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BRIEFLY

Ladakh adopts SOP for streamlined online transfer system in health department

JAMMU, Apr 17 (Agencies): To ensure transparency and uniformity in transfers and postings, the Union Territory of Ladakh has introduced a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for an online transfer system within the Health and Medical Education Department. The move aims to establish a structured mechanism for the annual collection and processing of transfer applications, promoting efficiency and accountability in administrative operations.

ITBP personnel dies of cardiac arrest in Jammu

SRINAGAR, Apr 17 (Agencies): An ITBP jawan from Pathankot died of a cardiac arrest in Udhampur district of Jammu division on Thursday.

An official said the jawan, identified as Didhar Singh, a resident of Pathankot, was travelling from Pathankot to Srinagar when he fell unconscious inside a bus near Dramthal, close to Prem Mandir on the National Highway.

He was shifted to CHC Chenani, where doctors declared him brought dead. The body was later moved to the mortuary at Chenani for legal and medico-legal formalities.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognisance of the incident and initiated an investigation.

Fire leaves residential house among 3 structures damaged in Rajouri

RAJOURI, Apr 17 (Agencies): A fire broke out in the Fatehpur area of Rajouri town in Jammu and Kashmir.

The incident reportedly occurred due to a lightning strike.

Local residents said that natural lightning struck a building in the Fatehpur area of Rajouri, igniting flames that engulfed a printing press, a house, and a jute bag manufacturing unit.

Within minutes, the three establishments were reduced to ashes, causing damage to the property worth crores.

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JK BJP holds protest against Cong, says ED chargesheet against Gandhis final nail in party's coffin

JAMMU, Apr 17 (Agencies): The BJP on Thursday held a protest against the Congress and said the ED filing a chargesheet in the National Herald case against Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi is the final nail in the coffin of the opposition party, whose leaders are "neck-deep in corruption".

The protesters also criticised the Congress for labelling the Enforcement Directorate (ED) action as an act of vendetta.

The ED has filed a chargesheet against Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi



and others before a special court here in the National Herald case, accusing them of allegedly laundering Rs 988 crore.

The Congress on Tuesday alleged the ED action was "vendetta politics" and that seizing of assets in the case was a "state-sponsored crime masquerading as the rule of law".

Hundreds of BJP activists and leaders, including MLAs Yudhvir Sethi and Arvind Gupta, assembled at the Kachi Chawani Chowk and held a protest march against the Congress.

They raised slogans against Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, and burnt their effigies.

"This is the final nail in the coffin of the Con-

gress, Sonia Gandhi and her son Rahul Gandhi. The protests by the Congress and allegations of vendetta politics are baseless given their involvement in the misappropriation of public properties allocated to the National Herald newspaper. They will be behind bars," MLA Sethi told reporters here.

He said the ED has taken this step based on ample evidence and the Congress leaders will face imprisonment for corruption and misappropriation of public funds.

Former minister Priya Sethi also criticised the Congress leadership.

Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi should

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Six from J&K make it to IAS and IPS, Cadres allotted by Centre

SRINAGAR, Apr 17 (Agencies): The Ministry of Home Affairs has announced cadre allocations for candidates selected for the Indian Police Service (IPS) through the Civil Services Examination 2023. Among the 200 IPS officers chosen nationwide, two candidates from Jammu and Kashmir—Ghulam Mayadin and Abhinandan Singh—have secured positions. Mayadin has been allotted the Manipur cadre while Singh has been assigned to the Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram-Union Territories (AGMUT) cadre.

Personnel had finalised the cadre allotment for candidates selected for the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) through the same examination. Out of 181 IAS officers selected across the country, four are from Jammu and Kashmir.

Anmol Rathore, who secured an All India Rank (AIR) of 7, has been allotted the AGMUT cadre. Arjun Gupta, with AIR 32, also from Jammu and Kashmir, has similarly been placed in the AGMUT cadre. Two other candidates—Aparajita Aryan (AIR 381), belonging to the Scheduled Caste category, has been

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Earlier, the Ministry of

Incharge XEN attached, Another given addl charge

JAMMU, Apr 17 (Agencies): In an administrative reshuffle, the Jammu and Kashmir Government has attached Er Shoket Ali, In-charge Executive Engineer of Public Works (R&B) Division, Nowshera (District Rajouri), to the office of the Chief Engineer, PW (R&B) Department, Zone Jammu.

Consequently, Er. Sardar Khan, who is currently serving as the In-charge Executive Engineer of PW (R&B) Division Rajouri, has

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Mehbooba Mufti accuses BJP of grabbing Waqf Land, Demolishing Mosques

SRINAGAR, Apr 17 (Agencies): Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) President Mehbooba Mufti has accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of hypocrisy, alleging that while it claims to uplift backward Muslims, it is simultaneously demolishing mosques and taking control of Waqf properties.

Speaking at a public gathering in Srinagar, Mehbooba criticised the Jammu and Kashmir administration for abandoning Muslims on the issue of the Waqf Bill. "The government

has remained silent while Muslims across the country are worried about the future of Waqf land. The PDP and the people of Jammu and Kashmir extend full solidarity with them," she said.

Mehbooba particularly condemned mosque demolitions in Uttar Pradesh and said, "You talk about the welfare of backward Muslims, yet your government is razing mosques and laying hands on Waqf land."

She accused the BJP of trying to rewrite India's

inclusive identity. "India belongs to all faiths. It is the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi, not an empire to be ruled. Do not fracture its unity," she said, adding, "The heirs of the Mughals are among you, not us."

On recent developments in West Bengal, she said the BJP stood with those seeking to harm Muslims, referring to incidents in Murshidabad.

Mehbooba also questioned the silence of regional parties and targeted the National

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Widespread rains lash J&K; Gulmarg records highest rainfall

SRINAGAR, Apr 17 (Agencies): Widespread rains lashed several parts of Jammu and Kashmir in the last 24 hours with the tourist resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir receiving the highest rainfall

, Meteorological Department said on Thursday.

MeT said that Jammu and Kashmir is likely to experience isolated light rain and thunderstorms accompanied by gusty winds reaching speeds of 30-40 kmph over the

next 24 hours.

They said the weather conditions are expected to turn more active in the subsequent two days, with fairly widespread light to moderate rain or thundershowers anticipated

across J&K.

Moderate to heavy rain is also likely at a few places on April 18 and 19, along with thunder and gusty winds starting from the evening of April 18 and continuing till late

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Cyber Police conduct raids at multiple locations in Srinagar, Ganderbal

SRINAGAR, Apr 17 (Agencies): In a crackdown on financial cyber-crime, the Cyber Police Kashmir, in collaboration with local police stations, carried out multiple raids across Srinagar and Ganderbal districts on Thursday.

Reliable sources said

that at least three locations in Srinagar and Ganderbal were raided early this morning, with the focus on individuals allegedly involved in facilitating fraudulent transactions through bank accounts opened in their names — commonly referred to as

mule accounts.

Sources confirmed that the raids were launched following credible inputs and technical surveillance by Cyber Police Kashmir. "Cyber police Kashmir is investigating the network of individuals who have allowed their credentials."

