deshpande, Sandeep Sharma, Fazalhag Faroogi, Kunal Singh Rathore, Akash Madhwal, Kumar Kartikeya, Kwena Maphaka, Wanindu Hasaranga, Yudhvir Singh Charak, Ashok Sharma, Vaibhav Suryavanshi. Match starts at 7:30pm.

## Sunil Gavaskar's foundation offers Rs 30,000 per month aid to Vinod Kambli: Report

NEW DELHI, Apr 15 (Agencies): Sunil Gavaskar's The Champs Foundation will offer financial assistance to former India cricketer Vinod Kambli, who has been struggling with health issues. The foundation will provide Kambli with Rs 30,000 per month for the rest of his life, as well as an additional Rs 30,000 annually for his medical expenses, according to The Times

Gavaskar met Kambli during the 50th anniversary celebrations of Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium. The legendary batter had a brief conversation with Kambli, who had recently recovered from a health setback to attend the event in Mumbai in January 2025, alongside other icons of Mumbai cricket.

According to the report, Gavaskar met with Kambli's doctors the day after meeting the cricketer at Wankhede Stadium. After learning about his health condition, the legendary cricketer instructed The Champs Foundation to begin providing financial and medical assistance. Kambli will receive Rs 30,000 per month starting from

April 1, the report added. In December 2024, Kambli was initially admitted to a private hospital in Thane for a urinary infection and cramps. However, doctors later discovered blood clots in his brain. Kambli appeared weak as he spoke to the press from his hospital bed during his 10-day treatment. He was discharged on January 1, 2025.

During the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Australia, Sunil Gavaskar, speaking to India Today, mentioned that the 1983 World Cupwinning team was planning to offer

assistance to Kambli. "The 1983 team is very conscious of the younger players. For me, they are like grandsons. If you see their age, some are like sons. We are all very concerned, particularly when fortunes desert them. I don't like the word 'help'. What the 1983 team wants to do is take care of him. We want to take care of Vinod Kambli and help him get back on his feet," Gavaskar said.

Kambli has been battling health issues for some time now. Last year, a video of Kambli greeting Sachin Tendulkar at an event honouring their childhood coach, Ramakant Achrekar, went viral. Kambli's frail appearance shocked many.

However, Kambli remained in

high spirits while recovering from his latest health setback in Thane. Three days after being rushed to the hospital, Kambli was seen singing a motivational song. He thanked his friends and well-wishers for their support during this difficult period. In an emotional statement to the media, Kambli said he was not yet ready to leave cricket.

The former cricketer, known for his destructive left-handed batting, also shared that his son was interested in pursuing cricket, and he was keen to help him realise his

dreams. Kambli played 17 Tests and 104 ODIs for India between 1991 and 2000.

He made an impact in Test cricket, scoring 1,084 runs at an average of 54.20, and 2,477 runs in one-dayers at 32.59. However, injuries, a dip in form, and reports of indiscipline prevented his promising career from reaching its full potential.

After retiring, Kambli explored coaching, reality television, and even politics, but success eluded him in these fields. Despite his love for the game, he was never able to secure a meaningful role within Indian cricket.

## Adjournment motions cannot be brought on actions of Central Government in J&K Assembly: Former LS Secretary General

**Top News Report** 

SRINAGAR, Apr 15: Amid growing controversy over the adjournment motion brought by the National Conference-led government regarding the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025—which caused disruptions in the J&K Assembly for three consecutive days-former Lok Sabha Secretary General P. D. T. Achary on Monday said that such a motion cannot be brought against actions of the central government in the J&K Assembly

He also said that MLAs of ruling party cannot initiate an adjournment motion in any legisla-

Speaking to Srinagar based news agency, Achary, an authority on parliamentary affairs in India, said, "An adjournment motion against the central government can only be brought in the Lok Sabha. It cannot be brought on Waqf (amendment) bill -2025 in J&K Assembly."

