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BRIEFLY

Earthquake of magnitude 2.4 hits Kishtwar

KISHTWAR, Apr 16 (Agencies): An earthquake of magnitude 2.4 struck the Kishtwar district of Jammu & Kashmir on Wednesday early morning, the National Centre for Seismology (NCS) reported.

As per the post shared by NCS on X, the earthquake occurred at around 5:14 am Indian Standard Time (IST), at Latitude 33.18 N and Longitude 75.89 E. The depth of the earthquake has been reported to be 5 km.

"EQ of M: 2.4, On: 16/04/2025 05:14:52 IST, Lat: 33.18 N, Long: 75.89 E, Depth: 5 Km, Location: Kishtwar, Jammu & Kashmir," read the X post by NCS.

Additionally, earthquakes of magnitudes 5.9 and 2.9 hit Afghanistan and Bangladesh, respectively, on Wednesday early morning.

As per the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), Afghanistan remains highly vulnerable to natural disasters, including seasonal flooding, landslides and earthquakes.

These frequent earthquakes in Afghanistan cause damage to vulnerable communities, which are already grappling with decades of conflict and under-development and have left them with little resilience to cope with multiple simultaneous shocks, UNOCHA noted. Afghanistan has a history of powerful earthquakes, and the Hindu Kush Mountain range is a geologically active area where quakes occur every year, according to the Red Cross. The country sits on numerous fault lines between the Indian and the Eurasian tectonic plates, with a fault line also running directly through Herat.

MeT predicts cloudy skies with light rain & thunderstorms in North, Central Kashmir today

SRINAGAR, Apr 16 (Agencies): The Meteorological Centre Srinagar has issued a weather advisory for Jammu and Kashmir, forecasting a significant change in weather conditions.

Today, North and Central Kashmir may experience a brief spell of light rain with thunder and gusty winds in the afternoon.

However, the major impact is expected from April 18-20, when the region will witness generally cloudy skies with light to moderate rain and snow in higher

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Justice Arun Palli Administered Oath as Chief Justice of J&K and Ladakh High Court

JAMMU, Apr 16 (Agencies): Justice Arun Palli was on Wednesday administered oath as the Chief Justice of the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court by Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha.

The simple, but impressive, ceremony was attended by J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Judges of the high court, subordinate judiciary and other dignitaries. The Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court, Justice GS Sandhawalia was also



present.

Judges, sitting and retired, from Justice Palli's parent high court of Punjab and Haryana, along with advocates,

family and friends, also attended the event at the Convention Centre.

Justice Palli was born on September 18, 1964. His father, Prem Kishan

Palli, was a Senior Advocate and also served as judge at the Himachal Pradesh High Court from where he

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Raid conducted in Balole Khad, Gujjar Basti: Police intensify crackdown on drug network



JAMMU, Apr 16 (Agencies): In a renewed effort to tackle drug trafficking, police conducted an early morning raid in Balole Khad, Gujjar Basti, under the jurisdiction of Bari Brahmana in District Samba. The operation, led by SDPO Bari Brahmana and SHO, was aimed at identifying and apprehending individuals involved in the local drug network and assailants responsible for attacking a police party in the same area few days back.

The police party thoroughly searched several Gujjar Kullas in the area, which has recently gained notoriety as a hotspot for narcotics activity. The action follows a previous violent encounter in the same locality, where suspected drug peddlers attacked a police party attempting to make arrests. That incident had left SHO Pushpinder Singh, Sub-Inspector Arar Mirza, and a police head constable injured.

According to official

sources, the raid was carried out based on actionable intelligence suggesting the continued presence of individuals connected to drug trafficking. Although the police have not disclosed the number of arrests or seizures made during today's operation, they have confirmed that the search was part of an intensified drive against drug peddling in the region.

Local residents have expressed concern over the growing menace of

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NC rejects Dulat's claims on Farooq Abdullah's stand on Article 370

SRINAGAR, Apr 16 (Agencies): National Conference (NC) Chief Spokesperson and MLA Zadibal, Tanvir Sadiq Wednesday rejected the claims made by former RAW Chief A.S. Dulat in his new book 'The Chief Minister and the Spy'.

He termed the claims as contradictory and an attempt to create controversy. Dulat, in his book has alleged that NC president Farooq Abdullah privately backed the abrogation of Article 370 while publicly opposing it.

Tanvir Sadiq said the book contradicts itself and questioned the credibility of the author. "If you look at the book and what he writes in it, he contradicts his own



words. He writes that the Government of India waited for seven months to see Farooq Abdullah Sahib's reaction when he was in custody. If that was the case, then why did he promote the PAGD after coming out?" he said.

He added that the Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) was formed after Abdullah's release and that it was not broken by the NC.

Sadiq also questioned Dulat's comments about

the PDP and its leadership. "The words he used about the PDP patriot are probably vulgar. I don't trust those things," he said. He added that Dulat had earlier made remarks against PDP founder Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, which he termed as a bid to stay relevant.

He said that the opposition had no issue to raise now and was trying to divert attention. "They can't say anything on the budget or other matters. So they are making up stories," he said. "We have bigger issues to deal with like the amendment bill and the reservation issue."

Sadiq also said the concerns raised by Srinagar MP Syed Aga

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Who is challenging the Waqf Amendment Act, 2025 in the Supreme Court? Here's the full list of petitioners

NEW DELHI, Apr 16 (Agencies): As the Supreme Court gears up to hear a batch of petitions questioning the constitutional validity of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025 today, here's a comprehensive look at the petitioners and their arguments, as compiled by LiveLaw.in. The Act, passed by Parliament on April 4 and receiving presidential assent the following day, was brought into force on April 8. The legislation has sparked widespread concern, drawing legal challenges from political leaders, religious institutions, civil rights organizations, and even state governments.

Although ten petitions are formally listed before a bench comprising Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar, over 15 have been filed so far. The key concerns span religious autonomy, minority rights, and procedural fairness in governance of Muslim

religious endowments.

Key provisions under challenge

The petitions broadly contest:

- The removal of the 'waqf by user' concept
- The inclusion of non-Muslim members in the Central and State Waqf Boards
- Capping female representation in these bodies to two members
- Mandatory five-year practice as a Muslim to create a waqf
- Dilution of the waqf-al-aulad (family waqf) doctrine
- Renaming of the original 1995 law to "Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency and Development Act"
- Empowering the government to adjudicate encroachment disputes
- Application of the Limitation Act to waqf matters
- Invalidation of waqfs created over Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)-protected

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Man dies of alleged medical negligence at CD hospital investigation taken up: Official

SRINAGAR, Apr 16 (Agencies): A 44-year-old man from Dalgate area of Srinagar allegedly died of medical negligence at Chest Disease (CD) hospital while the officials said that investigation has been taken up to ascertain the facts in this regard.

The family members said that Rafiq Ahmad, a resident of Dalgate area complained of chest pain on Wednesday morning and went to the CD hospital for medical checkup.

They alleged that the doctor, who was present at the hospital, didn't treat him well. "As we tried to seek proper treatment for Rafiq, the doctor misbehaved with us," they said, adding the doctor also ran away from the ward after the death of the patient. The family demanded investigation in this regard and action against the doctor. They have

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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. Sunil 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. Dulari Pandita
Shrut, Chhavi & Anyan (Grand Children)
ALL RELATIVES AND FRIENDS
MOB. NO.: 9711195487, 7570004299, 7798322547



Sh. Avtar Krishen Razdan

TENTH DAY KRIYA

We deeply mourn the passing of our mother **Smt. Premila Kachroo (Giji)**, W/o Sh. C.N. Kachroo residing at C-348, Flat no 202, Gaur Enclave-2nd, Shalimar Garden Ext-2, Sahibabad, on 9th April 2025. Tenth day Kriya will be performed on 18th April 2025, at Kashmini Pandit Dharamshala, Upper road, near Mansa Devi rope way ticket counter, Haridwar.

Grief Stricken:

Husband: Chand Narayan Kachroo (8800259433)
Son & Daughter in law:
Amit & Aditi (Meenu) (9910774608 & 9289579868)
Devar Devrani:

Ravi & Phooli Ganjoo
Rajinder & Rita Ganjoo
Daughters & Son in Laws:
Ruchi & Susheel Bhandral
Vasundhara & Ravinder Koul
Grand Children:
Shweta, Udayvir, Ragini, Varsha, Kesar & Hardik
And Samast Razdan's & Koul's Pariwar



Smt. Premila Kachroo (Giji)

Obituary and 10th Day Kriya

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

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

Grief Stricken

Mother - Smt. Dulari Pandita
Wife - Smt. Meena Ji Pandita
Daughter and Son-in-law
Smt. Manve Puran Pandita & Dhiyara Manve Puran
Smt. Mehak Puran Pandita & Shri Robin Pandita
Brother & Bhabhi
Smt. Kamlesh & Shri Ravinder Pandita
Sisters & Jija Ji
Smt. Dalry & Shri Sri Krishan Raina
Smt. Sanjay & Shri Satish Thussoo
Smt. Asha & Shri Vinod Dhar
Smt. Kiran & Shri Suresh Pandita
Contact Numbers: 9682353047, 9877939543, 8894096900



SHRI PURAN NATH PANDITA

SHRADHANJALI/TENTH DAY

We are deeply saddened to announce the passing of our beloved grandmother, **Smt. Chand Rani Bhat** W/o Lt Chuni Lal Bhat A/P Vishwa Bharti Colony, Akalpur, on 12/04/2025. She left us peacefully, surrounded by her loving family. She was a pillar of strength, wisdom, and unconditional love in our lives. Her kindness, warmth, and grace touched everyone who knew her. Her memory will forever live on in our hearts.

The **10th Day Kriya** will be performed on 21st April (Monday) at Muthi Ghat near Director School Education at 9am.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Grandsons & Granddaughters
Aashish & Aakriti
Priya & Akin
Rashi
Aakash & Antra
Aagosh
Kartik
Aakriti & Aaradhya
Greatgrandson: Master Ayyukht



Smt. Chand Rani Bhat

TENTH DAY KRIYA

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

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be observed on 18th April 2025, at Chota Haridwar, Murad Nagar. A Condolence Assembly will be held separately at our residence: B-537, Green Field, Sector 43, Faridabad, at 12:00 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Jyotsna & Navmit Pandita (DIL & Son)
8826895896 8826824896
Sarojini and Vinod Bhat (Daughter & SIL)
Sunita & Tej Krishan Pandita (Daughter & SIL)
Kusum & Sandeep Pandita (DIL & Son)
Jyoti & Ashok Sahib (Daughter & SIL)
Meenu & Deepak Tikoo (Daughter & SIL)
Kamakshi & Abhishek Tathoo (Daughter & SIL)
Prana & Bansil Lal Pandita (SIL & BIL)
Sarla & Bihari Lal Pandita (SIL & BIL)
Pink & Rajinder Pandita (SIL & BIL)
Dura Koul (SIL)
G K Raina (BIL)
Tosha & Avtar Bhat (SIL & BIL)
Vijay & K K Bhat (SIL & BIL)
Grand Children: Urvasi & Sahil Ji, Chetna, Anshul, Anyan, Jiya, Utkarsh & Divisha



KARAMYOGI SHAMA PANDITA

TENTH DAY KRIYA

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

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

GRIEF STRICKEN:

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

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

DAUGHTERS & SONS IN LAW:

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

GRANDSONS & GRANDDAUGHTERS

Ph: 9622217837, 9419878980, 9419874340, 9103839991



Smt Koushalaya Koul

SATSANG

In Loving memory of
Sdr. Hazoor Singh Sodhi
(08th Sep 1931-30th Mar 2025)

S/o S.Kesar Singh R/o Shogapora, Budgam A/p House No. 121, Main Lane, Sec 2A, Highland Enclave (Gogoo), Srinagar

who left for heavenly abode on 30th March 25, **SATSANG** will be held to pray for the eternal peace of departed soul at **Gurudwara Bala Pritam, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu** on 18th April '25 (Friday) from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

GRIEF STRICKEN**Son & Daughter In law**

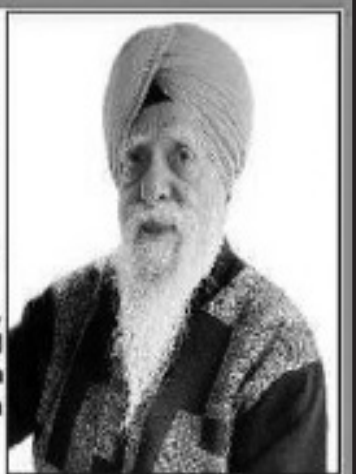
Dr Gurdeep Singh & Inderjit Kour
R. S. Sodhi (LIC) & Manjeet Kour

Daughter & Son In Law

Rajinder Kour & S. Parvinder Singh Dutta

Grandchildren: Bhupreet, Abhijit, Tandeep, Mehak Reet, Jazreet

Mobile No. 9419001538, 9906901967



Sdr. Hazoor Singh Sodhi
(08th Sep 1931-30th Mar 2025)

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. Koushalaya 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

(**Daughter & Son in Law**)
Smt. Nirmala & Sh. Harbans Lal
Smt. Susheela Devi & Sh. Mohinder Lal
Smt. Chander Kanta & Sh. Mahesh Kumar
Grand Children Rakeshwar, Pranav, Aarav, Aayra
CONTACT NO: 6005438801, 9541071083, 9469711648



SH. TARA CHAND
Ex Sub Major (27-03-1946 to 10-04-2025)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

The **Tenth Day** of our beloved **Kakaji** (O.P. Koul Rtd. Chief Hort. Officer) S/o Lt Uma Koul & Lt M.L. Koul, originally R/o Guri-gari Mohalla Alikadal Srinagar at present H.No. 134, Sector 1, Gangyal, Jammu will be held on 19.04.2025 (8:30 AM) at Muthi Ghat near DSE Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Smt. Naintara Koul- Wife - 9796226378

Bhabhi & Brother

Smt. Bharti & Sh. Vinod Koul- 9419135635

Daughter in law & Son

Smt. Vipasa & Sh. Anuj Kaul

Daughter & Son in law

Smt. Surabhi Koul & Sh. Nitish Bakshi

7727961733

Ms. Snigdha Koul (Daughter)

Baby Kyra Koul (Grand Daughter)

Smt. Shakli Kilam (Sister in law)

Sister in law & Brother in law

Smt. Jeema & Kuldeep Koul - 9419131931

Gurtoo's, Koul's, Bhat's, Tikoo's, Pahalwan's, Chatta's, Raina's & Bakshi's



Kakaji O.P. Koul
(Rtd. Chief Hort. Officer)

10th Day / 13th Day (Kriya)

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

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

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

GRIEF STRICKEN :-

Smt. Meena Devi - Wife

Bhabhi and Brother

Smt. Indira Rai and Sh. Bishan Singh Rai

Daughter in laws and Sons.

Smt. Kavita Devi and Sh. Narinder Singh Rai

Smt. Asha Kumari and Sh. Joginder Singh Rai KAS

Smt. Sheetal Rajput and Sh. Sham Singh Rai

Smt. Mansi Singh and Sh. Aditya Dev Singh Rai

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

Mobile: 9419175459



Sh. Krishan Singh Rai

TENTH DAY KRIYA

The **Tenth Day** of our beloved **Kakaji** (O.P. Koul Rtd. Chief Hort. Officer) S/o Lt Uma Koul & Lt M.L. Koul, originally R/o Guri-gari Mohalla Alikadal Srinagar at present H.No. 134, Sector 1, Gangyal, Jammu will be held on 19.04.2025 (8:30 AM) at Muthi Ghat near DSE Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Smt. Naintara Koul- Wife - 9796226378

Bhabhi & Brother

Smt. Bharti & Sh. Vinod Koul- 9419135635

Daughter in law & Son

Smt. Vipasa & Sh. Anuj Kaul

Daughter & Son in law

Smt. Surabhi Koul & Sh. Nitish Bakshi

7727961733

Ms. Snigdha Koul (Daughter)

Baby Kyra Koul (Grand Daughter)

Smt. Shakli Kilam (Sister in law)

Sister in law & Brother in law

Smt. Jeema & Kuldeep Koul - 9419131931

Gurtoo's, Koul's, Bhat's, Tikoo's, Pahalwan's, Chatta's, Raina's & Bakshi's



Kakaji O.P. Koul
(Rtd. Chief Hort. Officer)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With extreme grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Nancy Pandita** W/o Late Sh. Hirday Nath Pandita R/o 242, Sector-1, Vinayak Nagar, Muthi, Jammu, presently at 249, Vipin Garden, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi - 110059, originally from Malapora, Habba Kadal, Srinagar who left us for her heavenly abode on 11 April, 2025.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 20 April, 2025 at Shree Gauri Shankar Mandir, T-Block, Phase-I, Sector-109, New Palam Vihar, Gurugram - 122017. Public Gathering will be held at 9:00 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Samast Pandita, Wangnoo, Koul and Raina Parivars

9210488249, 9103256968



Smt. Nancy Pandita

TENTH DAY KRIYA

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 Sholleng Habba Kadal Srinagar Kashmir A/p H.No. 7, Lane no. 9, Tumul 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)

Master Aarav Bhat & Daksh Bhat (Grand Children)

And Samast Parivar / Mob.9906399917, 7006078720



Sh. Maharaj Krishan Bhat

Tenth Day/Kriya/Uthala

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Subash Chander Sharma** (Rtd Joint Director Prosecution) S/o Lt Sh Sain Dass Sharma.