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Kupwara Police bust South-North drug route, woman drug kingpin among 3 held

SRINAGAR, Apr 17 (Agencies): In a major crackdown against drug trafficking, Kupwara Police on Thursday arrested three drug smugglers including a woman drug kingpin from South Kashmir and recovered 1.71 kilograms of contraband from their possession.

Addressing a press conference, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kupwara said that the arrests were made last night when a police party intercepted a suspicious vehicle.

"Upon search, three individuals — including a woman identified

as Haseena Begum — were apprehended with a significant quantity of narcotics," he said.

"Haseena Begum is a known drug smuggler with multiple FIRs registered against her across the Valley, including in North Kashmir. She has been actively involved in trafficking contraband from South to North Kashmir," the SSP said.

An FIR has been registered against all three accused, and the vehicle used in the smuggling has also been seized, SSP Jeelani said, adding that further investigations are underway to uncover the broader

network involved in the trade.

The SSP also disclosed that the woman kingpin's brother is a government employee. "We are writing to the Director of CAPD to initiate strict departmental action against him," he said.

To strengthen vigilance, especially in border areas like Tangdhar, the SSP announced the deployment of women personnel from BSF and local police to check female suspects. "Some female traffickers misuse their identity and

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UTHALA

With profound grief and deep sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Sushila Abrol** W/o Shri Dewakar Abrol R/o 63, Rehari Chungi, Jammu. She left for her heavenly abode in the early hours of 15th April 2025.



SMT SUSHILA ABROL

UTHALA will be performed on 18-04-2025 (Friday) at Samriti Bhawan, Gita Mandir, Bakshi Nagar from 3:00 to 4:00 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Dewakar Abrol- **Husband**
Rekha and Er. Rajeev Abrol (Daughter-in-law & Son)
Keshav Abrol - **Son**
Anuradha & Er. P P Arora - **Daughter & Son-in-law**
Manvi & Raghav Abrol -**Grand Daughter-in-law & Grandson**
Rijul Abrol - **Grandson**
Kaira Abrol- **Great Grand Daughter**
Abrol Family
Mob: 9419182233, 7889951060

TENTH DAY KRIYA

We deeply mourn the passing of our mother **Smt. Promila 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 Kashmiri Pandit Dharamshala, Upper road, near Mansa Devi rope way ticket counter, Haridwar.



Smt. Promila Kachroo (Giji)

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

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.



SHRI PURAN NATH PANDITA

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 J Pandita
Daughter and Son-in-law
Smt. Manve Puran Pandita & Dhyara Manve Puran
Smt. Mehak Puran Pandita & Shri Robin Pandita
Brother & Bhabhi
Smt. Kamlesh & Shri Ravinder Pandita
Sisters & Jija Ji
Smt. Dalzy & Shri Sri Krishan Raina
Smt. Sanjay & Shri Satish Thussoo
Smt. Asha & Shri Vinod Dhar
Smt. Kiran & Shri Suresh Pandita
Contact Numbers: 982353047, 9877939543, 8894696900

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.



Smt. Chand Rani Bhat

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 Avyukt

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved mother namely **Smt. Gowri Shori** W/o Late Damodar Bhat erstwhile resident of village Karimabad Pulwama presently residing at H.No. 17, Lane No. 1, near Gemini Palace Laxmi Nagar Muthi, Jammu.



Smt. Gowri Shori

10th Day will be performed on 18-4-2025 (Friday) at Muthi Ghat near Director School Education Jammu at 9:00 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Daughters & Sons-in-law
Smt. Dulari Ganjoo W/o Lt. Sh. M.L. Ganjoo
Smt. Santosh Bhat W/o Sh. Avtar Krishan Bhat
Mob. No.: 7006441046, 9419187535

TENTH DAY KRIYA

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



Kaushalya Wati Razdan

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be observed on the 19th April 2025 at Chota Haridwar, Murad Nagar. A Condolence Assembly will be held separately at our residence: G-1601, Hawelia Valencia Homes, Sector 1, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh at 1 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Razdan Family
Rama Family
Koul Family
Misri Family
CONTACT
NO: 9419207514,
9914884695,
9811108935

KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Ramesh Singh Jasrotia** S/o Late Sh. Janak Singh Jasrotia R/o H.No 745, Subash Nagar, Jalabi Mohr, Jammu. **Kriya** will be performed at our residence on 17-04-2025 (Thursday) at 12:00 Noon. **UTHALA** will be performed at Hari Mandir Rehari on 18/04/25 (Friday) at 4:00 to 5:00 pm.



Sh. Ramesh Singh Jasrotia

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Kunli Jasrotia (Wife)
(Son and Daughter in law)
Sh. Bhanu Jasrotia & Smt. Harshita Singh
(Daughter and Son in law)
Smt. Meghna Thakur & Sh. Sumender Thakur
Grand Children : Aadidev, Pumima, Arunima, Madhav
Mobile: 7006445042, 9858511197

13TH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **H/Capt Prabh Singh** (Age-91) S/o Late Sh. Mubarak Singh, R/o Badhori, Teh-Bari Brahama, (Samba) who left for heavenly abode on 08 Apr 2025.



H/CAPT PRABH SINGH

13TH DAY will be performed on 18 Apr 2025 at our residence Vill- Badhori, Teh- Bari Brahama, (Samba).

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Raj Rani (Wife)
Sister-in-Law & Brother
Smt. Kamla Devi & Late H/Capt Kashmir Singh
Smt. Chanchla Devi & Late Darbara Singh
Daughter-in-Law & Son
Smt. Veena Devi & Sub Maj Parth Singh
Smt. Sanita Jarmwal & Sh. Pavitar Singh
Daughter & Son-in-Law
Smt. Yashoda Devi & Sub Maj Verinder Singh Jasrotia
Smt. Reena Devi & Late H/Capt Raj Singh Pathania
Smt. Anshu Devi & Sub Prithvi Singh Bitoria
grand Daughter-in-Law & Son
Mrs. Soema & Mr. Paramor Singh
Mrs. Nancy & Mr. Jagjit Singh
Mrs. Shradha & Mr. Vishal Jarmwal
Miss Soerat & Mr. Shivay Jarmwal (Great Grand Children)

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.



Sh. Subash Chander Sharma (Rtd Joint Director Prosecution)

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)
Smt. Monika Dubey & Sh. Pawan Sharma (Special Judge CBI Jammu)
Smt. Sonika Dubey & Sh. Ajay Saxena (Multi Metal & Alloys Corp Bari Baranala)
Son & Daughter in law
Smt. Richa Gupta & Sh. Nishant Gupta (Datti Handooms)
GRAND CHILDREN: MANVI, SAKSHI, SHRABAN, VARDAN, VISHU DUBEY & RADHIKA SHARMA
ADIRAJ, ANIKA, JAIVIK, AADHAN & MEHRANSH
Gagan Dubey & Shikha Sharma
MOBILE NO: 7899493317, 7006606585

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.