The National Conference and its allies had submitted notices to adjourn the Assembly's proceedings to discuss the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025. However, the Speaker rejected these motions, citing that matter is sub -judice.

Achary described the ruling party's attempt to bring adjournment motions in the J&K Assembly as "strange," stating that such motions are censure motions against the government and can only be initiated by the opposition.

"In the J&K Assembly, only opposition can bring an adjournment motion against the elected government," he said.

A censure motion is an expression of disapprov-

al of a specific policy, action, or conduct of the government, a minister, or a group of ministers. It is used to highlight government's failures.

The adjournment motion has its origin in the House of Commons in the United Kingdom.

In India, the Rules of the pre-independent bicameral legislature established under the Government of India Act of 1919 provided for the adjournment.

In 1952, the adjournment motion was placed in the Lok Sabha Rule Book. As per Rule 56 of The Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in J&K Legislative Assembly, a motion for an adjournment of the business of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance may be made with the consent of the Speaker.

It is pertinent to mention that three MLAs of the ruling alliance in J&K had withdraw their cut motions after they were told that they cannot use the parliamentary device as it amounts to showing disagreement with government's budgetary

## **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Apr 15: In its commitment to uninterrupted fuel supply in remote and hilly regions, on Tuesday Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has formally commenced its Advance Winter Stocking (AWS) program for the Ladakh region.

This crucial logistical effort aims to ensure that both civilians and the armed forces stationed in Ladakh have reliable access to petroleum products during the harsh winter season. Advance winter stocking continues till October-November subject to weather condi-

It is pertinent to mention that 100s of Drivers along with tankers from J & K also started similar exercise from Jalandhar Depot of IOCL and proceeded towards Ladakh as part of AWS.

The ceremonial flag-off of the convoy of fuel tankers took place at the IOCL depot in Jammu in presence of Karan Singh Wazir, Chairman of the All Jammu & Kashmir Transport Welfare Association and Anan Sharma, a renowned Transporter.

**IOCL** begins advance winters

stocking for Ladakh

The other prominent attendees were Senior Depot Manager Shantanu Sharma, Outgoing Senior Depot Manager LN Mohanty, Khalid Malik In Charge Consumer Sales J & K and Sardar Ranjit Singh, the President of the J&K Oil Tankers Drivers and Cleaners Union.

Every year, subject to weather conditions, this advance Winter stocking is undertaken in either April or May. The AWS necessity arises from the fact that during the peak winter season, heavy snowfall lead to the closure of major roads and mountain passes that connect Ladakh.

Karan Singh Wazir appreciated IOCL and drivers of the Oil tankers in their commitment to ensure uninterrupted supply of fuel.

Harasis Singh, Social Activist highlighted the important role of drivers in carrying the fuel products to the Ladakh region challenging all problems on road. Other transporters including Surinder Singh Bittu, Chaman Lal and others also attended the program.

## Mali-cum-Chowkidar daily wagers appeal for release of long-pending wages across J&K



**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Apr 15: An appeal was issued today by the Jammu & Kashmir Sangarsh Samiti on behalf of Mali-cum-Chowkidar daily wagers, seeking immediate intervention for the release of their pending wages—a demand that has been echoing through the administrative corridors for years

Samiti said the plea draws its legal foundation from Government Order No. 208 dated 08/07/2003, and Order

No. 105 PD of 2010 dated 25/10/2010, as well as Cabinet Decision No. 109/08 dated June 23, 2003. These directives clearly outlined the regularization and wage disbursement process

ment Department (RDD) across various blocks and districts of Jammu & Kashmir

Despite official orders and communication to the Director, RDD Jammu & Kashmir, the release of wages remains pending to this

These daily wagers some of whom have been working for over 4290 days (approximately 12 years) without any remunerationhave continued their duties in silence, driven by hope and duty.

The press note highlights that as per official promises, these workers were entitled to Rs 10,000/month up to 2010, with revised rates of Rs 6,000/month thereafter. However, they claim that not a single penny has been

received till date.