TENTH DAY will be held on 17th April at 11:00 am at Hari Ghat opposite RRL, Canal Road Jammu.

KRIYA will be performed on 18th April at 12:00 Noon at our residence 33 A Friends Lane, Talab Tillo.

UTHALA will be performed on 18th April between 4.30 pm to 5.30 pm at Jagat Resort, Shakti nagar Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Janki Dubey (Wife)

Brother & Bhabhi

Sh. Sunil Sharma & Shama Sharma

Lt Sh. Vijay K Sharma & Kiran Magotra

Sh. Pawan Sharma & Shalini Sharma

Son & Daughter in law

Group: Dubey & Shweta Sharma

Vinod Dubey & Radhika Sharma

Gagan Dubey & Shikha Sharma

Daughter & Son in law

Smt. Monika Dubey & Sh. Pawan Sharma (Special Judge

CBI Jammu)

Son & Daughter in law

Smt. Sonika Dubey & Sh. Ajay Basotra (Multi Metal & Alloys

Corp Bara Baralams)

Grand Children: MANAV, SANVI, SHIVAN, VARDAN,

ADIRAJ, ANIKA, JAVIK, AADHYAN & MEHRANSH

MOBILE NO: 7889493317, 700606585



Sh. Subash Chander Sharma
(Rtd Joint Director Prosecution)

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Shri Kailakh Jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust reorganizes under Mahant Rohit Shastri



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 16: In a significant move to rejuvenate its mission of spiritual and cultural service, the Shri Kailakh Jyotish

avim Vedic Sansthan Trust has announced its reorganization.

Led by the Mahant Rohit Shastri—renowned Jyotishacharya, Sanskrit scholar, and State Awardee—the Trust now embraces a new structure that blends tradition.

The reorganization aims to deepen the Trust's impact by enhancing transparency, efficiency, and public engagement. With an emphasis on promoting Vedic values, Sanskrit education, and community welfare, the Trust is set to embark on a renewed journey of service and cultural preservation.

The newly appointed team brings together esteemed individuals from diverse walks of

life, united by a shared commitment to Dharma and society. Param Pujya Acharya Mahamandaleswar 1008 Swami Kailashanand Giri Ji Maharaj (Head of Niranjani Akhara) has been named Patron, while Mahant Rohit Shastri continues as President.

Key roles are filled by Pawan Khajuria (Senior Vice President), Sunil Sharma (Vice President), Ankush Sharma (General Secretary), Rakesh Gandotra (Secretary), Uttam Chand Sharma and Ajay Sharma (Treasurers), Prabodh Sharma (Advisor), Jagdev Singh Chib and Naresh Raina (Office Secretaries), Prof. Sharad Chandra Sharma (Spokesperson) and Abhiraj Sharma (Press Secre-

tary).

The Trust's vision is supported by a strong panel of Trustees, including Sham Lal Sharma, R.K. Chhibber, Shakti Pathak, Anil Gupta, Deepak Gupta, Nigam Gupta, Vinay Jamwal, Dr. Sanjay Sharma, and Vinay Agrawal.

The Trust reiterates its commitment to Sanskrit promotion, cultural preservation, and extending humanitarian efforts across the region. With a strategic approach and renewed enthusiasm, the Trust envisions setting new milestones in public service and spiritual upliftment.

Supporters, donors, and devotees are invited to continue their blessings and cooperation in this noble mission.

GCET Jammu organizes blood donation camp



Top News Report

JAMMU Apr 16: The Government College of Engineering & Technology (GCET) Jammu, in collaboration with the J&K Thalassemia Welfare Society, organized a blood donation camp at GCET campus on Wednesday.

The event highlighted the spirit of community service and underscored the importance of collective efforts in promoting health and well-being.

The camp was inaugurated by Prof. Sameru Sharma, Principal of GCET, who emphasized the life-saving potential of blood donation. Addressing the students, she stated, donating blood is a healthy process.

The human body can replenish the donated blood within 4 to 8 weeks, while plasma is restored within 48 hours.

A single donation can

save up to three lives. She further added that regular blood donation helps reduce harmful iron deposits in the body, lowering the risk of heart diseases.

Prof. Sharma congratulated the young donors, calling them "life savers" and encouraged them to continue donating every six months.

The event saw enthusiastic participation, with 65 students and staff members donating blood, and around 80 individuals undergoing haemoglobin and blood group tests.

Er. Sudhir Sethi, President of the J&K Thalassemia Welfare Society, along with executive members Puneet Gandotra and Shammi Kapoor, also graced the occasion and commended the initiative.

The smooth conduct of the camp was ensured by coordinators Prof. Bhawna Sharma, Er. Sanjeev Gupta, Er. Sheetal Gandotra,

and Dr. Raman Gupta, who congratulated the donors for their selfless contribution and advocated for building a culture of regular blood donation.

Medical supervision was provided by Dr. Rubina and her expert technical team from GMC & SMGS hospital Jammu, ensuring the safety and well-being of all participants.

The event also received commendable support from student volunteers Dhanush, Arnav, Oshan, Mehak, Aneesh, Ritesh, Vinyak and Anubhav along with senior staff members, who worked tirelessly to ensure the event's success.

The coordinators expressed their gratitude to all the donors and urged more students and faculty members to participate in future blood donation drives, reiterating the importance of such humanitarian efforts.

Spiritual leaders must lead the fight against drug abuse: Zorawar



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 16: Chairman Team Jammu and BJP leader, Zorawar Singh Jamwal, on Wednesday addressed a spiritually enriching function organized by Romesh Bawa, emphasizing the pivotal role of Sanatan Dharma in guiding society and combating the growing menace of drug addiction among youth. Speaking on the occasion,

Zorawar underlined the urgent need for spiritual leaders and religious institutions to take the lead in shaping the moral and cultural foundation of the younger generation. He noted that the values ingrained in Sanatan Dharma offer a powerful shield against societal evils such as drug abuse. "A child whose foundation is rooted in Sanatan Dharma cannot be swayed by the lure of drugs. When one's

roots are deeply connected with religion, culture, and tradition, they develop inner strength and clarity of purpose," Zorawar Singh said.

He called upon gurus, saints, and spiritual organizations to go beyond rituals and become active agents of social transformation. By reaching out to the youth and spreading awareness through religious discourses and community outreach, spiritual leaders can play a vital role in the nation's fight against narcotics.

Zorawar Singh Jamwal, who has been at the forefront of various anti-drug campaigns across the Jammu region, reiterated that only a collective spiritual and social awakening can effectively counter the increasing threat of drug addiction that is plaguing society.

He further appreciated the

efforts of Romesh Bawa and other spiritual luminaries who are continuously working to revive and promote Sanatan values in everyday life.

The function was attended by a large gathering of devotees, community elders, youth activists, and social workers who echoed similar sentiments and pledged their commitment to supporting a drug-free and culturally aware society.

The event concluded with a spiritual discourse and prayers for the well-being of society, particularly the younger generation, urging them to reconnect with their roots and contribute positively to the nation.

Among others who spoke on the occasion included Romesh Baba, Satish Sai from Jallandhar, Punjab, Swami Vinay Muni Maharaj and Swami Satis-

Dimple slams BJP over Statehood betrayal, warns against destabilization of J&K Alliance Govt

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 16: Addressing a press conference on Wednesday, Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood Jammu and Kashmir, strongly criticized the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government for what he called a "betrayal of the people of Jammu and Kashmir." He accused the BJP of backtracking on the promise of restoring statehood and special status, and attempting to destabilize the current alliance government in the Union Territory through political horse-trading.

Dimple shared that he had telephonically congratulated Dr. Farooq Abdullah on the successful completion of six months of the alliance government, reaffirming his and his organization's support to the coalition. He said the alliance government, despite external pressures, will complete its full five-year term, and



that all MLAs and alliance partners stand united in their mission to serve the people.

The Mission Statehood President dismissed ongoing media reports about alleged defections within the National Conference and alliance parties, calling them "fabricated stories fueled by vested interests." He specifically held retired RAW chief A.S. Dulat responsible for spreading falsehoods about Article 370 and playing psychological games at the behest of the BJP to divide the alliance and mislead the public. Dimple alleged that these rumors were being circulated to promote Dulat's newly published book.

In his discussion with

Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Dimple raised concerns over media narratives suggesting that 10-18 National Conference MLAs, including MP Aga Ruhullah, were planning to leave the party. Both leaders reportedly dismissed such rumors as baseless and politically motivated.

Dimple also expressed frustration over the delayed restoration of Jammu & Kashmir's statehood and special status, calling it a denial of democratic rights. He demanded cancellation of the 84,000 domicile certificates issued to non-J&K residents and called for the revival of the original state subject system, warning that the region's identity, culture, and demography were

at risk.

He went on to allege that the RSS and BJP were enemies of Maharaja Hari Singh's Dogra legacy, and accused them of systematically eroding the cultural roots and demographic makeup of Jammu and Kashmir. Dimple also criticized the BJP's silence on the issue of statehood, saying its MLAs remained "mum during meetings with the Home Minister," failing to represent the sentiments of the people.

In a scathing attack, Dimple accused the BJP government of issuing domiciles to non-residents from states like Punjab, Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Maharashtra, and allowing them to purchase land and settle in J&K. He claimed that more than five lakh outsiders had already made their way into the region post the abrogation of Article 370, with flats being sold to them by the JDA and Housing Department.

He further criticized the

government for ignoring the crisis of youth unemployment, citing that over 32,000 posts are lying vacant in government departments. He alleged that mining and liquor mafias were looting the region's resources, and power projects were being handed over like colonial assets to private interests.

GDC Nagrota organises awareness lecture on "Healthy lifestyle to childhood Obesity"

Top News Report

NAGROTA, Apr 16: As part of Poshan Pakhwada initiative NSS Unit of GDC Nagrota organized an awareness lecture on Healthy lifestyle to childhood Obesity.

The Poshan Pakhwada initiative, observed annually, aims to combat malnutrition and promote healthy lifestyles across India.

In 2025, the seventh edition of this campaign is being held from April 8 to 22, focusing on themes such as maternal and infant nutrition, community-based management of malnutrition, and addressing childhood obesity.

The lecture was delivered by Dr. Sarita Devi from department of Zoology who emphasized the growing concern of

childhood obesity and the importance of adopting a balanced diet, regular physical activity and mindful living to counter this health issue.

The event was held under the guidance of Prof. Anjali Mahajan, Principal of College who commended the efforts of NSS Unit in promoting health awareness among students and the community.

Ganesh Sharma honoured on "World Art Day" by Mexico United for World Peace

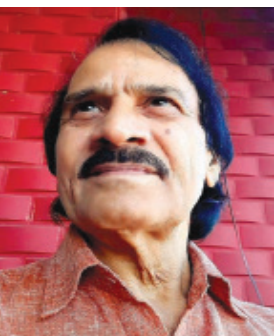
Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 16: Ganesh Kumar Sharma, eminent senior contemporary Internationally acclaimed Sculptor, honoured by the Organization Mexico United for World Peace on "World Art Day".

International Ambassador for World Peace Dr. Miriam Arenas Barrios and President of Mexico United for World Peace Organization, honoured and presented

an International Certificate virtually to Ganesh Kumar Sharma for his extraordinary and kind efforts in spreading art, culture, love and peace through his art works at International level.

Ganesh chosen in few of the world renowned artists by the organization and is the only artist from Jammu and Kashmir UT, who has been honored with International Certificate Award on this occasion. The management and Pres-




ident of the organization congratulated and wishes more success in future to Ganesh.

Each year, on April 15th, World Art Day

celebrations contribute to strengthen links between artistic creations and society, promoting greater awareness of the diversity of artistic expressions and highlighting the contributions of artists to sustainable development.

Ganesh Sharma is working in the field of art and culture from more than forty five years and recipient of so many International, National and State level awards and honors.



UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION KISHTWAR
SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 01 of 2025-26 Dated: 12-04-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders are invited on **Percentage Basis** from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State / Central Governments for the following works:

S. No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money @ 2% of Advertised Cost (In Rupees)	Time of Completion	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	White washing of OT in Eye Block of District Hospital Kishtwar	1.50	600.00	3000.00	20 Days	"D"

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per below schedule:

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	12-04-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 12-04-2025 to 25-04-2025, 1600 Hrs.
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting.	21-04-2025
4	Bid submission Start Date	12-04-2025 from 1400 Hrs.
5	Bid Submission End Date	25-04-2025 upto 1600 Hrs.
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	26-04-2025 on or after 1200 Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Kishtwar.
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of **e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, Name of work Or e-NIT No. with S.No. of the work for which tender fee was deposited duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Kishtwar uploading a copy of Treasury Challan and EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR (The date of Treasury Challan & Affidavit (on correctness of information) between date of start of bid submission and bid submission end date) duly pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Kishtwar as mentioned in the bid documents. The earnest money of the unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of Treasury Challan.**

No. e-tenders/Kishtwar/08-20
Dated: 12-04-2025

DIP/J-308/25

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division
Kishtwar

EDITORIAL

Early Heatwave: Reminder of Climate Urgency

The sun has turned cruel too soon this year, as Northern India grapples with a blistering and premature heatwave that has scorched cities, drained rivers, and sent warnings echoing across the subcontinent. April, once a gentle prelude to summer, has morphed into an inferno in many states, with temperatures surging past 45°C — levels normally witnessed only in peak May and June. Meteorological experts and environmentalists are raising alarm bells over this early onset of extreme heat, linking it to broader patterns of climate change and its devastating ripple effects.

On April 13, the city of Barmer in Rajasthan recorded a searing 46.4°C — a temperature far above normal for this time of year. Several towns across Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, and Delhi are also reeling under intense heat. Many regions in the northwestern plains are witnessing temperatures 5 to 8 degrees Celsius above seasonal averages.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued red alerts for Rajasthan, Haryana, and parts of western Uttar Pradesh, indicating a severe heatwave condition that poses a significant health risk. The IMD has also forecasted more frequent and longer heatwaves in the coming weeks, cautioning that the summer of 2025 could be among the hottest India has ever recorded.

The early arrival of extreme heat is not an isolated phenomenon. Climate scientists warn that it is part of a larger, disturbing trend. The rise in global average temperatures, driven by human-induced greenhouse gas emissions, is making heatwaves more frequent, intense, and unpredictable. According to recent studies, the frequency of severe heat events in India has tripled in the last 50 years, with northern and central India being the most affected.

Experts suggest that this year’s early heatwave may also be linked to the weakening of the Western Disturbances — a key weather system that typically brings winter and early summer rains to north India. The absence of these rains has left the soil dry and the atmosphere parched, allowing temperatures to soar unchecked.

The human cost of such relentless heat is already being felt. Hospitals across affected regions have reported a spike in heatstroke cases, dehydration, and heat-induced exhaustion, especially among outdoor workers like construction laborers, farmers, and traffic police personnel. Schools in several districts of Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have been advised to reduce working hours or switch to online classes during peak daytime heat.

Children and the elderly are particularly vulnerable. In rural areas, where access to healthcare is limited and awareness is low, the risk of fatalities due to heat-related illnesses remains high. Government advisories are urging people to stay indoors, drink plenty of fluids, and avoid strenuous activity — but for millions who live and work in harsh conditions, such precautions are often luxuries.

This early heat has also cast a shadow on agriculture, the backbone of rural livelihoods. Wheat, one of India’s primary rabi crops, is especially sensitive to temperature spikes during the final stage of grain filling. The sudden heat stress may lead to a decline in wheat yields, affecting both farmers’ income and food prices in the market.

Additionally, the demand for irrigation has increased sharply, putting pressure on already-stressed groundwater resources. With summer just beginning, concerns are mounting over water scarcity, especially in drought-prone regions.

Cities, with their heat-trapping concrete jungles, are turning into pressure cookers. Air conditioning units are running full blast, causing massive surges in electricity demand. Power outages and load shedding are already being reported in parts of Delhi and neighboring areas. The urban poor, living in slums with limited access to cooling, remain the worst hit.

Meanwhile, the heat is also taking a toll on infrastructure. Roads are buckling, railway tracks are expanding, and the risk of fires in densely populated localities has increased. Emergency services are on high alert.

The current crisis calls for immediate as well as long-term responses. Governments must expand access to public cooling centers, ensure the availability of clean drinking water, and equip healthcare facilities to deal with heat-related emergencies. Public awareness campaigns on heatwave preparedness, especially in local languages, are crucial.

But more importantly, this heatwave is yet another wake-up call for sustained climate action. From urban planning to energy policies, from forest conservation to international cooperation, India must prioritize environmental resilience. The heat gripping the land today is not just a meteorological anomaly — it is a glimpse into a warmer, harsher future unless urgent action is taken.

As the sun blazes overhead, the message is clear: The time to prepare, adapt, and act is now. The heatwave may be early, but it must not catch us unprepared.