KARAMYOGI SHAMA PANDITA

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 & Navnit Pandita (DIL & Son)
8826895896 8826824896
Sarojini and Vinod Bhal (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 & Bansi Lal Pandita (SIL & BIL)
Sarla & Bhari Lal Pandita (SIL & BIL)
Pink & Rajnder Pandita (SIL & BIL)
Dura Koul (SIL)
G K Raina (BIL)
Tosha & Avtar Bhat (SIL & BIL)
Yjay & K K Bhat (SIL & BIL)
Grand Children: Urvasi & Sahil Ji, Chetna, Anshul, Aryan, Jiya, Utkarsh & Divisha

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).



Smt Koushalaya Koul

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. Sarfa Dhar & Sh. Bhushan Lal Dhar
GRANDSONS & GRANDDAUGHTERS
Ph: 9622217837, 9419878980, 9419874340, 9103839991

TENTH DAY KRIYA

"Those we love do not go away, they walk beside us every day, unseen, unheard but always near, still missed and very dear"



SMT. NIRMALA KOUL (KARIHOLOO)

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

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

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sister-in-law and Brother-in-law
Sunita and Jawahir Koul Kariholoo
Harshada and Neeraj Koul - **Daughter-in-law & Son**
Neeru and Anil Kapoor- **Daughter and Son-in-law**
Arav, Arian, Anvi, Tashi and Syona- **Grand Children**
Shanta and H L Trakru- **Sister-in-law and Brother-in-law**
Jyoti and J.L. Kak - **Sister-in-law and Brother-in-law**
Indra W/o Late Surinder Koul - **Sister-in-law and Brother-in-law**
CONTACT NO: 9810506108, 9811800642, 8355825772

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



Sdr. Hazoor Singh Sodhi
(8th Sep 1931-30th Mar 2025)

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

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.



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

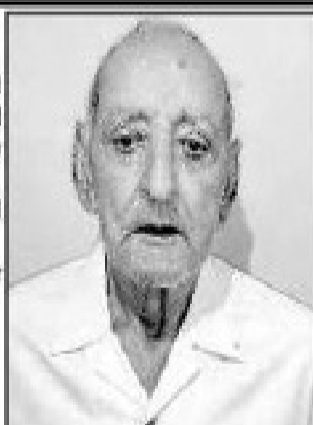
Tenth Day (Satsang) will be performed on 18-04-2025 (Friday) from 12:00 Noon onwards at Vishwakarma mandir near matador stand Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Smt. Krishna Kumari - **Wife**
(Sister in Law & Brother)
Smt. Koushalya Devi & Sh. Chuni Lal
Smt. Anita Kumari & Sh. Vijay Kumar
(Sister & Brother in Law)
Smt. Bimla Devi & Sh. Rattan Lal
(Daughter in Law & Son)
Smt. Anju Bala & Sh. Rakesh Kumar
Smt. Rani Devi & Sh. Pardeep Kumar
(Daughter & Son in Law)
Smt. Nirmala & Sh. Harbans Lal
Smt. Susheela Devi & Sh. Mohinder Lal
Smt. Chander Kanta & Sh. Mahesh Kumar
Grand Children Rateshwar, Pranav, Aarav, Aayra
CONTACT NO: 6005438801, 9541071083, 9469711648

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.



Sh. Krishan Singh Rai

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**
Bhabi and Brother
Smt. Indira Rai and Sh. Bishan Singh Rai
Daughter in laws and Sons.
Smt. Kavita Devi and Sh. Narinder Singh Rai
Smt. Asha Kumari and Sh. Joginder Singh Rai KAS
Smt. Sheetal Rajput and Sh. Sham Singh Rai
Smt. Mansi Singh and Sh. Aditya Dev Singh Rai
GRAND CHILDREN: Saloni, Yogesh, Aviral, Rajesh, Parth, Bhakti
Mobile: 9419175459

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 Aikadal 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.



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

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Smt. Naintara Koul- **Wife** - 9796226378
Bhabhi & Brother
Smt. Bharti & Sh. Vinod Koul- 9419135635
Daughter in law & Son
Smt. Vipasana & Sh. Anuj Kaul
Daughter & Son in law
Smt. Surabhi Koul & Sh. Nitish Bakshi
7727961733
Ms. Snigdha Koul (Daughter)
Baby Kyra Koul (Grand Daughter)
Smt. Shakti 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

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.



Smt. Nancy Pandita

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

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Divisional Level sensitization Workshop organized for District Programme Managers cum Consultants of CSSs



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 17: Divisional level Sensitization workshop for District Programme Managers cum Consultants of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes was on Thursday organized here in Conference Hall Directorate of Health Services under the aegis of National Tobacco Control Programme.

The workshop, held under the supervision and guidance of Director Health Services Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar, was attended by 40 government functionaries from across Jammu Division.

The participating officials were sensitized regarding the Epidemiology and Burden of Tobacco, Tobacco Control Laws including COTPA 2003, WHO FCTC and PECA 2019.

The deliberation further focused on Tobacco Free Educational Institutions and Tobacco Free Villages initiatives of Government of India which aim to reduce the tobacco use at grassroots level.

The speakers were Divisional Nodal Officer, National Tobacco Control Programme Dr. Mridula Singh and Divisional Coordinator Shweta Raina.

National Tobacco Control Programme is being implemented in all Districts of J&K, with the aim to reduce environmental exposure to Tobacco, reduce the tobacco consumption in the masses and promote quitting amongst the youth and masses. Tobacco Cessation services are being provided to all desirous of quitting, free of cost in all District Hospitals in Jammu Division.

DDC assesses progress of Jal Jeevan Mission Projects in Reasi district

Top News Report

REASI, Apr 17: District Development Commissioner Nidhi Malik, who is also Chairperson of the District Jal Jeevan Mission, on Thursday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) initiatives in the district.

The meeting focused on physical and financial progress, status of completed works, Har Ghar Jal Certifications, number of water quality tests conducted, geo-tagged documentation, and submission of Action Taken Reports.

A detailed presentation was delivered, highlighting that out of 121 Water Supply Schemes sanctioned under JJM in Reasi district, 73 have been completed. A scheme-wise and subdivision-wise analysis



was conducted to identify implementation bottlenecks and track progress.

The DDC emphasised the importance of timely and quality execution of all works. She issued strict directives for action against contractors causing unwarranted delays and instructed all Executive Engineers to conduct regular field

visits for inspection and monitoring. She further directed the Superintending Engineer and concerned Executive Engineers to submit detailed status reports for each scheme.

Special instructions were given to Executive Engineer Jal Shakti, Dharmari, to coordinate closely with SDM Mahore to address local

challenges and ensure early completion of pending and non-functional schemes in the Mahore subdivision.

The DDC sought written explanation from both Executive Engineers for their failure to commission the water supply works under the Jal Jeevan Mission. Despite repeated meetings, clear directions,

and multiple extensions of the target deadlines, the work remains incomplete, depriving local residents of access to safe and adequate drinking water. The DDC has expressed serious concern over the continued inaction and has demanded a prompt and satisfactory response from the concerned officer. The DDC highlighted that the meeting underscored the administration's commitment to achieving 100% functional tap water connections under the Jal Jeevan Mission in a timely and efficient manner.