Speaking on behalf of the aggrieved workers, Sunny Kaul Chib, Chairman of the Jammu & Kashmir UT Sangarsh Samiti, urged the administration to uphold the dignity of labor and fulfill long-standing commitments.

"We are not asking for favors-only for what is rightfully ours. We have served our duties faithfully, and it is time the system responds with justice," Chib emphasized.

The Samiti has appealed to the LG Administration, Chief Secretary of J&K, and the RDD Department to take swift and empathetic action to release the pending wages and bring relief to thousands of families struggling for

unemployed youth from

the displaced KP com-

munity. He also voiced

the long-standing

demand for the pas-

sage of the Temples

and Shrines Bill, which

would ensure the pres-

ervation, maintenance,

and revival of the

sacred heritage of the

Valley. Others present

at the meeting included

Rajesh Labroo, Vishal

Jotshi, Bal Krishan

Bhat, Krishan Koul, T.K.

Koul, Rattan Lal Bhat,

Hira Lal Bhat, Anil Ji,

Harmindar Singh, Ab.

Wayoom Wani, Ashook

Ji, Chand Ji, Rai Kumar

Bhat, Deelip Ji, Ashok

Ji Dhar, among other

concerned citizens and

leaders.

#### Trikuta Degree College tour to Himachal Pradesh wraps up with memories etched in heart



**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Apr 15: With spirits high and hearts full, the unforgettable educational tour of Trikuta Degree College to the enchanting hills of Himachal Pradesh came to a beautiful close. From snow-kissed peaks to gushing rivers, from bustling bazaars to serene valleys—the journey was a tapestry of nature, culture, and camaraderie.

The students embarked on this tour not just to travel, but to explore, learn, and grow. The group ventured into the captivating realms of Kullu, Manali, Kasol, and Manikaran, where each destination unfolded like a storybook page—alive with colors, tradition, and thrill. Whether it was trekking through pinecloaked trails, braving the rapids in river rafting, or simply soaking in the mystique of the Himalayas, every moment was a memory in the making.

Beyond the adventure, the students immersed themselves in the local life—interacting with communities, understanding Himachali customs, and embracing the warmth of mountain hospitality. The cultural exchange was as enriching as the landscapes were breathtak-

The tour's success stands as a testament to meticulous planning and heartfelt guidance. It was made possible through the gracious permission of Chairperson Suman Sharma, and the seamless coordination led by Principal

Sunita Magotra. Their unwavering support, along with the dedication of faculty members-Vandana Gupta, Manisha Gadhotra, Sarika Sharma, and Rattan Kishore—ensured that the students were safe, inspired, and fully tour.

Their collective efforts turned this journey into more than just a college trip—it became a lifeshaping experience.

As the buses rolled back and laughter echoed in the air, one thing was certain: though the tour has concluded, its essence will linger. The students return not only with souvenirs and snapshots but with broadened minds, new friendships, and stories they'll tell for years to come.

#### KP community seek release of monthly cash relief for March package for educated

for daily wagers work-

ing in the Rural Develop-

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Apr 15: Amid growing distress within the displaced Kashmiri Pandit community, several social organizations and socio-political activists gathered today in a meeting at Jammu to express deep concern over the unjustified delay in the release of monthly cash relief for March 2025. The delay has impacted countless families who are entirely dependent on this meager assistance to survive.

The meeting saw participation from prominent community leaders and activists, who issued a unified call to the Lt. Governor of J&K and the Chief Secretary to immediately direct the concerned Zonal Officers to release the pending cash assistance. With no alternate sources of income, many displaced families are finding it difficult to make ends meet, especially as prices of essential commodities continue to rise

Senior KP leader M.K. Yogi, addressing the gathering, strongly appealed to the Government of India to formulate a concrete and time-bound rehabilitation policy for the return of Kashmiri Pandits to the Valley.