Protest against Waqf Amendment Act, Lawful Dissent, Not Lawless Rage

By: Omkar Dattatray

It should be accepted, appreciated and acknowledged by all political parties ,so called secular forces and the self – styled champions of the Muslims as well as the common Muslims that waqf Amendment Bill has been passed by the supreme legislative body of the country that is parliament and it has become an Act after it got the assent of the president of the Republic .Remember in a democracy, there is no place for violence on an act with which you are uncomfortable .The pseudo-secular parties such as Congress, Smajwadi Party and TMC party of Mamata Benerjee are all instigating and inciting gullible Muslims against the most reformative ,transformative and most beneficial law which Waqf Amendment Act 2025.Thus there is violence and communal riots in several parts of the country over the opposition and protest against the Waqf Amendment which is unjustified, unreasonable and against the democratic norms.There should be no violence under the guise of protesting against the Waqf Amendment. It is very disturbing ,sad and unfortunate that in some parts of the country under a well planned manner violence has been perpetrated over the Waqf Amendment protest which is totally unjustified and has no place in a parliamentary democracy of India and so all violence and communal outbursts in the name of protest and while protesting against Waqf Amendment should stop for upholding secularism, pluralism and communal harmony. But the hard fact and bitter truth is that some fanatic Muslim organizations are playing in the hands of the pseudo –secular political parties who have nothing to do with the minorities except furthering vote bank politics .So these very opposition parties for vote bank and appeasement politics are instigating Muslims against the recently passed Waqf Amend-

ment Act. Muslims as the citizens of this secular democracy should not fall prey to the machinations of the selfish and cunning political parties and thus should desist from indulging in violence under the garb of protesting against the Amendment act. In India biggest minority community –Muslims have equal rights ,civil freedoms ,liberties as well as the freedom of religion and worship and they are first class citizens along with the Hindus who constitute majority community in India. But it is very unfortunate that some Muslims and their self-styled champions are creating violence under the garb of protesting against the Waqf Act which is totally unaccepted and against the law of the land. These protesting Muslims are taking law into their hands and are fomenting communal trouble and clashes. It is the truth of the Muslim samaj that wherever they are in majority across the country, they are intimidating ,harassing and exploiting the Hindus who tolerate all this because they think that overall Muslims are a minority community in India. In west Bengal’s Murshidabad ,there was violence and communal clashes thanks to the highhandedness of the Muslim community .At least three deaths have occurred due to violence which erupted in the demonstrations and protests against the Waqf Amendment Act. Hindus are being intimidated and harassed,targeted as if it was the Hindu /majority community who passed the Waqf bill and a number of them have been forced to leave their homes and hearths .Hindus are by and large a peaceful community and they believe in the policy and philosophy of live and let live. The Hindus uphold the sanatan doctrine of Sarva Dharma /Panth Sambhava and thus they have no enmity and hatred for other communities and people of other faiths. But the fact is that their broadmindedness and sagacity is taken as the sign of their weakness and as a result people professing Hinduism are subjected to harassment,

intimidation and maltreatment and they are oppressed. The million dollar question is if the Hindus are not feeling safe in their own country India, where they will be safe and where they shall go to seek asylum?.Muslims should follow Quranic injections and adhere to Quran’s principle of Lukma Din Kum Waliyakum Din and love the people of other faiths and should leave their hate and hatred for Hindus. Further they should realize that they are in a minority in India. Thus their indulging in violence has no justification and so they should shed violence under the guise of protest against the waqf Amendment Act. Hindus of India are a big surety and guarantee for the safety,security ,dignity and well-being of the Muslims and in turn Muslims should learn to revere ,respect and honor Hindu’s .But Alas! it is not happening and Muslims ,I mean to say many of them are becoming radicalized and indoctrinated and they are more or less waging a war on them and the Hindus are forced to migrate from those places where Muslims are in majority. This is not good for the Muslim community nor for the country. Muslims should control their emotions and should appreciate reality that the Waqf Amendment Act has been passed by the parliament as per the provisions of the constitution and all legal formalities had been complied with while debating and passing the Waqf Amendment Bill 2025 and so the bill is valid constitutionally .However some political parties and Muslim organizations have challenged the constitutional validity of Waqf Amendment Act 2025 in the top Court of the country and it is hoped that the judiciary which is independent and supreme in the country will uphold the Waqf Amendment Act 2025.Supreme Court will not intervene with the legislative domain of the parliament and will uphold the concerned act which had been enacted for the efficient management and governance and administration of the

Waqf properties. Minority Affairs Minister of the country Kiren Rijju has rightly remarked that he is confident that the SC will not venture into legislative matters. He further said,” We have to respect each other .If tomorrow the government interferes into judiciary ,it won’t be nice. The separation of powers is well defined .”We have seen it in the past that parliament is supreme and we have also appreciated that the verdict in Shah Bano Case has been nullified by the act of the parliament though under the influence and dictates of pseudo –secularism ,minoritism and vote bank politics by the then Congress government. Therefore it is hoped that the highest court of the land will not interfere with the legislative supremacy of the parliament and it will uphold the Waqf Amendment Law in the national interest. Coming to the title of this write up, it can be opined that the Common Muslims should not fall prey to the selfish and cunning politics of some political parties and they should as such desist from stoking communal tensions in several pockets of the country where they are in majority. Long live secular democracy and communal harmony! But for this Muslim community should also take initiative and maintain peace and communal harmony and not indulge in undemocratic protests but adhere to democratic norms while protesting because protest is the democratic right of the citizens including minorities but they should not cross the limit and indulge in violence and those violating should be arrested and given exemplary punishment.

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

Growing Involvement of Women in farming

By: Vijay Garg

3he recently crafted rump on the part of the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad is reported that there are 64.4% of women in the country’s agricultural workforce, but just six to ten% of women are in top positions in agriculture and top companies related to it. This rapat has highlighted the deep gap between the role of women in the agriculture sector and their low presence in top positions. According to Rapat, the future of agricultural business is education to women, by increasing education, workplaces inclusion, and the medium of leadership development. In Rapat it has come to empower that 30-40% enrolment of women in agricultural education programmes is the case, but very few of these find employment in the formal agriculture sector. So need to do women in agriculture. The same partnership of addressing the challenges and obstacles they face can be enriched with agriculture sector only by supporting them. Only then will the benefit of this society be able to get all the members. Experts quoted Rapat say raising women’s participation in agriculture sector will be. But despite the high academic level, their number in strong formal employment is negligible. It should be insisted on increasing. There are many strategies suggested to increase the participation of women in

Rapat. These include ensuring women have equal access to resources, implementing specially designed training programs for them, and motivating them for leadership by promoting inclusive workplaces. Experts say the agricultural landscape in the country presents a surprising contradiction. Women are an important part of agricultural workforce and educational groups, yet graduates are not able to enter a larger portion of formal employment structures. We have to find solutions avenues considering this situation seriously. In fact, women’s participation in agriculture is a multi-dimensional process, which is influenced by many social, economic and political factors. Many challenges are yet to be resolved to promote the full and equal participation of women in agriculture. According to the hundreds of national sample survey office data, women in the agricultural labour force in India are in significant proportion. About 43% of the farmers and 52% of the agricultural labourers were women in the year 2010-11 period. But the participation of women in agricultural labour has increased in time. In the year 2002- 03, the ratio of female cultivators increased by 37% to 43% in the year 2010-11. In the same period, the ratio of women agricultural labourers 1143 increased from 48% to 52%.

The main challenges in this field also have discrimination and stereotypes, which limit women’s access to resource-

es, knowledge, and opportunities in this field. It is necessary to implement such policies and programs to solve these and promote equal participation of women in farming, which support promoting them in this field. This includes initiatives that are aimed at improving the reach of women to resources, knowledge and ve| old thinking of people to change. For this, civil society can also play an important role in organizing agricultural sector women collectively, educating them about all their rights, extension services enabling their access to i and providing them training making sustainable livelihood”. For this, women will have to provide equal access to land and other resources, including loans, extension services and storage facilities. It’s a great pleasure to have you. Promotion of recognition and value of unpaid and informal labour of women in agriculture | Must give. The policies and programmes that support women’s education and training in agriculture, including vocational training and expansion programmes, will have to be implemented. Women’s participation in the process of making r decisions at all levels including farmer organisations, co-operative societies and other local entities will have to be promoted. The provision of technical support and funding will have to support the development of women-led initiatives and enterprises in agriculture. Women’s land ownership will have to be promot-

ed, in order to help them gain benefits under various farm schemes undoubtedly the role of women in agriculture is key. They do many farming related work, like selection of seeds, ploughing fields, harvesting crops, cattle management, milking milk, collecting fodder etc. Their participation rates vary in different regions. But it is necessary to promote equality and improve stability and productivity of the area to increase the role of women. The agriculture sector will be able to prosper by supporting their equal participation. At the same time, women will be able to reach the leadership positions in agriculture and top companies related to it. Agriculture sector as well as it is necessary to do so for the development of the country. For this we all have to work by meeting. Society with the government also when it comes forward for such programs, only then the entire development of the country is possible. This development has to be made us functional.

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

GCW Bhagwati Nagar organizes symposium on Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 16: The NSS and NCORD unit of Government College for Women (GCW), Bhagwati Nagar, organized a symposium on the NashaMukt Bharat Abhiyan (Drug-Free India Campaign) on Wednesday.

The event aimed to raise awareness among students and the community about the detrimental effects of drug abuse and the importance of a drug-free society.

It brought together students, faculty members, and guest speakers who shared insights, personal stories, and strategies for prevention and rehabilitation.

The symposium included thought-provoking speeches, interactive sessions, and presentations that encouraged open dialogue about drug abuse and its impact on youth.

The event emphasized the role of education and community engagement in achieving the vision of a Nasha Mukh Bharat.

Principal Prof. (Dr.) Naveen Anand applauded the efforts of the NSS and NCORD unit, stating, "Such initiatives are crucial in shaping a healthier and more responsible society.

Our students must be empowered with the knowledge and support they need to make the right choices."

The event concluded with a pledge taken by all participants to contribute towards a drug-free India.

DLSA Udhampur convenes Under Trial Review Committee meeting



Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Apr 16: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Udhampur convened an Under Trial Review Committee (UTRC) meeting in view of the Schedule of Quarterly UTRC Meetings-2025 and in adherence to the directives issued by the National Legal Services Authority (NLSA) and J&K Legal Services Authority (J&K LSA).

The meeting was held at Conference Hall, DLSA Udhampur which aimed at reviewing cases of under-trial prisoners to expedite the release of eligible candidates who have undergone a lengthy waiting period without trial.

The meeting was chaired by Virinder Singh Bhou, Chairperson DLSA, Principal District & Sessions Judge Udhampur and was attended by, Dr. Smriti Sharma, Secretary DLSA Udhampur, Saloni Rai, Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Amod Ashok Nagpure, Senior Superintendent of Police Udhampur, Som Raj, I/C Superintendent District Jail, Udhampur, Hemanshu Prakash (Addl. Public Prosecutor, Addl. Sessions Court Udhampur), Viney Sharma, I/C Public Prosecutor, Principal Distt. & Sessions Judge Court Udhampur, Pawan Gupta, Chief LADC Udhampur.

During the meeting, the committee reviews cases based on guidelines from the Supreme Court and NALSA SOPs, focusing on prisoners with no proper representation or those who have spent substantial time behind bars without trial.

The committee recommends the release of eligible prisoners, ensuring that the benefits of legal provisions reach the intended beneficiaries. The meeting also discusses action items, such as conducting regular meetings to track progress, maintaining a consolidated data sheet to monitor prisoner cases, and preparing quarterly reports.

The meeting concluded with appreciation expressed by Chairperson DLSA Udhampur to all the stakeholders for their proactive participation in addressing the concerns related to under trial prisoners.

This Program was a sequel of activities conducted to observe Poshan Maah, which witnessed enthusiastic participation from students across various streams, who showcased their creativity and commitment towards spreading the message of balanced nutrition, health, and well-being.

The competition was held under the supervision of Dr. Chanchal Angral, NSS PO and under the able guidance of Principal of the College Prof. (Dr.) Preetpal Kour encouraging young minds to engage in public health campaigns through artistic expression.

In the said competition the first position was secured by Ruhani of sem 2, second position was clinched by Taniya Sharma of sem 4 and the third position was bagged by Shikha Chib of sem 6.

Principal of the College Prof. (Dr.) Preetpal Kour applauded the efforts of the NSS Team and participants.

She also emphasized the importance of nutrition awareness among youth. "Such initiatives play a crucial role in shaping a healthier and more informed society," she said.

The performance of the participants was adjudged by Dr. Neeti Chibber and Dr. Renu Sharma from the Department of Botany.

The faculty members who graced the event were Dr. Anupama Pandotra, Dr. Akriti Parihar, Dr. Hari Singh, Dr. Sunil Mangoch and Dr. Savleen Kour.

GDC Paloura organizes series of activities to commemorate birth anniversary of Dr. Ambedkar

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 16: Government Degree College (GDC) Paloura organized series of activities to commemorate birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

The programme was organized by NSS unit in collaboration with Department of Political Science and Department of Education under the guidance of Dr. Kulvinder Kour, Principal of the college.

On day one, Essay writing competition was organized in which Monika secured first position, second position was secured by Kamaljeet and third position was secured by Manful Dogra.

The programme was adjudged by Dr. Rabia Iqbal, Prof. Neha Bhagat and Prof. Vijay Kumari.

On day two, a special screening of Documentary on the life of B. R. Ambedkar was organised.

On Day 3, NSS volunteers participated in Padyatra from Bikram Chowk to B. R. Ambedkar Chowk and paid floral tributes to Ambedkar.

The series of the activities was culminated with the seminar on "Contribution of B.R. Ambedkar in the development of India". Prof. Amit Bhalla, Head Department of Political Science

in his keynote address said that Ambedkar was the key architect of the Indian Constitution.

He further added that Dr. Ambedkar's philosophy revolved around achieving social justice, equality, and human dignity through political and social reforms.

Dr. Kulvinder Kour, Principal of the college in her address added that Dr. B.R. Ambedkar dedicated his life to working for the upliftment of untouchables, women, and labourers.

She further stated that Dr. Ambedkar envisioned a society where the weaker sections, marginalised and down-trodden get equal rights and respect. Pledge on Preamble of India was also administered to all the participants.

The session ended with a vote of thanks offered by Dr. Shivani Sharma.



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GDC R S Pura organizes Slogan Writing Competition under Poshan Maah Initiative



Top News Report

R S PURA, Apr 16: NSS unit in collaboration with Zoology Department of Government Degree College R S Pura organized a Slogan Writing Competition on Wednesday as a part of the ongoing Poshan Maah celebrations, a nation-wide initiative aimed at promoting awareness about nutrition and healthy living.

This Program was a sequel of activities conducted to observe Poshan Maah, which witnessed enthusiastic participation from students across various streams, who showcased their creativity and commitment towards spreading the message of balanced nutrition, health, and well-being.

The competition was held under the supervision of Dr. Chanchal Angral, NSS PO and under the able guidance of Principal of the College Prof. (Dr.) Preetpal Kour encouraging young minds to engage in public health campaigns through artistic expression.

In the said competition the first position was secured by Ruhani of sem 2, second position was clinched by Taniya Sharma of sem 4 and the third position was bagged by Shikha Chib of sem 6.

Principal of the College Prof. (Dr.) Preetpal Kour applauded the efforts of the NSS Team and participants.

She also emphasized the importance of nutrition awareness among youth. "Such initiatives play a crucial role in shaping a healthier and more informed society," she said.

The performance of the participants was adjudged by Dr. Neeti Chibber and Dr. Renu Sharma from the Department of Botany.

The faculty members who graced the event were Dr. Anupama Pandotra, Dr. Akriti Parihar, Dr. Hari Singh, Dr. Sunil Mangoch and Dr. Savleen Kour.

life-saving skills and techniques necessary for emergency preparedness and disaster response.

During the workshop various training sessions were conducted by experienced Civil Defence experts and covered crucial topics including First Aid, Fire Prevention and Control, Fire fighting Techniques, Snake Bite Management, Choking Response, and other basic life-saving skills, along with preventive measures during natural and man-made disasters. Programme commenced with lighting of lamp by Prof. (Dr.) Meeru Abrol and other faculty present on the occasion.

The event was coordinated by Ashok Kumar and Prof. Brham Dutt. Jeet Singh, Sub-Inspector SDRF Samba, and Instructor Jyoti Prakash were present on the occasion who played instrumental role in guiding the participants throughout the training. The formal welcome address was delivered by Ashok Kumar.

Speaking on the occasion Prof. (Dr.) Meeru Abrol thanked the SDRF team for successfully conducting the workshop in the College. She emphasized that more such training programme should be organized in the College for benefit of students.

Certificates were distributed to all students who actively participated in the five-day training workshop.

Jagmeet Kour student of Sem-VI did compering of the event and Sem-IV student Komal Devi gave an insight of the workshop.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from all faculty members of the college, marking its significance as a step forward in community safety and disaster preparedness.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the Civil Defence team, resource persons, college faculty, and student participants for their active participation.

GDC Ramgarh organizes certificate distribution ceremony for Civil Defence Training Programme



Top News Report

RAMGARH, Apr 16: Government Degree College (GDC) Ramgarh organized the certificate distribution ceremony for the Five-Day Civil Defence Training Programme under the guidance of the college Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Meeru Abrol.

The training programme was conducted as per the directions of the Additional Director General of Police HG/ Civil Defence & SDRF, J&K, and the Deputy Controller, Civil Defence Samba.

The objective of the training was to equip students with essential

life-saving skills and techniques necessary for emergency preparedness and disaster response.

During the workshop various training sessions were conducted by experienced Civil Defence experts and covered crucial topics including First Aid, Fire Prevention and Control, Fire fighting Techniques, Snake Bite Management, Choking Response, and other basic life-saving skills, along with preventive measures during natural and man-made disasters. Programme commenced with lighting of lamp by Prof. (Dr.) Meeru Abrol and other faculty present on the occasion.