Chief Planning Officer Narinder Kumar, Superintending Engineer Bodh Raj Bhagat, Executive Engineers Rakesh Gupta (Reasi), Kishore Kumar (Dharmari), AE, officials from JPDC and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

Nutrition items distributed at Bal Niketan Ved Mandir

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 17: In a heartwarming gesture of compassion and service, nutrition items were distributed among the children of Bal Niketan, an orphanage at Ved Mandir, Ambphalla.

The event was organized under the Health & Nutrition Support Programme by DABUR India Limited in collaboration with Social Reforms & Charitable Organisation (SR&CO), Kishtwar.

The noble initiative was facilitated by Sanjeev Parihaar, Founder President of SR&CO, who coordinated the provision of the nutrition kits from DABUR India, aiming to support the well-being of underprivileged children.



Gracing the occasion as the Chief Guest was Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, State Yoga Commissioner and President of Vichar Kranti Manch International, who

praised the efforts and emphasized the importance of holistic care for the children.

The event was presided over by K. S. Samyal, President, Senior Citizens Reju-

venation Centre, who highlighted the collective responsibility of society toward its most vulnerable members.

The presence of Shikha Jain, President

ARSH NGO; Nagar Mal Gupta, Secretary Ved Mandir; Alok Sharma, Vice President Ved Mandir; and Sudesh Pal, senior stalwart of Sewa Bharti, further enhanced the grace and impact of the function. The entire staff of Bal Niketan extended wholehearted cooperation in making the programme a success. The event served as a reminder that helping the needy is not just a social responsibility but a divine act of kindness. It is by the grace of the Almighty that some individuals are inspired and engaged in such noble causes.

This initiative reflected the power of collaboration between corporations and social organizations in creating meaningful change.

World Earth Day celebrated at MIER College of Education



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 17: The Environment Unit of MIER College of Education celebrated World Earth Day on April 16, 2025 with a vibrant and inspiring Eco-Friendly Art Projects/Recycled

Art Competition under the theme "Planet vs Plastics."

The initiative aimed to raise awareness about plastic pollution and encourage sustainable practices through artistic expression. Open to students from the School of Education (SOE) and the School of Social Sciences and Humanities (SSSH), the event witnessed enthusiastic participation from around 30 students who showcased their creativity and environmental consciousness through models, collages, paintings, charts, and sculptures made entirely from recycled, reusable, or biodegradable materials.

The competition was judged by Prof. Nishta Rana, Professor and Head, SOE, and Dr. Monika Bajaj, Associate Professor and Head, SSSH, who commended the artistic brilliance and powerful environmental messages of the participants.

The winners of the event included Ranju Sharma, a B.Ed. Semester IV student, and Manvi Parmar, a

B.Ed. Special Education Semester IV student, who were awarded the First Prize. The Second Prize was secured by Rodrigues Kessy and Akansha, both B.Ed. Semester II students. Shweta, a B.Ed. Special Education Semester II student, received the Third Prize, while Ananya, a B.A. Psychology (Hons) Semester VI student, was awarded a Consolation Prize.

Suman Gupta, In-Charge of the Environment Unit, praised the innovative entries and the students' deep commitment to environmental sustainability. All participants received certificates, and winners were specially felicitated.

Prof. Adit Gupta, Principal, MIER College of Education, congratulated the winners and applauded the Environment Unit for organizing a timely, creative, and thought-provoking event that inspires environmental responsibility. The college continues its mission to promote sustainable development through student-led initiatives and impactful awareness programs.

Seminar on Career Counselling for B.Sc Biotechnology students by Rapture Biotech

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 17: Department of Biotechnology, GGM Science College, under the patronage of Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta, Principal GGM Science College organized a seminar on Thursday.

The seminar was organized in collaboration with Rapture Biotech Group to create awareness regarding the mandatory summer internship and various short term training program options available for the students.

The event aimed to guide students through the wide array of career paths available after graduation in biotechnology, and was met with an enthusiastic response from the students. About 100 students from Sem 2nd and Sem 4th Biotechnology (Major) participated in the seminar.

The event began with a welcome address by Dr. Neha Mahajan, Assistant Professor Biotechnology who highlighted the importance of early career planning in a dynamic field like biotechnology.

Prof. Kiran Bala, Head,



Department of Biotechnology appreciated the students and resource persons for their active participation.

The session was led by expert speakers from Rapture Biotech, Dr. Ambika and Er. Mayank Bhardwaj. The resource persons shared their knowledge and experience about current industry trends, higher education options, research opportunities, and emerging sectors such as bioinformatics, clinical research, and pharmaceutical sciences.

One of the key highlights of the seminar was an interactive Q&A

session, where students engaged directly with the experts, seeking clarity on career paths, required skillsets, and internship opportunities.

The seminar concluded with a vote of thanks by Prof. Gourav Gupta, Assistant Professor Biotechnology who appreciated Rapture Biotech for sharing their valuable time and expertise.

Dr. Nancy Gupta, Dr. Richa Sharma, Prof Kirti Sharma and Dr. Arti Heer also graced the occasion with their presence. Overall, the session proved to be highly informative, motivating, and well-received by attendees.

CRC Jammu observes World Hemophilia Day



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 17: On the occasion of World Hemophilia Day, the Composite Regional Centre (CRC), Jammu (Samba)-PDUNIP-PD, New Delhi under DEPWD, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MOSJE), Govt. of India organized an impactful Awareness Day Programme aimed at educating the public, especially frontline workers, about the importance of blood donation and haemophilia awareness.

The programme commenced with an insightful lecture by Dr. Mina, Head of the Department, Blood Bank, Government Medical College, Jammu. Dr. Mina delivered a comprehensive session on the process of blood donation and empha-

sized the health benefits and life-saving impact of regular blood donation. The demonstration and interactive talk were primarily directed towards Anganwadi workers from the Jammu and Satwari areas, as well as beneficiaries of CRC Jammu. Approximately 60 participants attended the session, engaging actively and gaining valuable knowledge on the subject.

Following the lecture, Dr. Rohnika Sharma, Director, CRC Jammu (Samba) addressed the gathering, reinforcing the significance of community involvement in spreading awareness and supporting those affected by hemophilia.

The session concluded with a special memento presented to the Chief Guest, Dr. Mina, in appreciation of her valuable contribu-

tion.

In recognition of selfless service, Balwinder Singh, a regular blood donor who donates every three months, was honored with an Award of Appreciation for his dedication and consistent support to the cause. The event concluded with a vote of thanks, followed by refreshments for all attendees.