"Thirty-seven years in exile is not just a statistic; it's a story of lost homes, broken dreams, and fading roots," Yogi said with heartfelt emotion. He also demanded an increase in the monthly cash assistance from the current 13,000 to 27,000, citing the steep rise in cost of living and everyday necessities. Furthermore, he urged the Relief Commissioner (Migrants), Jammu, to instruct officials for swift and sensitive disposal of public grievances without prolonged delays.

Activist Pandita echoed these sentiments, stressing the urgent release of pending cash relief for March, and emphasized the need for a fresh employment

## Trishisva Proch of DPS Jammu crowned 'best dancer' in battle of stars season 5

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Apr 15: Delhi Public School Jammu is proud to announce that Trishisva Proch, a gifted student of Class VII-A, has brought laurels to the school by winning the coveted title of 'Best Dancer' in the grand finale of Battle of Stars - Season 5, held in Jammu on Saturday, 12th April 2025.

This prestigious statelevel competition witnessed participation from over 100 talented dancers across Jammu & Kashmir, making Trishisva's victory a truly remarkable feat. In the final round, Trishisva mesmerized the audience and judges alike with a powerful Bollywood Hip-Hop performance, ultimately securing the title of 'Overall Champion' in the Senior Category. He was also awarded a Certificate of Appreciation in rec-



ognition of his stellar performance. Trishisva has received formal training in International, Western, and Bollywood freestyle dance styles.

Having discovered his love for dance at a young age, he has consistently pursued it with passion and dedication, earning accolades at both national and international levels. In addition to his danc-

ing talent, Trishisva also showcased his versatility earlier this year by winning 1 Gold and 1 Silver medal in the J&K U.T Gymnastics Championship 2025.

The Management of DPS Jammu, under the visionary leadership of President-RCT Ajatshatru Singh, Pro VC Dr. Ritu

Singh, and Director Sh. S.S. Sodhi, along with Principal Ruchi Chabra and the entire faculty, heartily congratulate Trishisva and his proud parents on this exceptional achievement.

The school extends its warmest wishes to him for continued success and excellence in all his future endeavours.

## Sat releases poems on Dr. Ambedkar written by Balbir

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Apr 15: Jammu and Kashmir BJP President Sat Sharma released two poems titled "Ambedkar - Ek Naam" and "Daliton ke Massiah- Baba Saheb".

He released these poems in the presence of BJP General Secretary Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, National Executive Member Priya Sethi, and Bahu constituency MLA Choudhary Vikram Randhawa.

These poems were penned by BJP spokesperson and former Vice Chairpersom, Balbir Ram Rattan. Through these verses, he highlights Dr. Ambedkar's life, struggles, and his historic contributions.

Speaking on the occasion, Sat praised Balbir's literary effort and said, "Dr. Ambedkar was a visionary leader whose ideas laid the foundation of modern India. His relentless fight against social discrimination and his unmatched role in drafting the Indian Constitution are commendable. These poems



serve as a reminder of his ideals."

He further added that in the poem "Ambedkar - Ek Naam", the poet emphasizes how Dr. Ambedkar's name has become a symbol of dignity, justice, and empowerment. The poem narrates the journey from Ambedkar's humble beginnings to his rise as a symbol who inspires people of all castes and communities. "Daliton ke Messiah- Baba Saheb" portrays him as a true saviour of the marginalized—a leader who dedicated his life to eradicating social evils and

Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, Priya Sethi, and Vikram Rand-

building an inclusive nation.

hawa also appreciated the initiative, stating that such literary and artistic contributions keep the spirit of great leaders like Dr. Ambedkar alive.

Balbir expressed his gratitude to the party leadership for supporting his literary work. He said that through these poems, he has tried to express Babasaheb's journey and his unwavering commitment to social justice.

Senior party leaders Dr. Pradeep Mohtra, Prof. Kulbhushan Mahotra, Sanjay Baru, Manish Khajuria, Pawan Singh, Ishtiyaq Wani, and Sanjay Bakshi were also present on the occasion.