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Department of Environmental Sciences, Raavi Eco Club organize Educational Field Visit to Agricultural Sites



Top News Report

KATHUA, Apr 16: The Department of Environmental Sciences in collaboration with the Raavi Eco Club of Government Degree College, Kathua organized an exposure field visit for students to the Department of Agriculture, Kathua and the Poly-

house Unit agricultural site at Village Sampl Sampla.

This educational tour was aimed at enhancing students' practical understanding of modern and urban agricultural techniques.

The visit was conducted under the overall guidance of the Principal, Prof. Seema Mir, who flagged off

the student group and encouraged them to make the most of the learning opportunity.

The visit was meticulously coordinated by Prof. Arvind Kumar, Head, Department of Environmental Sciences, along with Dr. Hilal Ahmed, Dr. Anjali Devi, and Prof. Anil Sharma, Assistant Professor, Horticultural Technology.

During the visit, students were introduced to a variety of contemporary farming techniques and scientific agricultural practices.

A major highlight was a live demonstration of mushroom cultivation by Ashwani Kumar, Mushroom Development Officer Kathua, who explained the stages of mushroom farming and its potential as a sustainable urban farming method.

Students also gained practical insights into soil testing methods

under the supervision of Murari Lal, District Agricultural Extension Officer, and Anil Kumar, Assistant Soil Chemist.

The session emphasized the importance of soil health analysis in crop productivity and sustainable agriculture.

Further, Pankaj Jasrotia (JAEO) elaborated on a range of urban agricultural techniques, including Vertical and horizontal farming, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Shade house cultivation. These techniques highlighted the adaptability and innovation possible within urban and peri-urban farming environments.

The students also visited a Poly-house Unit at Village Sampla, established by the Department of Agriculture.

The tour, guided by Parmodh Kumar, Agricultural Extension Offi-

cer Kathua, he provided a detailed insights into polyhouse structures, crop selection, microclimate control, and year-round cultivation strategies.

To conclude the visit, Sanjeev Rai, Chief Agricultural Officer, Kathua, addressed the students.

He spoke about the various government schemes and subsidies available to support young entrepreneurs in agriculture, urging students to consider agriculture as a promising career pathway that blends innovation, sustainability, and business opportunities.

The visit successfully provided students with experiential learning and a broader perspective on modern farming techniques. It was a perfect blend of theoretical knowledge and real-world application, leaving students inspired and better informed about emerging agricultural practices.

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Vision Kashmir: Filmmaker Faraz Ali's short film shows there is life in the Valley

Award winning filmmaker Faraz Ali's short film *Obur* is a revelation in more ways than one. Telling the story of a young boy in Kashmir, it neither trains its lens on military nor militancy. What's more, the entire film is shot on an I-phone. As *Obur* literally swept the Critics' Choice Awards this year, winning no less than four awards for best film, direction, cinematography and writing in short film category, Ali shares, "All through the making of the film, I prioritised storytelling over anything else." Encapsulating the tale of a mother and son and how power outage affects him, he wanted to draw attention to everyday issues of ordinary mortals.

Hailing from Allahabad, now Prayagraj, Ali was inadvertently drawn to The Valley often represented in broad strokes of beauty or terror. What struck him the most was, "There is life beyond the shadow of the gun. People have fun, why even we played cricket on its streets, and above all there is hope." In fact, the talented filmmaker's earlier feature *Shoebbox* was on his hometown, Allahabad, which he has seen changing so much that it became a friend he grew up with, but could no longer relate to its changing characteristics. Truth of the city is interesting for him, "Allahabad is a fragment of my memory."

He shares how personification of a city is evident more impactfully in films like *Garam Hawa*. He observes, "The same city can be seen differently through the gaze of different filmmak-



ers. For instance, the Bombay seen in Ram Gopal Varma's movies is so different from the one in *The Lunchbox*. The one in Payal Kapadia's *All We Imagine As Light* is again markedly unique." Only he doesn't find much difference between the problems of people in different cities. Yes, even those living in the Valley face similar predicaments as any other.

More than facts, he feels its truth which will survive the test of time. Indeed, each person's vantage point is unique. He states, "Sky is blue is a fact. But I might see sorrow in it, whereas another maker might sense happiness." Hence, it's not 'seeing is believing' for him but feeling is. As he puts it, "Your gut instinct always tells you what is right." Interestingly, capturing the film on a mobile phone seemed the right choice for this advertising professional. For it

meant the crew didn't have to drag heavy equipment through snow-laden terrains and reach remote areas. "Choice of equipment complements your story." Since most actors were facing the camera for the first time, he reveals, "They were not intimidated by a mobile phone as they were quite accustomed to making reels on it."

Ali's background in advertising is not the reason why he turned to making films. His cinematic sensibility may not have been shaped by his vocation of making commercials. He opines, "To keep your artistic voice intact, you have to understand the economy of India, which is so different from that of Europe or the US. For, unlike the west we don't have the culture of grants." So, he believes in the axiom, 'one for the soul and one for the kitchen', with the later invariably, feeding

his artistic integrity. He quips, "Why does a filmmaker have to die in penury?"

In the near future, he will once again be making a film on Kashmir, hoping to pull off a comedy, but in long term he does not want to burden himself with expectations of particular kind of films he would like to be known for. All he wants is, "To have a great time while making films and ensure that no one on his sets is having a bad time. While I am in the thick of action, my prime motive is to make films ethically." For him, means don't justify the end but are as important the final goal. Thus, to the aspirants from small towns desirous of taking a plunge into the world of filmmaking, he does not have any advice, only ready to offer a 'non-toxic environment', so when they work with him, the wonder of cinema is intact. Winning awards may not be sine qua non for keeping his sense of amazement or love for cinema alive. But as he states, "It puts the spotlight on you. Every filmmaker needs that attention. Success of each film decides what you make next. Besides, it might inspire someone writing a beautiful story sitting in Kashmir to make one."

Of course, beyond success or failure, curiosity for him is the real trigger. As Walt Disney said, "We keep moving forward, opening new doors and doing new things, because we're curious and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths." Rest assured, Ali will be forging new ones.

Aadesh Chaudhary essays the role of a detective in The H Files



In an exciting departure from the conventional, actor Aadesh Chaudhary is stepping into the shoes of a detective—but not just any detective. With his latest project titled *The H Files*, Aadesh is

on a mission not just to entertain but also to enlighten. The show, set to premiere on Bottoms Up Studios' YouTube channel, dives deep into health-related mysteries, featuring a gripping investiga-

tive format never seen before. Aadesh says, "In today's time, maintaining good health has become crucial and the concept of *The H Files* sounded very interesting. There's a lot of misinformation on the internet, so my friend and producer Kunal (Garud)—who also owns Clink Communication and Bottoms Up Studios—and I came up with this idea to present it through *The H Files*, blending acting with meaningful information." Releasing every Tuesday and Thursday, *The H Files* promises to be both educational and gripping.

Aadesh will play a detective, tackling puzzling cases. Aadesh says, "I'm playing a detective who investigates different cases and shares that knowledge with people. Nobody has ever presented health-related facts in a detective style before, so *The H Files* will be an unexpected and exciting watch."

Known for his impactful performances in popular shows like *Sasural Simar Ka*, *Yeh Dil Sun Raha Hai* and *Laal Ishq*, Aadesh has always leaned toward content with depth.

Priyanka Chopra Jonas joins Will Ferrell-Zac Efron's upcoming comedy film

Actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas will be featuring alongside Hollywood stars Will Ferrell and Zac Efron in an upcoming comedy film by director Nicholas Stoller. Priyanka joined the project along with Michael Pena, the star of movies and shows such as *Shooter*, *Fury*, *End of Watch*, *Narcos: Mexico* and *Jack Ryan*.

The movie, which was earlier titled *Judgment Day*, focuses on a young convict (Efron) who gets out of prison and takes an unscheduled TV courtroom hostage, as he is convinced that the judge (Ferrell) delivered a ruling that destroyed his life. The cast also includes Oscar-winner Regina Hall, Jimmy Tatro and Billy Eichner.

The project reunites Priyanka with Efron, her co-star from the 2017 movie *Baywatch*.



Priyanka's upcoming projects also include *The Bluff* and *Heads of State*, starring John

Cena and Idris Elba. She is also awaiting the second season of her action series *Citadel*.

Meghna Gulzar to direct Kareena Kapoor Khan and Prithviraj Sukumaran in crime-drama thriller 'Daayra'

Kareena Kapoor Khan and Prithviraj Sukumaran have boarded the new film by "Talvar" and "Raazi" director Meghna Gulzar.

Titled "Daayra", the film taps into the pulse of the people as it confronts the topical and diabolical realities unfolding in society today. This crime-drama thriller explores the age-old paradox of crime, punishment, and justice, according to a press release by the makers.

"As I celebrate 25 incredible years in Hindi cinema, I'm thrilled to announce my next film, *Daayra*, with the incredible Meghna Gulzar in the director's chair. I've long admired her work, from *Talvar* to *Raazi*, and to be directed by her is a dream come true."

The opportunity to collaborate with the talented Prithviraj is also a highlight, and I'm



drawn to the film's bold, thought-provoking narrative," Kareena said in a statement.

"*Daayra*", she said, promises to be a cinematic experience that would be challenging and inspiring. After "Talvar" and "Raazi", it is the third collaboration between Gulzar and Junglee Pictures.

Sukumaran, who last directed and starred in

Malayalam superhit "L2: Empuran", said, "When the script was narrated to me, I knew I had to do this. I was thoroughly absorbed by my character and what he brings to the table as the story progress. It is layered and will definitely connect with the masses." The film is co-written by Gulzar, Sima Agarwal and Yash Keswani.

Gulzar said the film is

a story that will compel one to "reflect on the society we live in and its institutions that pilot us".

"With co-writers Sima and Yash, unravelling the greys within the black and white, was both challenging and exciting. And as Kareena and Prithviraj bring the lead characters to life, the narrative dynamics are all set to elevate further! It's always cre-

atively gratifying to collaborate with Junglee Pictures, known for backing stories that are compelling and demand telling," the director said.

Amrita Pandey, CEO of Junglee Pictures praised Gulzar for her exceptional craft, deep sensitivity, and knack for blending entertainment and substance, which she said make her the ideal collaborator.

"We are fortunate to have a dream casting with Kareena and Prithviraj taking on the lead roles."

Yash and Sima who have co-written the film along with Meghna, have created such a cinematic screenplay that adeptly tackles the complexities of our time. We can't wait to embark on this journey," Pandey added.

The film is currently in pre-production stage.

'Love you': Jaya Bachchan's welcome to Aishwarya Rai into family goes viral

A heartwarming throwback video featuring veteran actress Jaya Bachchan is making waves on social media.

The clip is from the 2007 Filmfare Awards, where Jaya was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

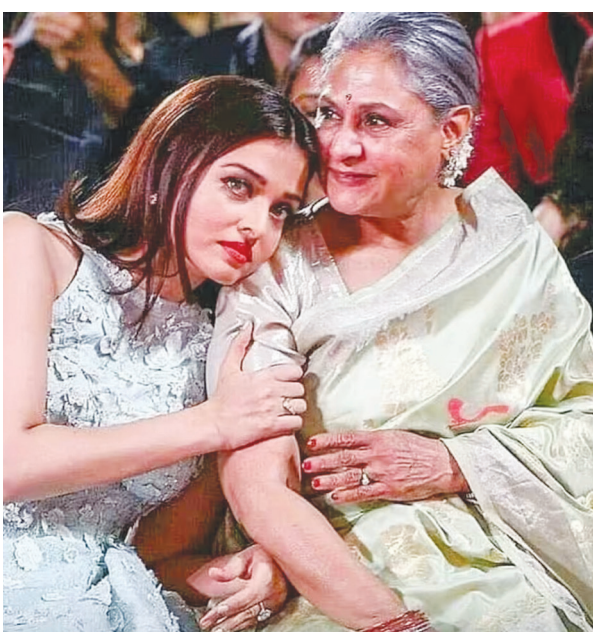
During her acceptance speech—delivered just months before Aishwarya Rai and Abhishek Bachchan's wedding—she publicly welcomed Aishwarya into the Bachchan family in an emotional moment that touched many hearts.

"Today, I'm going to be a mother-in-law all over again to a wonderful, lovely girl, who has great values, great dignity, and a lovely smile."

I welcome you to the family. Love you," Jaya said from the stage.

She added, "I thought this would be the right time to accept this award. I'd like to say, Almighty, whoever he or she may be, hum ko man ki Shakti dena, man vijay kare. Jhooth se door rahu aur sach ka man bharein." (Give us mental strength, let the mind win. Stay away from lies and fill the mind with truth.)

Seated in the audience, a visibly moved Aishwarya could not hold back her tears at her soon-to-be mother-in-law's love and acceptance. The clip also shows Amitabh Bachchan getting teary-



eyed. The clip has now resurfaced online and is going viral, reminding fans of the strong bond

shared within the Bachchan family.

This was not the only time Jaya praised

Aishwarya. During an earlier appearance on "Koffee With Karan", she described as a perfect fit for the Bachchan family.

"She is such a big star herself. But when we are all together, I have never seen her push herself forward. She stands behind, is quiet, listening and taking it all in," Jaya said.

She added, "Aishwarya has fitted in so beautifully—not just into the family, but also into our lives and social circles. She is a strong woman with a lot of dignity."

Aishwarya and Abhishek tied the knot in April 2007. The power duo welcomed their daughter, Aaradhya, in November 2011.

Kritika Kamra signs 'Peepli Live' director Anusha Rizvi's next film



Actor Kritika Kamra, best known for "Bheed", "Bambai Meri Jaan" and "Gyaarah Gyaarah", will play one of the lead roles

in an upcoming women-led drama, directed by Anusha Rizvi of "Peepli Live" fame.

The film, produced by

Jio Studios, also features Sheeba Chaddha and Shreya Dhanwanthary.

Set against the vibrant backdrop of Delhi, the untitled film delves into a poignant human story that highlights the strength and resilience of its female protagonists. A representative of the production house said they are thrilled to bring together such a talented team for this movie.

"The narrative is both powerful and timely, and we believe it will resonate deeply with the audiences," the representative said in a statement. Principal photography on the project commenced earlier this month in the capital.

CJI Khanna recommends appointment of Justice Gavai as next CJI

NEW DELHI, Apr 16 (Agencies): Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna on Wednesday recommended to the Centre the name of Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai as the next CJI.

Justice Gavai, the second senior-most Supreme Court judge after the incumbent CJI Khanna, is set to become the 52nd CJI on May 14 after the retirement of CJI Khanna on May 13.

Justice Gavai, who was elevated as a judge of the Supreme Court on May 24, 2019, would have a tenure of over six months as the CJI. He is due to retire on November 23, 2025.

CJI Khanna, who was sworn in as the 51st CJI on November 11 last year, recommended to the Union law ministry to appoint Justice Gavai as the next CJI.

The retirement age of Supreme Court judges is 65 years.

Born on November 24,

1960 at Amravati, Justice Gavai was elevated as an additional judge of the Bombay High Court on November 14, 2003.

He became a permanent judge of the high court on November 12, 2005.

Justice Gavai has been a part of several Constitution Benches in the apex court which delivered path-breaking verdicts.

He was part of a five-judge Constitution Bench which in December 2023 unanimously upheld the Centre's decision to abrogate provisions of Article 370 bestowing special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Another five-judge Constitution Bench, of which Justice Gavai was a part, annulled the electoral bonds scheme for political funding.

He was a part of a five-judge Constitution bench which, by a 4:1 majority verdict, gave its stamp of approval to the Centre's 2016 decision



to demonetise Rs 1,000 and Rs 500 denomination currency notes.

Justice Gavai was part of a seven-judge constitution Bench, which by a 6:1 majority held that states are constitutionally empowered to make sub-classifications within the Scheduled Castes, which form a socially heterogeneous class, for granting reservation for the uplift of castes that are socially and educationally more backward among them.

A seven-judge Constitution Bench also having Justice Gavai ruled that the arbitration clause in an unstamped or insufficiently stamped agreement between parties was enforceable as such a defect was curable and did not render the contract invalid.

In an important verdict, a Bench headed by Justice Gavai laid down pan-India guidelines and said no property should be demolished without a prior showcase notice and the affected must be given 15 days to respond.

He is also heading the Bench which is hearing matters related to forests, wildlife and protection of trees.

He had joined the bar on March 16, 1985 and was the standing counsel for the Municipal

Corporation of Nagpur, Amravati Municipal Corporation and Amravati University.

He was appointed as an assistant government pleader and additional public prosecutor in the Bombay High Court's Nagpur Bench from August 1992 to July 1993.

He was appointed as a government pleader and public prosecutor for the Nagpur Bench on January 17, 2000.

According to the memorandum of procedure -- a set of documents guiding appointment, elevation and transfer of high court and Supreme Court judges -- the law minister writes to the CJI to name his or her successor.

The MoP says the senior-most judge of the apex court is considered fit to hold the office of the CJI and the views of the outgoing head of the judiciary have to be sought "at an appropriate time".

National Herald case: BJP rejects Cong's charge of vendetta



NEW DELHI, Apr 16 (Agencies): Asserting that no one has a "license to loot", the ruling BJP on Wednesday dismissed the Congress' charge of vendetta after the ED chargesheeted Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi in the National Herald case.

Former law minister and BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad asked the Congress to reply to the substance of allegations against the Gandhis instead of merely offering a political reaction, noting that the opposition party found no relief from the judiciary in its pleas against the probe.