CRC Jammu (Samba) continues to be at the forefront of community outreach and health awareness initiatives, fostering inclusion, support, and education for all.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Expression of Interest
No. NR-FZROCOML/NFRJ4/2024 Date: 15/04/2025
For and on behalf of the President of India, Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Firozpur Division, Northern Railway invites the Expression of Interest for Operation, Renovation & Maintenance of Mela Waiting Hall at Railway station Sultanpur Lodhi on non-Mela days. The parties interested are requested to visit the Railway Station/ location/area and familiarize themselves with the earning capacity and submit their ideas with detail proposal to this office upto 15/05/2025. Final decision on the ideas submitted by the parties will be taken by the Railway Administration.
For further detail please visit Northern Railway website <https://nr.indianrailways.gov.in/> or the office of Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, DRM office, Firozpur Cantt on any working day during office hours.
For Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur Division, DRM's Office, Firozpur Cantt. 152001
Email: pamcell.fzr@gmail.com
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NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-AUCTION NOTICE
The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India, invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Firozpur Division.
Catalogue No. Auction Start Name of work
EA/JAT-PnU-JAT25 25/04/2025 at 12:30 Hrs. Allotment of contract for operation and maintenance of Pay & Use Toilets blocks as per catalogue for 3 months at Jammu Tawi Railway Station.
For other details and registration, please visit Railway website www.reps.gov.in. No. PnU-JAT-1-2025 Date: 16.04.2025
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 1123/2025

EDITORIAL

GAON CHALO
ABHIYAN

In a powerful move to rekindle the spirit of rural India, the "Gaon Chalo Abhiyan" (Let's Go to the Villages Campaign) has been launched as a transformative initiative to reconnect citizens with their roots and breathe new life into the countryside. More than a campaign, it is a soulful movement that aims to revive rural livelihoods, bridge the rural-urban divide, and uplift the core of Bharat—its villages.

Spearheaded by a coalition of government departments, NGOs, academic institutions, and civil society, the Gaon Chalo Abhiyan is designed to empower rural communities by channeling innovation, technology, and human resources into India's villages. It recognizes that despite rapid urbanization, over 65% of India's population still resides in rural areas, and their development is key to the nation's holistic progress.

The campaign envisions vibrant, self-reliant villages where tradition meets technology. Volunteers from cities—including youth, professionals, students, and retired individuals—are encouraged to engage with rural communities, offering their skills and time. This reciprocal relationship is expected to foster a beautiful blend of modern insights and ancient wisdom, creating sustainable models for development.

At its heart, the Abhiyan rests on five core pillars: sustainable livelihoods, digital and financial inclusion, healthcare and sanitation, education and skills development, and cultural revival. From promoting organic farming and supporting rural artisans to setting up digital classrooms and mobile health camps, the campaign touches every facet of rural life.

The healthcare component focuses on rural wellness drives, hygiene awareness, and the establishment of accessible health services. Digital inclusion ensures that every household can access online resources, banking, and government schemes. Education is amplified through mobile libraries, skill training in crafts and solar technology, and tailored literacy programs for women and youth. Meanwhile, cultural initiatives celebrate local festivals, folk arts, and the traditional knowledge systems that give villages their unique character.

Rooted in Mahatma Gandhi's vision of Gram Swaraj, the Gaon Chalo Abhiyan seeks to make villages self-sufficient and empowered. Gandhi believed that the soul of India lives in its villages—and this campaign is a tribute to that belief, updated for the digital age. It reimagines rural development as an inclusive, participatory journey where growth is driven from the grassroots.

A striking aspect of the campaign is the involvement of India's youth. Universities are sending students on short-term rural internships, where they help with rainwater harvesting, digital training, and community planning. These experiences not only empower villages but also give students a grounded understanding of India's challenges and opportunities. Social media has added fuel to the fire, with stories of transformation and hope being shared under hashtags like #GaonChalo and #BackToRoots.

The government has extended support through multiple ministries, aligning flagship programs like Digital India, Swachh Bharat, and Skill India with the goals of the Abhiyan. NGOs provide grassroots manpower and experience, while panchayats play a critical role in identifying local needs and ensuring the efficient delivery of services. Incentives are being offered to villages that demonstrate progress—be it in sanitation, school enrollment, or green energy adoption.

What truly sets the Gaon Chalo Abhiyan apart is its emotional appeal. It invites people not just to serve, but to belong. It reminds urban India that its roots lie in the soil of the villages, and that true development is incomplete without nurturing those roots. In villages where the campaign has gained ground, the changes are visible: water bodies restored, children learning computers, solar panels lighting up homes, and youth returning from cities to explore farming with technology.

As the campaign moves forward, the vision is bold and beautiful—a future where no village is left behind, where development does not mean erasure of culture but its rejuvenation, and where India's villages shine not just as memories of the past but as beacons of the future.

By: **Shahnaz Hussain**

Summertime is here, it's time for beach days, pool parties, travel and vacations. Summer holidays are synonymous with sunshine and outdoor adventures.

Sunlight can make you feel cheerful and is important for the production of vitamin D, but be careful; it can also cause damage.

One of the best things about summer is the chance to enjoy long days at the beach. However, spending too much time in the sun can have a wide range of adverse effects on your skin and hair.

As heat and humidity rise, oil glands get hyperactive. Oily patches, rashes, pimples, sunburn, roughness, patchiness – they all make an appearance in this season.

While basking in the sun can be invigorating, it's crucial to adapt your skincare routine to protect your skin from increased sun exposure, heat, and humidity.

Whether you're planning a beach getaway, a scenic mountain retreat, or simply enjoying staycations with friends and family, looking and feeling your best can make all the difference.

To help you shine from the inside out, here are some tips that may help your hair and skin "holiday-ready"

1- Prep your skin for the sun----
Sunlight is good for your mood as it enables your skin to synthesize the vitamin D necessary for bone health, and it boosts your immune system.

After months of being covered up, slowly exposing your skin to the sun, little by little, is key. Preparing your skin for the sun before prolonged exposure is an important step for the skin that we too often forget. It is particularly useful for people with

fair skin, sun allergies or intolerances. One of the best ways to prepare your skin for the sun is to engage in numerous short exposures. The lighter your skin, the less it is able to defend itself against the sun.

Skin that hasn't been exposed to the sun for a long time is even more vulnerable to the first UV rays it is exposed to.

The more your skin is exposed to the sun, the more it dries out. And as it dries out, it becomes more vulnerable to UV rays, So

Nourish your skin with a good moisturizing cream to construct its protective layer. Although moisturizing cream does not protect skin from the sun, it can help limit its ravages.

2---Mind your diet

You can't eat your sunscreen. But what you can eat may help against sun damage. The sun's rays don't stand a chance against a diet rich in antioxidant foods.

The foods you eat could help your skin stay protected from the harmful effects of the summer sun's strong UV rays

The first meal of the day can prep and protect your healthy summer glow when you are on vacation.

Include peppers, sweet potatoes, pumpkins, spinach, squash, broccoli, mangos, apricots, kale, peas, tomatoes and melon in your diet that are rich in beta-carotene and other carotenoids.

The carotenoids found in red, orange, and yellow peppers not only provide excellent antioxidant properties, but they also contain 11 times more beta-carotene than green peppers. Foods that are rich in carotenoids add an orange tinge to your skin, which gives you a natural glow.

Eat dinner as early as possible in the evening, preferably before sunset. Eating late at night impairs an enzyme responsible

for repairing sun-damaged skin.

A combination of vitamins E and C protects the skin against UV damage. It is suggested that daily consumption of dietary polyphenols may provide efficient protection against the harmful effects of solar UV radiation in humans. Furthermore, the use of micronutrients in combination may provide an effective strategy for protecting human skin from damage by UV exposure.

3 ---Travel Packing -----

Whether you're planning a beach getaway, a city escape, or a countryside retreat, Comfortable and versatile clothing is essential for a stress-free summer vacation. Less is more when it comes to packing. Focus on versatile pieces that can be worn in multiple ways.

Summers call in for lightweight and light-colored clothing like white, cream, or ecru, which are better at hiding sweat.

Lightweight T-shirts and tanks take up little space in your suitcase, making it easy to roll them up and pack four or five of one color to use throughout the trip. It ensures that you can focus on your vacation rather than your attire, allowing you to relax and enjoy your trip.

Light-toned colors also reflect light and won't feel as hot on the body when in direct sunlight, like a black shirt.

While packing, make sure you pack clothes that allow air to circulate against the skin.

Don't forget to pack a few key accessories like a wide-brimmed hat, sunglasses, and comfortable sandals to complete your look.

Consider packing clothes that can be easily dressed up or down, making it easy to adapt to different situations.

What is important is that you are comfortable in them in all your hours of travel.

3---Take care of your Hairs -----

Just like skincare, your hair needs special attention when you're travelling

Travelling often can be an exciting and fulfilling experience, but it can leave your hair feeling dry, frizzy, and damaged. Maintaining healthy and fresh hair while travelling can be challenging.

Moving from one climate to another can confuse your hair. Humidity, dry air, or extreme temperatures can cause frizz, dryness, or even breakage.

From different climates and weather conditions to long hours in the car or on a plane, it's easy for your hair to feel out of sorts.

Changes in climate, water quality, and exposure to sun, humidity, or pollution can take a toll on your hair.

The serum is the best way to keep your hair hydrated and conditioned during travelling..

Hair serums help to protect your strands from sun damage and make them look sleek and shiny. Since you miss a proper beauty care routine while travelling, using hair serum correctly can help to protect your hair from skin problems that occur while on a vacation.

When packing, opt for travel-sized bottles of shampoo, conditioner, and styling products that suit your hair type. A leave-in conditioner or serum can be a lifesaver to combat dryness and frizz. Don't forget essentials like a wide-toothed comb, microfiber towel, and silk scrunchies to minimize breakage.

(The author is international fame beauty expert and is called herbal queen of India)

J & K stands orphaned by Divesting its Statehood

By: **Omkar Dattatray**

GO under Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah has stripped erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir of statehood on August 5 and 6, 2019 downsizing it into union territory. The Jammu and Kashmir was bifurcated and dissected into two UT's of Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh, thus gave a big jolt to the people of Jammu & Kashmir and rendered them orphaned and kept them at the mercy of the centre government and the rule of the LG who is the sole representative of the central government. Thus in fact a severe body blow was given to the political parties and to the people at large. Regional mainstream parties, national party Congress, SP, other parties and the people of Jammu and Kashmir demand restoration of the statehood at the earliest, but the centre government seems to be in no hurry to grant statehood back to Jammu and Kashmir and give justice to the people who have been disempowered by the promulgation of Re-organization Act 2019. From day one of snatching statehood from J & K, Regional political parties, several national parties belonging to opposition and last but not the least the most affected people of Jammu and Kashmir from the day one of downsizing of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir have been demanding the restoration of statehood. However the centre government is unmoved and is not ready to restore statehood to J&K soon. So centre government seems not convinced to restore statehood to J & K but it is lingering this important and public issue and is not taking any initiative to bestow statehood to Jammu and Kashmir which is due of its people and thus statehood needs to be granted to the erstwhile

state soon to heal the wounds, bruises and wound psyche of its people whose statehood and identity has been stolen and snatched by the Modi government way back in August 2019. However PM Modi, HM Amit Shah and the whole centre government has so often from the day of the repealing and snatching of the statehood expressed commitment that statehood will be restored to Jammu and Kashmir, but they fail short of giving the exact date by which statehood will be restored to J & K. Modi and Shah duo repeat infinitum that statehood will be restored to Jammu and Kashmir at an appropriate and opportune time but the central leaders fail to give the timeline by which people of Jammu and Kashmir will be given back statehood. NC, PDP, AP, AAP, CPI[M] PC and all others including Congress demand restoration of statehood to give some relief to the orphaned people of J & K, but every time they are provided the same futile explanation that the centre government is committed to the restoration of statehood at the appropriate time. HM Amit Shah has more recently said that statehood will be restored to Jammu and Kashmir but said that no timeline can be given when statehood will be bestowed to Jammu and Kashmir. He further said that many parameters and factors have to be assessed before the actual decision of granting back statehood to J&K will be taken. So there is great uncertainty about the timeframe by which the statehood will be restored to the erstwhile state. The real and actual sufferers of downsizing the statehood are the people of this region as they suffer most and face inconveniences because of snatching of statehood. Besides people, it is the regional as well as national political parties who suffer a lot due to the downsizing of the statehood. Therefore to gain the trust, confidence and love of

the people of J&K the snatched statehood need to be restored to the people very soon so that people will feel some relief and the misconception about the powers of the Chief minister and his council of ministers is set right. However it is crystal clear that Modi government is in no hurry to restore statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. There are several instances of transforming and changing a UT into full-fledged state but there is no previous instance in independent India that a full state was downgraded to UT. Therefore it is not politically sound and feasible to downgrade a state into UT. It is against democratic norms, values, principles of justice and sound administration and governance that J&K was downgraded into two UT's by a single stroke of the parliament. Re-organization Act 2019 has in fact disempowered the J&K government, its cabinet, MLA's and so people in the ultimate analysis of the powers. Our elected government, chief minister Omar Abdullah, his council of newly constituted ministers, legislators and thus the people have been stripped of the powers. Enough executive, legislative and administrative powers have been given to LG and the elected UT government has in fact very little powers. For even the routine matters files have to be routed to the LG who is all powerful. AIMIM chief Owasi has sarcastically remarked that Omar Abdullah has no powers even to appoint a peon. There is much confusion, overlapping and duplication of powers between the duly elected government, its chief ministers, its ministers and the all powerful LG. In fact the balance of power is tilted towards the LG leaving very little powers for the democratically elected government. There is friction, tussle and a situation of conflict has arisen between the LG and the chief minister after the transfer of 48 JKAS officers

directly by the LG without consulting the chief minister. CM Omar Abdullah has recently written a letter to the Prime minister about these transfers and even demanded clear powers to the elected government for the effective governance and administration of Jammu and Kashmir. It is impressed on the Modi government to heed the demand of the people and political parties as well as of the NC-Congress alliance government and restore the statehood to the people of Jammu and Kashmir at once and immediately so that balm is put on the wounds of the people and they feel a sense of belongingness and trust, confidence and love of the people of Jammu and Kashmir is earned. For eliminating the sense of alienation among the people of Jammu and Kashmir, statehood should be restored immediately without wasting any time. The decision of restoration of statehood to J&K will truly be in the interests of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and whole India. The sooner it is done, the better. The decision to restore statehood to Jammu and Kashmir will be welcomed by the political parties and the gullible people of Jammu and Kashmir and above all restoration of statehood to J&K will strengthen the federalism and federal character of the Indian nation. This decision will be the real triumph of democracy and federalism. All eyes on set on the central government and it is the earnest and sincere appeal of the people of J&K to NDA government to restore the statehood to JK at earliest.