Speaking to reporters, Prasad outlined the main charge against the Gandhis that as the 76 per cent share-holder of the Young India company they "misappropriated" thousands of crores of real estate owned by the Associated Journals Limited (AJL), which owned the National Herald news-

paper.

He said the Congress has the right to hold 'dharnas' (to protest ED chargesheet against Sonia Gandhi and Rahul) but that right does not extend to misappropriating public properties given by the government to the National Herald.

He accused the Congress of issuing threats to the probe agency and asked if the party and Gandhi's believe in the due process of law or not.

"We condemn the threats from the Congress. There is Modi government in place. It will allow the law to take its own course," he said.

The Young India, he said, wrote off the Rs 90 cr loan that the Congress had given to the AJL and got the ownership of the company with a paltry investment of Rs 50 lakhs.

The land was given to the AJL by the government, he said, adding that the National Herald was allegedly used by

the Congress establishment to collect advertisement and properties.

He alleged, "A newspaper that was established in the freedom struggle to espouse the voice of those fighting the British imperialism degenerated into a money-minting exercise for the Congress party establishment." Taking a swipe, he said this is the "Gandhi model of development" as he noted the allegation against Sonia Gandhi's son-in-law Robert Vadra of pocketing a huge profit in land deal in Haryana with the collusion of the then Congress government in the state.

The National Herald was started in the 1930s as a voice of the freedom struggle with 5,000 shareholders but was reduced to a fief of the Nehru-Gandhi family, he alleged.

The Enforcement Directorate has filed a chargesheet against Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi and others before a special court here in the National Herald case, accusing them of allegedly laundering Rs 988 crore.

The Congress described the ED's chargesheet as vendetta politics and claimed seizing of assets in the case was a "state-sponsored crime masquerading as the rule of law".

We seem demoralised in Gujarat, but only Congress can defeat RSS-BJP: Rahul Gandhi

MODASA (GUJARAT), Apr 16 (Agencies): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday said though party cadres seem demoralised in Gujarat, only his outfit can defeat the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and the BJP.

On his second visit to Gujarat in a week, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha expressed his party's

resolve to finish the task of defeating the RSS and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which is in power in the western state for nearly 30 years.

He described Gujarat, where the Congress was once a powerful political force, as the most important state for the opposition party.

Gandhi was addressing booth-level Congress workers at

Modasa town in Arvali district after launching a pilot project of strengthening district units as part of the grand old party's efforts to revamp the organisation in Gujarat, where assembly polls are due in late 2027.

"Gujarat is the most important state for the Congress party. We seem demoralised in Gujarat, but we will defeat them (BJP) in the



state. I am here to tell you that it is not difficult. We will definitely finish this task.

Only the Congress party can defeat the RSS and the BJP," he told the gathering.

Murshidabad riots pre-planned; BJP, BSF, section of central agencies involved: Mamata

KOLKATA, Apr 16 (Agencies): West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday termed the recent communal violence in Murshidabad as "pre-planned" and accused a section of the BSF, central agencies, and the BJP of fanning tension by allegedly facilitating cross-border influx from Bangladesh.

Speaking at a meeting with Imams, Banerjee alleged that despite the volatile situation in neighbouring Bangladesh, the central government allowed illegal entry from across the border, and claimed

that the BSF and certain agencies played a role in triggering unrest in Bengal.

Banerjee urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi not to implement the "atrocious" Waqf Amendment Act and requested him to keep the Union Home Ministry, headed by Amit Shah, under control.

"I would request the Prime Minister to keep a check on Amit Shah, he is doing harm to the nation to serve his own political agenda," she said.

"I came across news claiming the role of elements from across the



border in Murshidabad unrest. Is it not the role of the BSF to guard the border? The state government does not guard the international border. The Central government must take responsibility," Banerjee said.

The CM announced a

compensation of Rs 10 lakh each for the families of three people killed during the violence and directed the state chief secretary to initiate a probe into the role of the BSF, alleging that the force opened fire which led to the death of one of them.

"I will find out whom the BSF had financed in the bordering areas by giving money to youths to pelt throw during the violence," she said.

Alleging that outsiders linked to the BJP entered the state and incited violence, Banerjee said, "Why did they allow BJP thugs from outside to come and create chaos before fleeing? Accountability must be fixed. They want to polarise and divide Hindus and Muslims. They want their Jumla government. Don't divide the country; unite all instead."

Two hardcore Naxalites killed in encounter with security forces in Chhattisgarh

RAIPUR, Apr 16 (Agencies): Two senior cadres of CPI (Maoist), carrying a bounty of Rs 13 lakh, were killed in an encounter with the security forces at Kilam-Bargum forest in Kondagaon district, about 250 km south of Raipur on Wednesday.

"Based on specific intelligence inputs about the presence of Maoists at the Kilam-Bargum forest region, a joint team of security forces comprising personnel from District Reserve Guard (DRG) and Bastar Fighters was out on the anti-Maoist operation on Tuesday. An encounter broke out between the Maoists and the security forces. Two bodies of Maoists have been recovered so far on Wednesday. The search operation in the area continues", a senior police officer said.

The two Maoists killed in an exchange



of fire were identified as dreaded rebel commander and Divisional Committee Member (DVC) Haldar Kashyap and Area Committee Member (ACM) Ramey Sori of the East Bastar Division of the banned outfit CPI (Maoist). Haldar and Ramey were carrying rewards of Rs 8 lakh and Rs 5 lakh on their heads respectively, the officer added.

This year, 140 bodies of Maoists have been recovered so far in various encounters in Chhattisgarh, including 124 killed in the Bastar division.

One AK-47, a few arms, explosives and

other items were recovered from the encounter spot. There has been no report of any security personnel sustaining injuries in the encounter.

Kondagaon is among the seven Maoist-affected districts of Bastar division in south Chhattisgarh.

Union Home minister Amit Shah has declared that the country will be Maoist-free by March 31, 2026. In this context, the series of encounters against the left-wing extremists remains a part of the renewed strategy to free the Chhattisgarh state from the influence of Maoist.

Three killed as civic body operated bus rams into vehicles, pedestrians at traffic signal in Rajkot

RAJKOT, Apr 16 (Agencies): A speeding bus operated by the local municipal corporation rammed into several vehicles and pedestrians at a traffic signal in Gujarat's Rajkot city on Wednesday morning, leaving three persons dead and two others injured, police said.

Closed-circuit television (CCTV) footage showed the electric bus hitting vehicles, including two-wheelers and cars, at the busy traffic signal.

"An electric city bus operated by the Rajkot Municipal Corporation (RMC) caused an accident, leaving three dead and two others injured at a traffic signal.

The bus hit several vehicles, including two-wheelers and four-wheelers, as well as pedestrians," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Zone -2), Jagdish



Bhangarva said.

The accident occurred at Indira Circle at around 10 am, Gandhigram police station inspector Sejal Meghani said.

An irate mob vandalised the civic bus after it halted at some distance away from the accident spot.

Police resorted to baton charge to disperse the crowd, officials said.

The bus driver was detained and further probe was underway, they said.

3 workers killed as storage unit for pulses falls on them at Maharashtra mill

YAVATMAL, Apr 16 (Agencies): Three workers were killed and two others injured when a steel storage unit for pulses fell on them while they were working at a mill in Maharashtra's Yavatmal district, police said on Wednesday.

The incident took place at Manorma Jain Dal Mill located in the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) area in Yavatmal on Tuesday

evening, they said.

The storage unit broke and fell on five workers, a police official said.

Three workers were killed and two other workers suffered injuries and were undergoing treatment in a hospital, the official said.

Two of the deceased were from Madhya Pradesh and one hailed from Wardha district in Maharashtra, the police said.

Alcoholic man kills daughter-in-law with axe in UP's Shahjahanpur

SHAHJAHANPUR, Apr 16 (Agencies): A man allegedly hacked his daughter-in-law to death with an axe in Uttar Pradesh's Shahjahanpur district, police said on Wednesday.

Superintendent of Police Rajesh Kumar Dwivedi said the incident took place in Hathipur Kuria village under Kant police station limits on Tuesday.

Rajpal Saty, who allegedly murdered his daughter-in-law Sumi-

tra (30), is absconding and a team has been formed to nab him, the police said.

A team rushed to the spot received information about the incident on Wednesday morning.

Quoting preliminary findings and statements from villagers, SP Dwivedi said the accused was known to be a habitual drinker and had likely gotten into an argument with the victim.

In a fit of rage, he allegedly struck her with an axe kept in the house, resulting in her death.

Sumitra's husband, a truck driver, was away for work at the time of the incident, the officer added.

The body has been sent for post-mortem and the axe used in the attack recovered, the police said, adding that a case has been registered and investigation is underway.

Gaza rescuers say children among 11 killed in Israeli air strikes

GAZA, Apr 16 (Agencies): Gaza's civil defence agency reported that Israeli air strikes in the early hours of Wednesday killed at least 11 people, including women and children.

Israel resumed its aerial and ground offensive across Gaza from March 18, ending a two-month ceasefire that had largely halted hostilities in the territory.

A pre-dawn air strike in Gaza City killed 10 people, including several women and children, according to civil defence agency spokesman Mahmud Bassal. He said the strike targeted the home belonging to the Hassouna family in the Al-Tuffa neighbourhood of Gaza City.

"Our teams transferred 10 martyrs and several wounded to Al-Shifa hospital after the Hassouna family's home was targeted," Bassal said.

In a separate attack, a child



was killed in the southern city of Khan Yunis, rescue teams said.

Top Israeli officials, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, have repeatedly stated that military pressure is the only way to secure the release of hostages still held in Gaza by Hamas.

On Wednesday, Defence Minister Israel Katz reiterated that Israel would continue to

"relentlessly strike Hamas terrorists and terror infrastructure" in Gaza.

"If Hamas continues to refuse (to release hostages), operations will intensify and move to the next stage," Katz said in a statement, without specifying what the next stage would entail.

Also on Wednesday, the Israeli military announced it had

recently killed a militant involved in a 2014 attack that resulted in the deaths of five soldiers.

Mahmud Ibrahim Abu Hisirah was reportedly part of group of militants that infiltrated Israel through a tunnel in July 2014 and killed five soldiers, the military said.

In recent years, he had served as a close aide to Ezzedine Haddad, a senior militant from Hamas' armed wing, the Ezzedine Al-Qassam Brigades, the military added.

Since Israel resumed its offensive in Gaza in mid-March, at least 1,630 people have been killed, according to the health ministry in the Hamas-run territory.

Israel's military assault has killed at least 51,000 people in Gaza, the majority of them civilians, according to the health ministry.

6.6-magnitude earthquake strikes under Indian Ocean far off Australian coast

MELBOURNE, Apr 16 (Agencies): A 6.6-magnitude earthquake struck far off southwest Australia on Wednesday, but no tsunami warning was issued.

The epicentre was in the Indian Ocean 2,069 km southwest of Albany

on the southwest tip of Western Australia state at a depth of 10 km, the US Geological Survey said.

The Joint Australian Tsunami Warning Center said there was no tsunami alert for Australia or Antarctica.

Earthquake of magnitude 5.9 jolts Afghanistan

KABUL, Apr 16 (Agencies): An earthquake of magnitude 5.9 has struck Afghanistan, as reported by the National Centre for Seismology (NCS).

The earthquake occurred in the early hours of Wednesday morning at 04:43 AM Indian Standard Time (IST).

The NCS shared the details in a post on X, saying that the earthquake occurred at Latitude 35.83 N, Longitude 70.60 E.

As per the NCS, the earthquake occurred at a depth of 75 kilometres.

As per the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), Afghanistan remains highly vulnerable to natural disasters, including seasonal flooding, landslides and earthquakes.

These frequent earthquakes in Afghanistan cause damage to vulnerable communities, which are already grappling with decades of conflict and under-development and have left them with little resilience to cope with multiple simultaneous shocks, UNOCHA noted.

Earthquake of magnitude 4.2 jolts Tibet

TIBET, Apr 16 (Agencies): An earthquake of magnitude 4.2 on the Richter Scale struck Tibet on Wednesday at 3:50 am (IST), the National Centre for Seismology (NCS) said on Wednesday.

According to NCS, the earthquake struck at a

depth of 26 kilometres. The NCS said that the earthquake occurred at latitude 27.87 N and longitude 87.65 E.

Earlier on Tuesday, an earthquake of magnitude 3.5 on the Richter Scale struck Tibet at 11:01 am (IST), a statement by the NCS said.

As per the NCS, the earthquake struck at a depth of 10 kilometres, making it susceptible to aftershocks.

Earlier on late Monday night, another earthquake of magnitude 4.1 on the Richter Scale struck Tibet at a shallow depth of 10km.

Israeli defense minister says troops will remain in Gaza, Lebanon and Syria indefinitely

JERUSALEM, Apr 16 (Agencies): Israel's defense minister said Wednesday that troops will remain in so-called security zones in the Gaza Strip, Lebanon and Syria indefinitely, remarks that could further complicate talks with Hamas over a ceasefire and hostage release.

Israeli forces have taken over more than half of Gaza in a renewed campaign to pressure Hamas to release hostages after Israel ended their ceasefire last month.

Israel has also refused to withdraw from some areas in Lebanon following a ceasefire with the Hezbollah militant group last year, and it seized a buffer zone in southern Syria after rebels overthrew President Bashar Assad in December.

"Unlike in the past, the (Israeli military) is not evacuating areas that



have been cleared and seized," Defense Minister Israel Katz said in a statement. The military "will remain in the security zones as a buffer between the enemy and (Israeli) communities in any temporary or permanent situation in Gaza — as in Lebanon and Syria."

The Palestinians and both neighboring countries view the presence of Israeli troops as military occupation in violation of international law. Hamas has said it will not release dozens

of remaining hostages without a complete Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and a lasting ceasefire.

Israel says it must maintain control of such territories to prevent a repeat of Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023 attack, in which thousands of militants stormed into southern Israel from Gaza, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting 251.

Israel's offensive has killed over 51,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry,

which does not say how many were civilians or combatants but says women and children make up more than half of the dead. Israel says it has killed some 20,000 militants, without providing evidence.

Israel's bombardment and ground operations have left vast areas of the territory uninhabitable and have displaced around 90% of the population of roughly 2 million Palestinians.

Many have been displaced multiple times, and hundreds of thousands are crammed into squalid tent camps with dwindling food after Israel sealed off the territory from all imports more than a month ago.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed to annihilate Hamas and return the 59 hostages still in Gaza — 24 of whom are believed to be alive. He has said that Israel

will then implement U.S. President Donald Trump's proposal for the resettlement of much of Gaza's population in other countries through what Netanyahu refers to as "voluntary emigration."

Netanyahu helms the most nationalist and religious government in Israel's history, and his coalition partners have called for the reestablishment of Jewish settlements in Gaza. Israel withdrew from Gaza in 2005 and dismantled its settlements there.

Palestinians and Arab countries have universally rejected Trump's proposal, which human rights experts say would likely violate international law. Palestinians in Gaza say they don't want to leave, and fear another mass expulsion like the one that occurred during the war surrounding Israel's creation in 1948.

Earthquake of magnitude 2.9 hits Bangladesh

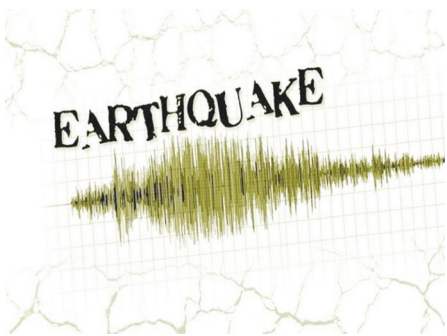
DHAKA, Apr 16 (Agencies): An earthquake of magnitude 2.9 has struck Bangladesh, as reported by the National Centre for Seismology (NCS).

The earthquake occurred in the early hours of Wednesday morning at 05:07 AM Indian Standard Time (IST).

Sharing the details in a post on X, the NCS said that the earthquake occurred at latitude 24.89 N and longitude 91.16 E.

As per the NCS, the earthquake occurred at a depth of 14 kilometres.

As per the website of NCS, previously



an earthquake of magnitude 4.0 had occurred on April 11 in Bangladesh at a depth of 10 kilometres.

“Ask US side for specific tax rate figures”: China reacts to 245% tariff levied by US

BEIJING, Apr 16 (Agencies): Reacting to the White House's statement claiming China now faces up to 245 per cent tariffs on imports to the US, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said they should ask the US side for the "specific tax rate figures."

While addressing a press briefing on Wednesday, Lin said that China has repeatedly stated its solemn position on the tariff issue. He said that the tariff war was initiated by the US and that Beijing has taken countermeasures to protect its legitimate rights and interests and international fairness and justice, terming it completely "reasonable and legal."

He noted that tariff and trade wars have no winner. However, he said that China does not want to fight these wars but is not scared of them. He expressed China's commitment to joining hands and removing barriers.

Earlier in a statement shared on X, Lin Jian stated, "In a world full of uncertainties, China remains committed to

joining hands, not throwing punches; removing barriers, not erecting walls; promoting connectivity, not pursuing decoupling."

While sharing the statement on X, Lin wrote, "China is the world's market and a source of opportunities for every country."

Lin Jian's statement came after the White House fact sheet stated that China's retaliatory actions have resulted in up to a 245 per cent tariff on imports to the United States. Prior to the latest revision, a 145 per cent tariff was being levied on Chinese exports to the United States.