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

MBS College celebrates Baisakhi Festival

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 17: The campus MBS College of Engineering and Technology, Jammu, was imbued with vibrant colors and joyous energy as students, faculty, and staff came together to celebrate Baisakhi—a festival that symbolizes not just the spirit of harvest and prosperity, but also serves as a powerful reminder of our rich cultural heritage, the valor of Sri Guru Gobind Singh, the resilience of our farmers, and the sacrifices made by freedom fighters.

The celebration commenced with a warm and enthusiastic welcome address by Nitika



Kashyap (6th CSE) and Joicepreet Kour (2nd CSE), setting the tone for a day filled with cultural pride and collective joy. Prof. Parveen Singh, Dean Academics, addressed the gathering, emphasizing the importance of religious

and cultural festivals in fostering unity and preserving our Heritage. Dr. Amrik Singh Incharge Principal was the guest of honour.

The festivities featured an impressive lineup of performances, including energetic Bhangra,

graceful Giddha, soulful singing, expressive poetry, and engaging skits that showcased the rich cultural tapestry of Punjab and the spirit of togetherness.

A special highlight of the event was a storytelling segment where

students shared personal reflections and stories on the significance of Baisakhi. These narratives touched on themes of gratitude, community bonding, and cultural identity, resonating deeply with the audience.

The event was thoughtfully organized by Sarajeet Kaur and Amarjot Kour, Assistant Professors, CSE Department.

The celebration concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks delivered by Harpreet Kour (6th IT), who expressed gratitude to Hond TV for covering the event and to all the dignitaries, performers, and participants for their enthusiastic involvement and support.

TSWOOI provides life saving insulin kits to diabetic patient in Bhadarwah

Top News Report



BHADARWAH, Apr 17: As a Goodwill gesture and to play a role crucial to prove as a helping hand to the poor and needy, 'The Social Welfare Organisation of India' (TSWOOI), a Non-Governmental Organization demonstrated its unwavering commitment by supporting a

person suffering from diabetes.

Belonging to an underprivileged family, the patient namely Salman Shah S/O Abdul Samad Shah R/O Village Thanala is afflicted with a life threatening disease Diabetes. Unbelievably financially not able to meet the expenses incurred on daily basis the cost of the life saving medicine, the family of the patient had lost the hope to survive the fatal disease.

"By delivering essential medical aid to a diabetic patient in the remote village of Thanala, Bhadarwah, the patient has heaved a sigh of relief," Zaffar Hussain Wani-State Vice President TSWOOI informed.

"The poor patient has received the much-needed insulin injection Kits at his doorstep, a gesture that underscores TSWOOI's dedication to serving those in dire need," he further added.

Pertinently, TSWOOI's initiative was spearheaded by the organization's state Vice President Zaffar Hussain Wani. He was accompanied by senior volunteer Umar Tak and other team members.

"The group navigated challenging terrain to reach the Jammu and

Kashmir's last backward village Thanala that lies on the border between Himachal Pradesh and J&K to ensure that Salman received his prescribed medication," Wani said and emphasized the organization's mission to reach out to the most vulnerable, especially those facing significant health challenges.

It is equally worthwhile that Salman has been battling severely high blood sugar levels exceeding 450, a condition that necessitates twice-daily insulin injections as per medical advice. However, the financial constraints faced by Salman's family have made it increasingly difficult for them to afford this life-saving treatment. Living in poverty, the family has struggled to keep up with the continuous medical expenses. By reaching out such type of individuals, the NGO highlights the critical role of TSWOOI's intervention.

"TSWOOI stands resolutely with the destitute, orphans, widows and patients," stated Wani adding, "My team and I traversed the distance to Salman's home on foot driven by our commitment to provide hope and health to those who need it most".

GDC Mahanpur celebrates 7th Edition of Poshan Pakhwada



Top News Report

MAHANPUR, Apr 17: NSS Unit In collaboration with Economic Department and Dogri Department of GDC Mahanpur Celebrated 7th Edition of Poshan Pakhwada from 8th April to 23rd April, 2025.

In this connection, a rally and poster making awareness program was conducted on Thursday within campus. Through Poshan Pakhwada

2025, the government is encouraging greater participation from families as well, ensuring that beneficiaries have access to the app to monitor their own nutritional progress. It was organised by Dr. Sapna Devi under the guidance of Dr. Sangeeta Sudan, Principal of the College, it is a step towards building a nutritious Bharat with the main focus on women and children. The staff members

who were present in the Programme were Dr. Mohinder Nath Sharma, Nisha Kumari, Dr. Babli, Dr. Anju Bala, Dr. Yograj, Dr. Nishu, Dr. Suhail Ahmed Dar, Dr. Hilal and Prof. Abinash Sharma.

More than 30 students participated in the Programme. Everyone participated in the Programme with enthusiasm. The whole program was hosted by Dr. Sapna Devi.

HDFC Bank Parivartan covers 298 border villages under rural development initiatives

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 17: HDFC Bank, India's largest private sector bank, under its CSR arm Parivartan, has covered 298 border villages across the country under its rural development initiatives.

These clusters of villages are located in border areas of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Ladakh, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand.

The Bank plans to extend its reach to 150 additional border villages in the years to come. These initiatives are aligned with national development goals outlined in the Centre's Border Area Development Programme and Vibrant Villages Programme.

Border area villages along the northern and northeastern

Himalayan regions and the western desert stretches often grapple with unique challenges including difficult terrain, restricted access to essential services and economic vulnerabilities due to their remote locations.

Parivartan has impacted the lives of approximately five lakh individuals in these areas through targeted need-based interventions.

The Bank implements two key types of projects in these areas: 1) Holistic Rural Development Programme (HRDP): This approach focuses on clusters of 15-20 contiguous villages over a span of 36-48 months.

It integrates multiple aspects, including rural development, education, skill development, financial inclusion, health & hygiene, and natural resource management.

And, 2) Focused Develop-

ment Programme (FDP): This initiative targets specific areas of intervention, achieving concentrated impact in one sector.

HDFC Bank's Parivartan initiative is committed to strengthening rural communities across border areas such as Lower Dibang Valley and Shi Yomi in Arunachal Pradesh; Baksa and Udalguri in Assam; Kishanganj, West Champaran and Madhubani in Bihar; Banaskantha, Kutch, and Patan in Gujarat; Ladakh; Chandel in Manipur; East Jaintia Hills in Meghalaya; Fazilka and Pathankot in Punjab; Barmer in Rajasthan; Gyalshing West and Pakyong in Sikkim; Pilibhit in Uttar Pradesh; and Chamoli in Uttarakhand.