Earlier this month, US President Donald Trump imposed reciprocal tariffs on dozens of countries with which the country has a trade deficit. Later, Trump decided to pause the tariffs for 90 days after many countries initiated talks with the US administration for a trade deal.

More than 75 countries have already reached out to discuss new trade deals," the White House fact sheet said.

"As a result, the individualised higher tariffs



are currently paused amid these discussions, except for China, which retaliated," the fact sheet added.

For the time being, a baseline tariff of 10 per cent would be applicable on US imports. Trump imposed a 10 per cent tariff on all countries and individualised reciprocal higher tariffs on nations with which the US has the largest trade deficits to level the playing field and protect America's national security.

On Tuesday, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt responded to questions on China during the press briefing. When asked if Trump would reduce tariffs on China

to complete the TikTok deal, Leavitt said that Trump's position on China is "quite clear."

In her remarks, Leavitt said, "The President has made his position on China quite clear, although I do have an additional statement that he just shared with me in the Oval Office. The ball is in China's court. China needs to make a deal with us. We don't have to make a deal with them."

She elaborated, "There's no difference between China and any other country, except they are much larger. And China wants what we have, what every country wants, what we have -- the American

consumer, or to put it another way, they need our money."

She further added, "So the President again has made it quite clear that he's open to a deal with China, but China needs to make a deal with the United States of America."

Trump unveiled the "Fair and Reciprocal Plan" on trade to restore fairness in US trade relationships and counter non-reciprocal trade agreements. Trump's reciprocal tariffs have led to a broad-based fall in global financial markets, with markets plunging in Asia and Europe.

The reciprocal tariffs have set off a sell-off in equities globally, and the US itself is no exception. Investors fear that the moves concerning global trade may raise inflation, risking economic growth. Since assuming office for his second term, Donald Trump has reiterated his stance on tariff reciprocity, emphasising that the US will match tariffs imposed by other countries, including India, to ensure fair trade.

South Korean police raid former president's office

Police said Wednesday they had "initiated the execution of a search and seizure warrant at the presidential office and the presidential residence complex."



SEOUL, Apr 16 (Agencies): South Korean police raided Wednesday the office of former president Yoon Suk Yeol and his security detail, as part of a spiralling criminal probe into the impeached leader.

Yoon declared martial law in December, sending armed soldiers to parliament before reversing course. He was quickly impeached by lawmakers, but resisted arrest for weeks in a criminal probe.

After a lengthy stand-off, in which his security detail played a key role, he became South Korea's first sitting head of state to be arrested

in January. He was later released on procedural grounds.

Police said Wednesday they had "initiated the execution of a search and seizure warrant at the presidential office and the presidential residence complex."

Police seized encrypted phone servers and raided the office of Yoon's presidential security detail, plus his chief of security's house, in what they said was part of a probe into "alleged obstruction of an arrest warrant execution".

Yoon spent weeks holed up in his compound in January, pro-

tested by members of the Presidential Security Service who had remained loyal to him.

His guards had installed barbed wire and barricades at the residence, forcing hundreds of police officers and investigators to use ladders and scale perimeter walls to reach the main building.

At the time, he was booked on charges of obstruction, with police saying this week that "in principle" an investigation would be necessary.

Police also seized CCTV footage from the presidential office, as part of a separate probe into former interior minister Lee Sang-min, they said.

Yoon was in court Monday for the first official day of his criminal trial on insurrection charges.

Yoon denied that he committed insurrection. His next hearing is scheduled for April 21, with experts saying the trial is likely to go on for months.

NSO Regional office organizes Regional Training Camp for NSS 80th Round

Top News Report

JAMMU. Apr 16: National Statistics Office (NSO) (Field Operations Division), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, Regional office, Jammu organized one day Regional Training Camp for NSS 80th Round, on Wednesday in the Office complex of NSO (FOD) RO Jammu. The training was



attended by the officers (FOD) Regional office and the field staff of NSO Jammu, Sub-Regional

Office, Udhampur.

The training Camp of NSS 80th Round is on the Survey on "Comprehensive Modular Survey-Education".

The National Statistics Office (NSO) will conduct Comprehensive Modular Survey-Education (CMS-E) from April, 2025 to June, 2025 as a part of NSS 80th round.

The information collected in this survey will essentially be used for generating indicators related to household expenditure on school education and private coaching/ tuition classes.

The survey will cover only education related expenditures incurred/ to be incurred for the household members, including erstwhile household members, who are currently enrolled in school education.

Both formal and non-formal enrollment will be considered for collection of data.

Further, paid as well as payable approaches will be adopted for recording education related expenditure.

The indicators generated based on the CMS-E schedule will serve the requirement

Senior Citizens Joy Society organizes seminar on "Health Awareness & Cure through Acupressure"



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 16: The Senior Citizens Joy Society (SCJS) on Wednesday organized a seminar on "Health Awareness & Prevention/Cure of Diseases through Acupressure", aimed at promoting holistic well-being and alternative healing techniques among senior citizens and the wider community.

The event was graced by Shiv Kumar Mengi, an expert in the field of acupressure and a noted social worker, who served as the Chief Guest and keynote speaker.

The program was presided over by Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, State Yoga Commissioner and Chairman of SCJS.

The seminar commenced with a warm welcome by Ashok Kumar Gupta, who introduced the mission and vision of SCJS, highlighting its commitment to serving the elderly and fostering community health initiatives.

Dr. Jain gave an insightful introduction of Shiv Kumar Mengi, 73, a multifaceted personality with a rich background having academic degrees in B.Com, B.A.,

LL.B., and Journalism, former Senior Audit Officer with 40 years of service, and the first selected for Embassy Audit, veteran News Reader with AIR, and Translator/Interviewer with Doordarshan for over 3 decades, and renowned for his selfless social service in the fields of Acupressure and Vastu.

Dr. Jain elaborated on the origin and science of acupressure, explaining how stimulation of pressure points on the body—especially on the feet and palms—improves blood circulation, reduces stress and inflammation, and enhances the body's natural healing mechanism.

In his keynote address, Mengi delved deep into acupressure as an alternative therapy system, sharing practical knowledge on how it cures ailments, unblocks energy flow, and balances hormonal systems.

He demonstrated key pressure points related to insomnia, digestion, stress, heart conditions, migraine, and hormonal imbalance, using illustrative sketches of the palm and foot.

He assured attendees that practical workshops will be conducted in the

near future to further deepen understanding and application of acupressure.

A special moment during the event was the birthday celebration of Sunita Mahajan, a renowned educationist, social activist, and National Coordinator of Bharat Vikas Parishad. Her life journey was beautifully composed in poetic form by Dr. Jain and presented to her by the Chief Guest.

Ashok Khajuria, Secretary SCJS, conducted the proceedings skillfully in a simple and effective manner. The event concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks by Ashok Kumar Gupta, followed by the National Anthem.

Prominent members including H.C. Vaid, Yash Paul Sharma, Vijay Sharma, Narinder Wadhwa (Finance Secretary, SCJS), Rakesh Misra, C M Sharma, Kulbir Khajuria, B.B. Sharma, and Suresh Chander Gupta actively engaged in the session and clarified their queries on the subject.

The SCJS continues its dedicated efforts to promote wellness and dignity among senior citizens, and this seminar marked another meaningful step in that direction.

GDC Budhal organizes awareness lecture on Drug De-Addiction



Top News Report

BUDHAL, Apr 16: The NSS Unit of Government Degree College Budhal organized an insightful extension lecture on the theme "Drug De-addiction" on Wednesday, as part of its ongoing efforts to raise awareness about pressing social issues among students.

The session aimed to sensitize the youth about the growing menace of drug abuse and the urgent need

for collective action towards rehabilitation and prevention.

The resource person for the session was Dr. Zeeshan Nisar Bhat, Lecturer in Zoology, who delivered an impactful and informative lecture.

Dr. Zeeshan elaborated on the causes and consequences of substance abuse, the signs and symptoms to look out for, and the available mechanisms for de-addiction and rehabilitation. He

emphasized the critical role of educational institutions, families and peer support systems in curbing drug addiction, especially among the younger population.

Mohd Yawer Wani, Lecturer in Sociology also shared his perspectives on the topic, further enriching the audience's understanding of the subject.

The session was followed by a vibrant interactive segment, during which students posed thoughtful questions and shared their views on how society can collectively fight the drug menace. Dr. Zeeshan and Prof. Yawer responded to the queries with great clarity, further enriching the knowledge of the participants.

The Principal of the College appreciated the initiative of the NSS Unit, calling it a step in the right direction towards creating a drug-free community.

FromPage No: 1

Justice Arun Palli Administered Oath as Chief Justice of J&K and Ladakh High Court

retired in 1998. Justice Palli graduated in commerce and completed his law degree from Panjab University in 1988.

He began his legal practice at the Punjab and Haryana High Court and in 2004, he was appointed Additional Advocate General for Punjab. He held the position for three years until March 2007.

He was designated as a Senior Advocate later the same year.

He was elevated as a judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court on December 28, 2013.

He served as Executive Chairman of Haryana State Legal Service Authority since May 31, 2023. He was also nominated as a Member of the Governing Body of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) on October 31, 2023, for a tenure of two years.

Who is challenging the Waqf Amendment Act, 2025 in the Supreme Court? Here's the full list of petitioners

monuments

- Prohibition of waqf creation in Scheduled Areas

Petitioners argue these changes violate Articles 14, 25, 26, 29, and 300A of the Constitution, which safeguard equality, religious freedom, minority rights, and the right to property.

Petitions by MPs and MLAs

1. Mohammad Jawed (Congress MP) – Argues the Act imposes

restrictions uniquely on Muslim religious trusts, violating principles of equality.

2. Asaduddin Owaisi (AIMIM MP) – Claims the amendments undermine Article 26 protections for Muslim institutions, unlike their counterparts from other faiths.

3. Amanatullah Khan (AAP MLA) – Challenges the Act for infringing on Muslim cultural and religious self-governance.

4. Manoj Kumar Jha and Faiyaz Ahmad (RJD MPs) – Contend that the law weakens the waqf governance structure and invites undue state interference.

5. Mahua Moitra (AITC MP) – Alleges procedural violations in passing the legislation, including the Joint Parliamentary Committee's role.

6. Zia Ur Rehman (SP MP) – Says the Act imposes unreasonable constraints and discriminates against Muslim endowments.

7. Sheikh Noorul Hassan (Manipur MLA, NDA ally) – Flags concerns over the law's impact on Scheduled Tribes who follow Islam. Religious institutions and Islamic organisations

1. All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) – Describes the Act as an existential threat to Muslim religious identity.

2. Mohamed Maqsood Imran (Chief Imam, Jamia Masjid, Bengaluru) – Seeks full restoration of the 1995 Act, alleging democratic erosion in waqf management.

3. Arshad Madani (Jamiat Ulema-i-Hind President) – Requests interim relief, warning of irreversible harm to historic waqfs under new digital compliance rules.

4. Samastha Kerala Jamiatul Ulema – Argues the amendments threaten to strip the Muslim community of vast tracts of waqf land.

Political parties joining the challenge

1. Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP)

2. Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) – Cites constitutional violations affecting 50 lakh Muslims in Tamil Nadu and 20 crore nation-

wide.

3. Communist Party of India (CPI) – Echoes DMK's concerns; had earlier supported a resolution in the Tamil Nadu Assembly opposing the bill.

4. Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) – Calls the Act an "unconstitutional assault" on Muslim personal and religious autonomy.

5. Tamilaga Vetttri Kazhagam (TVK) – Party President and actor Vijay is among the petitioners.

Civil Society Petitioners

- Association for Protection of Civil Rights

- All India Association of Jurists

These groups have emphasized that the law enables disproportionate government control over Muslim institutions and undermines civil liberties.

States supporting the amendment

Six states—Assam, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, and Maharashtra—have sought to intervene in support of the amendment. They assert that the law introduces transparency, structural reforms, and institutional accountability, and was shaped through extensive stakeholder consultations.

Counter-petition: Waqf Act itself under fire

Interestingly, Advocate Hari Shankar Jain has filed a separate petition challenging the very foundation of the Waqf Act, 1995, arguing that it discriminates against non-Muslims—a parallel legal front that adds complexity to the case reports livelw.in

As the hearings begin, Wednesday, the outcome of these cases could set a significant precedent for how religious endowments are governed in India, particularly in balancing minority rights with state oversight.

Man dies of alleged medical negligence at CD hospital

investigation taken up: Official

sought the attention of higher ups to ensure that such incidents are not repeated.

Meanwhile, an official at the CD hospital Srinagar stated that they have started an investigation in this regard.

"Investigation is going on and any negligence will face the strict action," the official added.

Raid conducted in Balole Khad, Gujjar Basti: Police intensify crackdown on drug network

drugs in the area, especially among the youth. Authorities have reiterated their commitment to root out the drug problem and ensure that those responsible are brought to justice.

The Samba police have stepped up surveillance and community outreach in vulnerable areas, and more such targeted operations are expected in the coming days.

Govt bans manufacture, Sale of 35 fixed-dose combination drugs

include painkillers, nutrition supplements and anti-diabetics.

They have also been asked to review their approval process for such fixed dose combination drugs (FDC) and ensure strict compliance of the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 and rules.

FDC drugs are those which contain a combination of two or more active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) in a fixed ratio.

The regulator issued the directions after it found that certain

FDC drugs have been licensed for manufacture, sale, and distribution without prior evaluation of safety and efficacy, posing a serious risk to public health and safety.

In a communication sent on April 11, Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) Dr Rajeev Raghuvanshi referred to the letter issued by his office on January 2013 where concerns were raised regarding the grant of manufacturing licenses for sale of FDC drugs that fall under the definition of a "New Drug" in the country without due approval from DCGI.

The same concern has been raised from time to time and multiple letters have been issued to the respective state licensing authorities that granted permission for manufacturing and marketing of unapproved FDCs. The most recent such letter was issued in February this year.

"It has come to the notice of this directorate that certain FDC drugs have been licensed for manufacture, sale, and distribution without prior evaluation of safety and efficacy as per the provision of NDCT Rules 2019 under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940. This poses a serious risk to public health and safety," the letter stated.

The approval of such unapproved FDCs compromises patient safety and may lead to adverse drug reactions, drug interactions, and other health hazards due to the absence of scientific validation, the letter underlined.

Upon issuance of show cause notices to the manufacturers, they have stated that these licenses were granted by the respective drug licensing authorities and have not violated any rules, it said.

This has resulted in a lack of uniform enforcement of the provision of NDCT Rules 2019 under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 across the country, the letter pointed out.

"In view of the above, all state and union territory drug controllers are requested to review their approval process for such FDCs and ensure strict compliance of the

provisions of the act and rules," the letter said.

The letter also listed out 35 unapproved FDCs which were earlier licensed by state/ UT drug controllers for manufacture, sale, and distribution without evaluation of safety and efficacy by Central Drugs Standard Organisation (CDSCO) and later on cancelled by Drug Licensing Authorities (SLAs) or voluntarily surrendered by manufacturers following the issuance of show cause notices for reference.

NC rejects Dulat's claims on Farooq Abdullah's stand on Article 370

Ruhullah Mehdi, who alleged being sidelined by the party after supporting student protests, would be addressed internally.

MeT predicts cloudy skies with light rain & thunderstorms in North, Central Kashmir today

reaches at most places. There's a possibility of moderate to heavy rain at isolated to scattered places during April 18-19, accompanied by thunderstorms and gusty winds.

The Met Centre advises all concerned to plan accordingly and follow Admin/Traffic advisories. Farmers are recommended to suspend farm operations during April 18-20 due to the expected weather conditions.

There is also a possibility of moderate snow over higher reaches, particularly on April 19, and landslides, mudslides, and shooting stones at vulnerable places.

After April 20, the weather is expected to dry up, with generally cloudy skies on April 21 having a possibility of light rain/thunder at scattered places, and dry conditions from April 22-27.

GDC Kathua organizes intra-mural Men's Football Tournament

Top News Report

KATHUA, Apr 16: The Sports Board of Government Degree College (GDC) Kathua organized a two-day intra-mural Men's Football Tournament from April 15 to 16, 2025 under FIT India.

Four teams—Blue Warriors, Black Panthers, Pink Knights, and Green Avengers—participated with enthusiasm, showcasing their talent, teamwork, and sporting spirit.

The much-anticipated final match was played between Blue Warriors and Black Panthers, where the Blue Warriors clinched victory



with a thrilling 3-2 win. The closely contested match kept the spectators on the edge of their seats, displaying excellent sportsmanship and competitive energy.

Prof. Seema Mir, Principal of GDC Kathua, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and felicitated the play-

ers with medals. In her address, she applauded the participants and emphasized the importance of sports in a student's life, encouraging them to consider sports as a viable career option alongside academics.

The tournament was organized under the leadership of the

Sports Board of the college, with Prof. Shivani Kotwal serving as the Convener. The Sports Board comprises: Prof. Shivani Kotwal, Dr. Neeraj Gupta, Sh. Sandeep Sharma (PTI), Prof. Ajay Sharma, Dr. Gotam Singh, Dr. Jasvinder, Dr. Jagmohan, and Dr. Pratima Sangra.

Several senior faculty members, including Dr. Sanjay Karlupia, Prof. Neelam, Dr. Dinesh Jasrotia, Prof. Rupinder Kour, Dr. R.K. Manhas, Prof. Rakesh Sharma, and Dr. Yash Paul Sharma, along with all the faculty members were present during the matches and actively encouraged the students throughout the tournament.

The tournament not only fostered a spirit of sportsmanship but also strengthened bonds among students, reinforcing the college's commitment to promoting holistic education and extracurricular excellence.

DPS Nagbani shines at Second J&K UT Muay Thai Championship, 2025

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 16: The Second J&K UT Muay Thai Championship, 2025 concluded on Saturday at the Boxing Ring, University of Jammu.

The event was organized by the Muay Thai Association of J&K in collaboration with the University of Jammu and the J&K Olympic Association.

Students from DPS Nagbani showcased outstanding talent and sportsmanship during the championship.

The medal winners



from the school include, Jeet Singh – Gold Medal, Kavish Kumar– Silver Medal, Jayati – Silver Medal, Aradhya Sharma – Silver Medal. Their achievements reflect the dedication and discipline instilled

by their coach, Mohit Singh. Principal R K Verma-Principal and Bhawna Madaan-Headmistress extended heartfelt congratulations to the students for their remarkable performance.

JKCA organises workshop for State Skill Coaches

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 16: Continuing with its policy of learning being a continuous process that never ends, Jammu & Kashmir Cricket Association has organised another workshop.

Last month a workshop was organised for the Physiotherapists and the present workshop is for the Coaches.

The workshop is being directed by the BCCI's Centre of Excellence (CoE) from April 16 to 17, 2025 at Hostel Ground, Jammu.

24 Coaches are participating in the workshop that includes both men and women. All Coach-



es are already Level 01 or Level 02 qualified and are working with the JKCA teams.

The aim of the workshop is to enhance the skills of the trained Coaches so that they can pass these on to the young cricketers they

are responsible to train. In the inaugural address, Brig. Anil Gupta, Member Administration, JKCA, said, "Each one of you has already walked the hard path of training, studying, and certifying your knowledge of cricket.

You have chosen to be lifelong students of the game.

You now do the role of trainers, mentors and motivators.

At this camp, I urge you to challenge your own methods.

Share openly. Learn

from each other and the expert faculty. Because when you evolve, our players will evolve.

He further exhorted the participants to sharpen their skills, broaden their vision and return to our teams as better equipped Coaches.

The faculty from CoE includes best in its field and is headed by Sujith Somasundar, Head Education BCCI-CoE and an Ex Outstanding Cricketer, Amit Asawa, Batting Faculty, Sanjay Mullasser, Bowling Faculty and Apurva Desai, Master Faculty. The faculty is being assisted by Sahil Magotra, Video Analyst, JKCA.

DC Kishtwar reviews progress under District Capex Plan 2024-25



Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Apr 16: The District Development Commissioner

reviewed the progress of the District Capex Plan 2024-25. The DDC issued clear directives to all Block Development Officers (BDOs) to submit a comprehensive list of ongoing works along with reconciliation statements by tomorrow evening.

He further instructed that 100% completion of all sanctioned works must be ensured within the current financial year.

In addition, the DDC emphasized the timely submission of proposals for new works under the 2024-25 plan, with a deadline set for April 25, 2025, after due consultation with the Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) of the district. He also underscored the importance of verifying the feasibility of all proposed projects, which must be certified by the concerned Tehsildar prior to execution.

The meeting focused on key sectors including Roads and Buildings (R&B), Jal Shakti, Education, Health, and Youth Services & Sports, among others.

During the session, Chief Planning Officer (CPO) Kishtwar briefed the DC on the status of various ongoing works including under BDC ADP, DDC Plan, undertaken as part of the cur-

rent Capex plan 2024-25. The DDC issued clear directives to all Block Development Officers (BDOs) to submit a comprehensive list of ongoing works along with reconciliation statements by tomorrow evening. He further instructed that 100% completion of all sanctioned works must be ensured within the current financial year. In addition, the DDC emphasized the timely submission of proposals for new works under the 2024-25 plan, with a deadline set for April 25, 2025, after due consultation with the Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) of the district. He also underscored the importance of verifying the feasibility of all proposed projects, which must be certified by the concerned Tehsildar prior to execution. The meeting was attended by EO Municipality/Deputy Registrar Cooperatives Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal, various BDOs, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti, Dy. CEO Kishtwar, AD Planning RDD, and officials from other line departments.

Randhawa inaugurates Dream India Institute of Hotel Management



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 16: Choudhary Vikram Randhawa, MLA from Bahu Fort, inaugurated the Dream India Institute of Hotel Management (DIHM), a new hotel management institute, on Wednesday.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Shivani Jamwal, the Managing Director of the institute And Manu Singh Jamwal.

Speaking on the occasion, Randhawa stated that this institute will serve as a great platform for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized that it will not only equip them with valuable skills but also provide employment opportunities.

He encouraged young

men and women to take full advantage of this initiative and step forward toward a brighter future.

Randhawa highlighted that the institute aims to offer world-class education and training for aspiring professionals in the hospitality industry.

Managing Director Shivani Jamwal shared that the objective of the institute is to develop competent and responsible professionals, providing them with the necessary skills and experience to lead in various sectors of the hospitality industry. She added that DIHM is committed to delivering international-level education to prepare students for high-level careers in both domestic and global hospitality markets. Jamwal further

elaborated that the institute will train future managers in diverse fields such as hotels, restaurants, flight catering, airline crew services, offshore catering, and hospitality catering.

The institute boasts a well-equipped infrastructure with modern classrooms, training kitchens, a training restaurant, Bar Training, Food production, and dedicated front office and housekeeping training rooms.

Regarding courses, she informed that for the Diploma in Vocation (D.Voc), candidates must have passed either 10th or 12th grade, and the course duration is one year. For the Bachelor of Vocation (B.Voc) degree, candidates must have completed 12th grade, with a course duration of three years.

Other present in the occasion Social Activists Anil Sharma, Naresh Singh Jasrotia, Jaid-eep Singh, Shakshish Sharma, Shavani, Priya, Amanpreet, Nandani, Shiska Sharma, Nitika and Anil.

Rashtriya Bajrang Dal protests against attacks on Hindus in Bengal, demands President's Rule

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 16: The Rashtriya Bajrang Dal held a strong protest on Wednesday against the alleged rising attacks on Hindus in West Bengal, condemning the Bengal government and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

During the demonstration, effigies of Mamata Banerjee were burned, symbolizing public outrage over what the organization called the state's "complete failure to protect Hindu communities."

Speaking at the protest, Rakesh Bajrang, President of Rashtriya Bajrang Dal, Jammu and Kashmir, claimed that in Murshidabad, more than 500 Hindu families have been forced to flee due to violent attacks.

"Houses were burnt, Hindu families assaulted, temples vandalized, and shops looted—all while the government remained a silent spectator," he said.

Rakesh Bajrang drew parallels between the



present situation in Bengal and the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits in 1990, calling it "a planned conspiracy to drive Hindus out of the region."

He questioned those who dismissed the truth of The Kashmir Files, asking what they now have to say about the emerging "Bengal Files." He further alleged that jihadist elements are systematically targeting Hindus across the country.

Referring to a recent incident in Nashik, Bajrang said that violence erupted over the tomb of Aurangzeb, leading to attacks on Hindu households.

He also condemned the recent attack on a police party in Bari Brahmana, Jammu, in which Inspector Pushpendra Singh and three other officers were seriously injured.

"These types of incidents are increasing rapidly, and political parties that stay silent or lend support to such violence are equally responsible," Bajrang said. The Rashtriya Bajrang Dal demanded that the Central Government immediately impose President's Rule in West Bengal, take strict action against rioters, and ensure the safety and security of Hindus in the state.

He emphasized that Hindus, who have always upheld the Constitution and spoken for national unity, are now being persecuted in their own country.

"Hindus are being pushed to the edge," he warned. "If these attacks do not stop, the Hindu community will not remain silent—it will rise, and it will respond."

Bajrang concluded with a direct appeal to the Prime Minister and Home Minister, urging them to take firm and decisive action against the Mamata Banerjee government and restore peace and justice in West Bengal.

GDC Sidhra organises 'Awareness Lecture' to commemorate 'Poshan Pakhwada'

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 16: NSS Unit of GDC Sidhra in collaboration with Ayush Dept. under the aegis of IQAC organised an awareness lecture to commemorate the 7th Poshan Pakhwada that is being celebrated from April 8 to 23, 2025.

Poshan Pakhwada 2025, focuses on the first 1,000 Days of child's life as it is a critical period for child's development.

It emphasises on outcome based activities planned around nutrition sensitisation for improving the nutritional outcomes

and well being by strengthening implementation of nutrition related services while ensuring active community participation. Poshan Pakhwada 2025 Use of technology - Poshan Tracker at Anganwadi Centers, Community-Based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) Protocol helps in early detection and community-based management of malnutrition. Poshan Abhiyan aims to promote a healthy and nutritious diet among children and women with the blend of technology and tradition.

Dr. Sarika, Medical Officer, Dept. of Ayush, Bain Bajalta

was the resource person for the event.

She explained in detail about Poshan Maah. She emphasised on the importance of nutrition and balanced diet in our lives.

She elaborated on various themes of Poshan Abhiyan like maternal and infant nutrition, combating childhood obesity and digital accessibility for beneficiaries. She also interacted with students and listened to their problems.

She also prescribed and distributed medicines to the students to treat their problems.

At last, Principal of the college, Dr. G.S Rakwal spoke on the occasion and stressed on the importance of good health.

He further advised the students to maintain healthy lifestyles and motivated them to adapt various necessary changes for the same.

The program was organised by Dr. Purvaiya Hans, NSS PO with active support and coordination of all the committee members of NSS Unit under the able guidance of the Principal of the College, Dr. G.S Rakwal. All the faculty members were present during the event.

Bumrah’s form in spotlight as Mumbai Indians, Sunrisers Hyderabad search for consistency

31-year-old will face stern test against fearsome Sunrisers line-up comprising Travis Head, Abhishek Sharma, Ishan Kishan and Heinrich Klaasen

MUMBAI, Apr 16 (Agencies): An inconsistent Mumbai Indians will hope that ace pacer Jasprit Bumrah returns to his menacing best, which is essential for them to stop an explosive Sunrisers Hyderabad batting unit in its tracks in a potentially high-scoring IPL match here on Thursday.

Coming off a three-month long injury layoff, Bumrah is yet to find the accuracy which makes him a tough customer to deal with.

After a rather tidy outing against Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Bumrah struggled to nail his yorkers and was taken apart by Delhi Capitals’ Karun Nair as he leaked 44 runs in that game.

The 31-year-old will face a stern test against a fearsome Sunrisers line-up comprising Travis Head, Abhishek Sharma, Ishan Kishan and Heinrich Klaasen.

But the five-time champions will also want former captain Rohit Sharma to get back to his run-making ways at the earliest as his current tally is an underwhelming 56 runs from five matches at an average of 11.20.

It has played a massive role in them languishing at the seventh place in the points table with just two wins, and those results were largely built around the contributions of Suryakumar Yadav and Tilak Varma.

Rohit, who has persisted with his ultra-aggressive approach, has struggled against left-arm pace but there could be some respite given SRH don’t have any frontline left-arm seamer



unless they bring in Jaydev Unadkat.

While Suryakumar has still not been at his brutal best, being retired out against Lucknow Super Giants served as a wake-up call for Tilak.

After that difficult outing in Lucknow, Tilak has responded with scores of 56 (29b) and 59 (33b) to indicate his return to form.

Naman Dhir remains a vital cog for MI as he has been given the role of an aggressor with the bat in the death overs, but otherwise he has been their best fielder this season.

The way MI clinched a win from Delhi with accurate fielding might just ignite the missing spark in their camp.

Interestingly, both MI and SRH were able to snap their disappointing run with impressive wins in their previous outings. But it remains to be seen if they are able to attain consistency, which will define their future in the competition.

SRH’s struggles

Nearing the halfway mark, the Sunrisers are also struggling to find their range, tottering at ninth on the table with only net run rate separating the two teams after four losses and two wins in six matches each. MI has an NRR of +0.10 while SRH’s run-rate stands at -1.24.

But MI will have to be wary of SRH’s batters who have given signs of finding back their mojo after a lull.

Each of the top four — Head, Abhishek, Klaasen and Kishan — fired on all cylinders to stun Punjab Kings to give SRH their second win of the season.

Chasing, SRH scored nearly 250 runs to beat PBKS by eight wickets with their batters, especially Abhishek, finding their lost rhythm collectively after the 2016 winners lost four matches on the trot.

Coming off a splendid 55-ball 141, Abhishek will look to draw confidence from his last outing

here at the Wankhede Stadium in February this year when he took apart England’s bowling to score 135 in the fifth T20I for India.

Kishan too would be eager to make this outing against his former franchise count on what had been his home ground for several seasons.

The nature of the Wankhede Stadium pitch often ensures tall totals here, but the bowlers can look forward to some bounce off the surface.

Teams (from):

Mumbai Indians: Hardik Pandya ©, Rohit Sharma, Suryakumar Yadav, Robin Minz (wk), Ryan Rickelton (wk), Shrijith Krishnan (wk), Bevon Jacobs, Tilak Varma, Naman Dhir, Will Jacks, Mitchell Santner, Raj Angad Bawa, Vignesh Puthur, Corbin Bosch, Trent Boult, Karn Sharma, Deepak Chahar, Ashwani Kumar, Reece Topley, VS Penmetsa, Arjun Tendulkar, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Jasprit Bumrah.

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

Match starts at 7:30pm IST.

Suruchi Singh wins back-to-back WC gold; silver for Manu Bhaker

China’s Yao Qianxun took the bronze



LIMA, Apr 16 (Agencies): Teenaged shooter Suruchi Inder Singh produced yet another sterling performance in the 10m air pistol event here to clinch her second consecutive ISSF World Cup gold, while Paris Olympics medallist Manu Bhaker bagged the silver to ensure India’s domination in the competition.

The Hjaajar-based Suruchi, 18, who had won her maiden World Cup gold in the season’s inaugural global event recently, tallied 243.6 in the 24-shot final, to leave Manu 1.3 points behind her.

China’s Yao Qianxun took the bronze. Suruchi and Manu’s podium finish meant that India collected one medal of each colour on the day, with men’s 10m air pistol marksman Saurabh Chaudhary earlier winning a bronze.

India’s exploits in the women’s 10m air pistol competition in the Peruvian capital has taken the country to the top of the standings with three medals, followed by China, which has won the men’s air pistol gold.

There were clear indications during the 60-shot qualification round that the Indian duo would comfortably make it to the finals from a 28-strong field. Suruchi took the second spot with a regulation 582, while Manu was fourth with 578.

Sainyam, the third Indian in the fray, was 11th with 571.

Suruchi was at a different level in the

final, carrying on her superb form in the last few months to quickly move to second after the first series of five shots.

Yao had taken an early lead and Manu was fourth with Uruguay’s Julieta Jimenez, who shot a good final, in third at that stage.

After the second five-shot series, Yao had compatriot Meng Yufei breathing down her neck, just 0.1 behind, while Suruchi moved down to third with Manu holding on to her fourth position.

The Indians, Suruchi in particular, then came into their elements as Meng had a meltdown of sorts. A couple of high 10s ensured that after the 13th single shot, it was an Indian 1-2 with the Chinese falling out of the top-two contention.

Manu then had a couple of mid to low 9s for her 16th and 17th shots, which probably cost her the gold in the end. Suruchi emerged as the more consistent shooter on the day.

Yao then had a good run and dethroned Julieta for bronze, but with the final two shots left, it was Suruchi who was ahead of Manu by 0.7 points.

The teenager scored better on the last two shots to beat the more experienced Manu and extend a sensational run of form, which began with the nationals in December last year.

Suruchi had also won the 10m air pistol mixed team bronze with Saurabh in Buenos Aires.

Delhi Capitals inspire young cricketers with ‘Beyond Boundaries’ masterclass in Gurgaon

GURUGRAM, Apr 16 (Agencies): The Delhi Capitals franchise advanced its commitment to grassroots cricket by hosting a masterclass for young cricketers at Conscient Sports Arena, Gurgaon, as part of its global Beyond Boundaries Initiative.

The girls and boys who participated in the masterclass, belonging to Delhi Capitals’ grassroots academies, have been beneficiaries of this initiative.

The masterclass featured Delhi Capitals stars KL Rahul, Abhishek Porel, and Vipraj Nigam, alongside Director of Cricket Venugopal Rao, head coach Hemang Badani, and bowling coach Munaf Patel.

The training session delivered practical insights into technical

skills building, developing physical strength and mental discipline - offering the young players a unique opportunity to learn directly from some of cricket’s biggest stars and seasoned coaches, as per the Delhi Capitals press release.

Sunil Gupta, Chief Executive Officer, Delhi Capitals, said, as quoted by a press release, “This masterclass reinforces Delhi Capitals’ and DP World’s shared commitment of empowering the next generation of cricketers, be it by providing access to the right equipment and facilities, or training sessions and inspiration from their cricketing idols. Watching these young cricketers train today and seeing their hunger to learn was incredibly fulfilling.” The participants were kitted out in the

professional gear they had previously received in 2024, when DP World delivered 500 kits to grassroots academies and unveiled two repurposed shipping containers at Delhi’s Aerocity Ground. These containers, each uniquely designed with custom artwork, now serve as functional changing rooms and pavilions for young players.

Since launching during the 2023 ICC Men’s Cricket World Cup, DP World has pledged ten cricket kits for every 100 runs scored in ICC tournaments, pledging 4,470 kits to date. Of that figure, DP World has delivered 2,750 cricket kits so far globally, including 1,250 in India, with five repurposed containers deployed across the country in Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, and Ahmedabad.

All players are confident & experienced to handle any situation: KKR captain Ajinkya Rahane banking on team to turn things around

MULLANPUR, Apr 16 (Agencies): The Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), defending champions of the Indian Premier League (IPL), suffered a narrow 16-run loss in a low-scoring thriller against Punjab Kings, here at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Cricket Stadium. Harshit Rana’s three-fer, alongside braces from Sunil Narine and Varun Chakaravathy, went in vain as the hosts defending the target in an engaging contest.

Reflecting on the match, KKR captain Ajinkya Rahane said in the post-match press conference as quoted by KKR press release, “The wicket was a good one, even though the ball was stopping a bit.



Our bowlers bundled them out for 111 and did half the job. Chasing 112 on this wicket was comparatively easy, especially after the start we got. It wasn’t like Punjab Kings bowled exceptionally, we just didn’t bat as well.”

The captain also highlighted the learnings from the game, backing his team to respond

going into their next match. “We’re halfway through the tournament, and there are seven matches to go in the league stage. It’s always about coming back with good intent, while still looking to learn and improve as a batter and take it on in the next game.”

Halfway through their league stage matches,

Kolkata Knight Riders have bagged three wins in the tournament so far. However, Rahane insisted that the batting unit have to learn to grind out results in certain situations.

“It’s not about hitting sixes every time and getting that net run rate up. It wasn’t a belter or a flat wicket, there was something for the bowlers. So, we had to grind it out. Even though sometimes you have to play a maiden over in T20 cricket or play at a strike rate of 70-80, it’s okay. But you have to grind it out. T20 cricket is not only about hitting sixes, even though we’re seeing most players trying to look for the big shots. It’s not about that, it’s about reading

the situation and having the game awareness as a batter and then take the game forward. That’s what we lacked today”, he said as quoted by the press release.

With seven matches remaining in the league stage for KKR, the captain is confident that there is no room for complacency in this experienced setup. “All the players are confident and experienced enough to handle any situation. I wouldn’t say we were complacent or are taking things for granted. I don’t think we’re doing that. We didn’t bat well and didn’t have the awareness to play according to what the situation demanded, but we learn from it”, he concluded.

“Next two to three years are crucial for women’s hockey”: Dilip Tirkey ahead of India vs Australia five-match Hockey series

BHUBANESWAR, Apr 16 (Agencies): Hockey India President Dilip Tirkey emphasised that the next two to three years will be crucial for Indian women’s hockey. With the Asian Games, the World Cup, and the Olympics on the horizon, along with several important tournaments in between, the team is entering a pivotal phase.

The Indian women’s team is set to tour Perth, Australia, where they will play five matches. The tour will begin with two games against Australia A, followed by three matches against the senior Australian team. All fixtures will be held at the Perth Hockey Stadium. This tour is seen as a key preparatory assignment ahead of the FIH Pro League 2024-25, which is scheduled for June.

“The next two to three years are crucial for women’s hockey...

This month, five matches will be played in Perth, Australia... For the first time, five young players who performed well in the Hockey India League have been selected for this team... Many important tournaments are coming up after that, like the (Women’s FIH) Pro League and the Asia Cup, and then the Olympics and World Cup next year. Looking at future tournaments, it is important for young players to gain experience. So the Australia round is important for young players,” Dilip Tirkey said while speaking to agency.

Five new players have received their first senior national call-ups. This tour is particularly important for the young players as it offers them a valuable opportunity to gain experience by playing alongside and against senior inter-

national players. Touring Australia is especially significant for the youngsters, as they will be tested against high quality opposition in challenging conditions a crucial step in their development at the international level.

Hockey India announced a 26-member squad on Monday for the upcoming tour, which will take place from April 26 to May 4.

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

Seasoned goalkeeper Savita and young talent Bichu Devi Kharibam will share responsibili-

ties between the posts, providing a strong last line of defence, Hockey India said.

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

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

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

Palzor Tamang signs with UK’s Felling Cricket Club, marks major milestone for Sikkim Cricket

GANGTOK, Apr 16 (Agencies): In a proud moment for Sikkim cricket, all-rounder Palzor Tamang has signed a six-month contract with Felling Cricket Club in England.

The Sikkim Cricket Association (SICA) confirmed the development, marking Tamang as only the second cricketer from the state to secure an overseas club contract after Nilesh Lamichaney.

Tamang, a key player for the Sikkim Senior Men’s Team, has already arrived in England and will represent the club across various competitions, including the prestigious ECB-affiliated North East Premier League, part of the England and Wales Cricket Board’s (ECB) Premier League structure, as per the SICA press release.

A seasoned seam bowler and dependable lower-order batter, Tamang made his first-class debut in the 2018-19 Indian domestic season. In January 2020, he etched his name in history as

the first homegrown Sikkim cricketer to take a five-wicket haul in first-class cricket. He later became the first to reach the 50-wicket milestone in the format for the state.

His batting prowess was on full display in the 2023-24 season when he scored his maiden first-class century against Arunachal Pradesh, underlining his value as a true all-rounder. Tamang also served as captain of the Sikkim Senior Men’s Team during the same season, leading with grit and composure.

In addition to his cricketing career, Tamang serves as an Inspector in Sikkim Police, showcasing his commitment both on and off the field.

SICA expressed pride in Tamang’s achievement, noting that this overseas stint will contribute significantly to his development and reflect the growing stature of cricket in Sikkim. He is expected to return in September to rejoin Sikkim for the upcoming Indian domestic season.

CM Omar Abdullah inaugurates e-SEHAT App, one-stop healthcare solution for J&K citizens

Top News Report

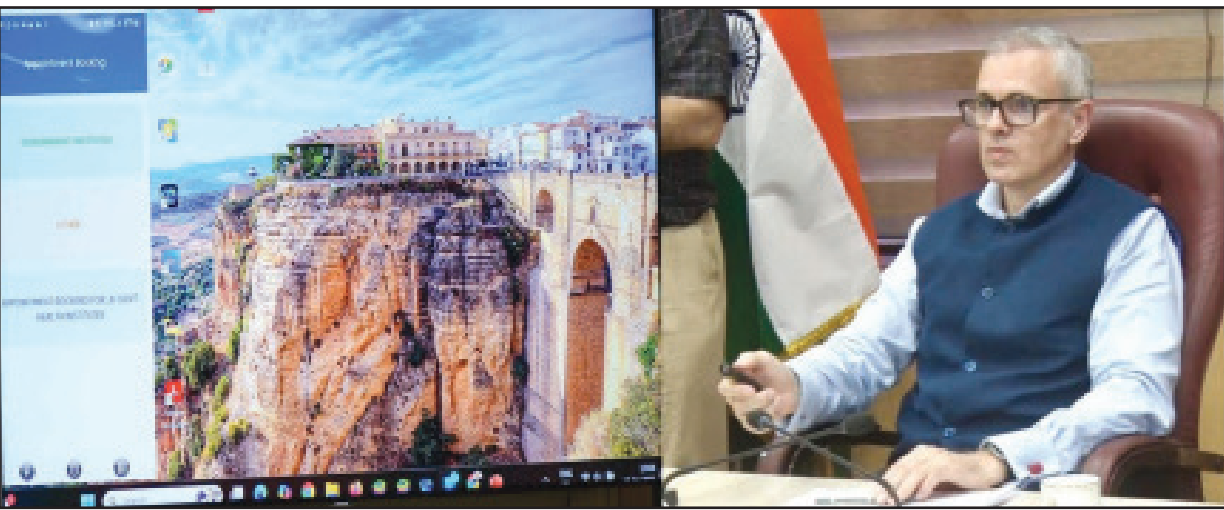
JAMMU, Apr 16: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday launched the e-SEHAT App — a comprehensive, one-stop digital solution designed to cater to the healthcare needs of the people of Jammu & Kashmir, including citizens, doctors and medical professionals.

The Chief Minister congratulated the team for developing such an elaborate and wide-ranging application that addresses the health needs of J&K's citizens.

He suggested making the app more user-friendly and incorporating additional features, including the integration of the appointment system of empanelled private health institutions.

The Chief Minister also directed the concerned authorities to conduct hands-on training through scheduled workshops for the staff to familiarize them with the application. "Once the staff is trained, awareness campaigns can be launched to educate the public about the app and its benefits," he said.

To ensure effective implementation and monitoring, he called for regular reviews — weekly by the Secretary, Health & Medical Education; monthly by



the Chief Secretary; and quarterly by the Minister In-charge — to assess the app's performance and progress.

The launch event was attended by Minister for Health & Medical Education Sakeena Itoo, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to CM Dheeraj Gupta, Secretary Health & Medical Education Syed Abid Rashid, DG BISAG-N, Principals of various Government Medical Colleges, Medical Superintendents, HoDs and other concerned officials. Earlier, Secretary H&ME Syed Abid Rashid gave a detailed presentation outlining the objectives, purpose, and target users of the SEHAT App.

He informed that the department has developed a cutting-edge digital application designed to guide and support patients and their atten-

dants in accessing healthcare facilities and services across both public and private sectors in Jammu & Kashmir.

He stated that the SEHAT App is a smart e-health solution offering tele-diagnosis and first opinion for healthcare needs. Useable from home, offices, or hospitals, the app is especially beneficial in remote areas and serves a broad range of users including the general public, patients, healthcare professionals, medical students, and aspirants of medical and paramedical courses.

The SEHAT App offers a wide array of features aimed at improving healthcare access and delivery across Jammu & Kashmir. It provides detailed information related to healthcare institutions, including doctors' availability,

options for appointment bookings, diagnostic and surgical services, as well as tele-consultation, telemedicine, and emergency care. For the general public, the app includes tools for health promotion and disease prevention, an AI-powered symptoms checker, health tracking capabilities, medication reminders, integration with wearable devices, and multilingual support.

Healthcare professionals can benefit from secure messaging, access to Electronic Health Records (EHR), prescription and billing management, lab result integration, academic resources, and opportunities for research. The app also supports medical students by offering information on academic courses, hostel accommodations, library facilities, and student exchange programs.

Additionally, SEHAT

includes helpline services for hospital assistance, ambulance information, and feedback mechanisms.

It facilitates a coordinated referral mechanism through hospital networking for efficient patient transfers and emergency support. The app also provides comprehensive details on health insurance schemes such as PMJAY, CGHS, and ECHS.

Furthermore, it promotes skill development through CPR and Basic Life Support (BLS) training, workshops, and various continuing education programs.

The Secretary emphasized that the SEHAT App is aimed at strengthening collaboration between healthcare providers, patients and insurers by improving communication and facilitating access to healthcare resources.

AAI Jammu hands over two ambulances to SMGS Hospital under CSR Initiative



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 16: As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, the Airports Authority of India (AAI), Civil Airport Jammu, on Wednesday handed over two fully-equipped ambulances to SMGS Hospital, Government Medical College Jammu.

One Critical Care Ambulance (CCA) equipped with advanced life-saving equipment to handle emergency and high-dependency cases and one Basic Life Support (BLS) Ambulance, designed to provide essential pre-hospital

care and patient transport were handed over.

This initiative is aimed at strengthening the emergency medical response and enhancing healthcare infrastructure in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

The formal handing over ceremony was held in the presence of Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, Sanjeev Kumar Garg, Airport Director, AAI, Civil Airport Jammu and Dr. Dara Singh, Medical Superintendent of SMGS Hospital, Jammu.

Speaking on the occasion, Sanjeev Kumar

Garg, Airport Director, AAI Jammu, highlighted AAI's continued commitment to public welfare and community support through its CSR programs.

The hospital administration expressed sincere gratitude to AAI for its valuable contribution, which will go a long way in improving patient care and emergency response services in the region.

Airports Authority of India remains committed to contributing meaningfully to the society it serves, particularly in critical areas like healthcare, education, and sustainability.

AICC Secretary Neeraj Kundan conducts surprise inspection of Arnika Hospital, exposes negligence

Top News Report

ARNIKA, Apr 16: AICC Secretary and Co-Incharge Organization, Neeraj Kundan, conducted a surprise inspection of the hospital in Arnika block, revealing serious lapses in its operations.

Speaking to the media, the Congress leader highlighted the stark contrast between the government's claims and the ground reality.

Kundan revealed that the previous night, a citizen in Arnika suffered a heart attack and urgently required an ambulance.

However, the ambulance at the hospital failed to start, causing significant distress to the patient, who was eventually transported to the hospital in a private vehicle, risking their life.

Neeraj Kundan said "Today, we are here to inspect the hospital to bring the administration's reality to the



public".

He expressed dismay that the hospital is functioning "at the mercy of God," lacking even basic facilities.

The X-ray machine, generators are non-functional, and there is a severe shortage of infrastructure, he said.

Kundan emphasized that Arnika, one of the largest towns in Jammu & Kashmir and located near the border, should have at least three operational ambulances. "Shockingly, not even one is functional," he said.

He questioned the hospital's preparedness to handle emergencies, such as injuries from ceasefire violations, given its current state.

Urging immediate action, Kundan requested the administration to urgently address the deficiencies at Arnika hospital. He warned that failure to do so would lead to strong protests.

Others present were Kailash Saini Block President Arnika, Yashpal Budda, Vinod Shastri, Satpal, Ramesh Chandra, Subhash Chander, Satinder and others.

All MLAs should unite and raise their voice against private schools loot: Amit Kapoor

Parents demanding age relaxation one year for Ist class

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 16: under the leadership of Parents Association President Amit Kapoor, a large number of children and their parents protested strongly outside the Press Club of Jammu and demanded immediate orders to give age relaxation to first class children.

They also demanded to curb the looting by private schools and asked all the MLAs of Jammu and Kashmir to unite and raise their voice against the looting by private schools. In this protest led by Amit Kapoor, President of Parents Association Jammu, the protesters were raising slogans like restore age relaxation, stop changing books and uniforms every year in private schools, issue order for age relaxation for first class soon.

Addressing the protesters, Amit Kapoor said that in other states of the country, all the children have been admitted to the first class but in Jammu and Kashmir, no order has been issued regarding this yet, due to which parents have to come out on the streets with their children and protest. He said that the Principal Secretary of the Education Department has said that he is looking into this matter while the Director of School Education is not taking any decision in this regard yet while the time of children is being wasted day by day.

Along with this, he said that many private schools are looting the parents by changing books and uniforms every year while the concerned officials are not ready to take any concrete steps to stop this loot. He requested



the ADC of Jammu to conduct raids like last year so that the nexus of books and uniforms can be curbed. He also requested all the MLAs of Jammu to rise above party ideology and unite and raise their voice against the loot of private schools. He said that this is an issue related to the family, so they should raise their voice on this issue.

At the same time, Amit Kapoor

has warned that if the order regarding age relaxation is not issued within two days, then he will intensify his movement against it and if needed, he will also block the highway.

Apart from prominent Dr. Thapa, Amrik Singh, Sonia Dogra, Ishan Singh, Anju Devi, a large number of small children and their parents were also present in the protest.

Ripe Crops at risk of fire, farmers' worries escalate

Farmers' leader demands Crop Insurance, Fire Brigades at Panchayat Level

Top News Report

R S PURA, Apr 16: With the onset of summer, wheat crops are now fully ripe, and incidents of fire in the fields have raised serious concerns among farmers.

According to them, one of the main reasons for these fires is the sagging electricity wires that run over the fields. Apart from this, several other factors continue to pose a fire threat to standing crops.

Farmers' leader Subhash Dasgotra stated that every year, hundreds of acres of crops are destroyed by fire, but the affected farmers receive no compensation. He demanded that



the government include fire incidents under the crop insurance scheme so that farmers can get some relief in such cases.

He also suggested that fire brigade vehicles should be stationed at every village council (panchayat) level, ensuring immediate response in case of fire and minimizing the loss to farmers.

Meanwhile, Gulshan Sharma, Assistant Executive Engineer of the electricity department, informed that all junior engineers have been instructed to inspect fields and suspend electricity supply in agricultural areas until the harvesting is complete. This step is aimed at preventing potential damage to crops due to accidental fires.

Abdul Hameed Gojre raises voice for J&K at national meeting in Delhi

Top News Report

NEW DELHI, Apr 16: In a significant move aimed at bringing the voice of the people of Jammu and Kashmir to the national forefront, Abdul Hameed Gojre, the State President of the Indian Praja Congress (J&K), participated in a high-level meeting held at the party's national headquarters in New Delhi. The meeting was presided over by National President K. B. Shridhar.

During the crucial discussions, President Gojre highlighted the prevailing hardships faced by the general public in the Kashmir Valley. Speaking to media persons after

the meeting, he painted a heartfelt picture of daily struggles—soaring unemployment, the rising menace of drug addiction among youth, and the lack of basic amenities.

"The people of Jammu and Kashmir are suffering. The need of the hour is urgent and empathetic governance," Gojre said, appealing to both the Lieutenant Governor of J&K and the Prime Minister of India for immediate intervention.

He called for the provision of free electricity, ration for poor families, and employment opportunities for every unemployed youth in the region.

His voice carried the echoes of a region long-



ing for peace, prosperity, and progress.

"Our youth are the soul of the valley—but they are slipping into darkness due to unemployment and despair. We must act now, before

the shadows grow deeper," he expressed with urgency.

National President K. B. Shridhar extended his full support, assuring that the party remains committed to resolving

the issues of the people of J&K.

The Indian Praja Congress, he affirmed, stands with the common people and will continue to raise their voice on every national platform.