Speaking about the initiative, Kaizad Bharucha, DMD, HDFC Bank said, "We are committed to creating meaningful impact

in India's border villages by providing access to technology-enabled education, improved agricultural productivity, renewable energy, and livelihood opportunities.

By aligning with national development goals, we collaborate with local communities, NGOs, and government bodies to build stronger, self-reliant, and vibrant communities that contribute to India's economic and social fabric."

"A holistic approach to rural development is not merely desirable, but an absolute necessity, especially in border areas," said Nusrat Pathan, Head - Corporate Social Responsibility at HDFC Bank "We ensure that progress in one sector reinforces and amplifies positive outcomes in others, thereby maximising the impact of our interventions."

Dr Darakhshan chairs Ambedkar celebration event at Anantnag Modi strengthened Constitution, not threatened it: Andrabi



Top News Report

ANANTNAG, Apr 17: Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi, Chairperson of Jammu & Kashmir Waqf Board & National Executive Member BJP on Thursday presided over the Ambedkar Jayanti Celebration Event held by BJP at Dak Bunglow in Anantnag.

Speakers at the event spoke about the contribution of Baba Sahib in the making of modern India. His contribution for ensuring social justice and equality was

discussed at length. Party leaders pledged to take the message of Baba Sahib to the grassroots.

In her address Dr Darakhshan Andrabi said that we are proud to build this nation on the constitutional principles given to us by Ambedkar Ji.

She said that Modi era is the golden era in India for strengthening constitutional authority in all spheres of governance and public life.

"Congress & Company has been shout-

ing for the past eleven years that Samvidhan is under threat, but in reality Modi has strengthened the Constitutional spirit in India. Modi introduced Samvidhan Divas in the country", said BJP National Executive Member. Prominent BJP leaders including District President Rakesh Koul, ST Morcha UT President Chowdhary Roshan, General Secretary Adil Hussain Nengroo, Vice President Pinka Malik, G N Dar, Maqbool Ganai & Dr Amin Bhat also participated.

EVCL supported by Irfan Pathan, Praveen Kumar will hold trials across 20 cities from June 15 to July 31, 2025 Epic Victory Cricket League to kick start inaugural season in Kashmir this September

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Apr 17: The Epic Victory Cricket League, a franchise based T20 tournament is set to launch with its first edition of the tournament starting in the month of September.

Launched in Srinagar, Kashmir today by Irfan Pathan, the league will include an equal balance of local Indian players with international stars and ex-Ranji cricketers from the region of J&K. The franchise-based tournament, will feature a pool of over 200 players, which will get decided after a month and a half of trials across 20 cities.

"Epic Victory Cricket League is looking forward to bringing cricket to Kashmir once again and showcase the talent that this beautiful and we are very excited to also be playing in Jammu and Kashmir for the inaugural season. This is a huge opportunity for the people of Kashmir to come to the stadium and watch live cricketing action. I urge all the cricketers to register and join the EVCL for the opportunity of a lifetime." Said Mr. Irfan



Pathan, Former Indian Cricketer.

Registrations will begin in the coming week on the official EVCL online portal for the trials held across 20 cities for a duration of 45 days. The trials kick off in Srinagar on the 15th of June and will conclude in Baraut, Uttar Pradesh on the 31st of July 2025. The eligibility for these trials are simply any male cricketers from the ages of 17 to 39 which will showcase their talent under the watchful eyes of a selection committee consisting of selectors from the state cricketing associations and the apex council of the EVCL. "This isn't just about another competition. It's about providing a stage to the people

who have missed the opportunity for many reasons and showcasing the incredible depth of cricket talent in India." Vikas Dhaka, League Owner, Epic Victory Cricket League, added, "We're going to see some stunning matches, unexpected heroes rise, and inspire a whole new generation of players around the world".

The league is set to broadcast on one of the leading OTT platform with coverage in over 7 languages that will include English, Hindi and in a first of its kind, Kashmiri and Dogra to include the vast population of the region that would enjoy cricketing action in their own language for the first time ever.

GDC Sidhra in collaboration with Ayush Deptt conducts rejuvenating Yoga session

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 17: In observance of Poshan Pakhwada, a nationwide initiative focused on promoting nutrition, NSS unit of GDC Sidhra in collaboration with Ayush Department, J&K successfully conducted a rejuvenating Yoga session for students of the

college at Government Middle School Bain Bajalta.

The event aimed to highlight the importance of holistic well-being with a special focus on the theme of nutrition.

Over forty enthusiastic students, both from school and college participated in the session, guided by experienced

yoga instructor Ms. Bandana Kumari.

The session incorporated a range of yoga asanas (postures), pranayama (breathing exercises), and meditation techniques designed to improve physical flexibility, strength, concentration, and stress management.

AR Rahman talks about the potential misuse of AI in music

Oscar-winner AR Rahman says there are both good and bad aspects to the use of artificial intelligence in music, but there will be chaos if it is not controlled. The musician is not averse to new technology in music and, in fact, used an AI software to recreate the voices of late singers Bamba Bakya and Shahul Hameed for a track, Thimiri Yezhuda from Rajinikanth-starrer Lal Salaam. But he did that with proper permission from the family of the musicians.

Rahman acknowledged that the use of AI in music had 'gone wild'. "I don't know what's going to happen. Some of the songs are so filthy, yet they come out with the voices of popular singers. It needs to be controlled because if it's not, there'll be chaos," the musician said.

The music maestro, who has two Oscars, a Golden Globe and Grammy to his credit, said it was important to have rules for ethical use of the AI technology.

"There are both good and bad aspects, and the good things should be used to empower people who never had the chance to put their vision into action. But overusing it in a bad way is bad for us. It's like mixing poison with oxygen and breathing it in. There should be rules, like certain things you can't do. Like, how they talk about ethics or behaviour in a society, this is also behaviour in the software and digital world," he added.

Rahman is currently working on his much-anticipated The Wonderment Tour, to be held on May 3 at the DY Patil Stadium. The concert was conceptualised by the composer himself in collaboration with Percept Live and co-produced by Percept Live, Fair Game and Jo Entertainment.

The global premiere of 'The Wonderment Tour' is said to be a grand concert under the aegis of the WAVES summit taking place from May 1 to 4. Tickets are now available on Zomato



app. The 58-year-old musician has a slew of projects in the pipeline, including the romantic

film, Tere Ishq Mein, with his frequent collaborator, filmmaker Aanand L Rai, Mani Ratnam's Thug Life, Rajkumar

Santoshi's Lahore 1947, Meena Kumari biopic, and the Hansal Mehta-directed Gandhi series.

He is also reuniting with Imtiaz for his next after Chamkila. "The more you see people loving Vida Karo and Mirza, it forces us to look back and get that beautiful aura of that era in your way. So that's a good thing to see," he added.

Rahman is also excited about the upcoming Hansal Mehta series on Gandhi, which is headlined by Pratik Gandhi. "The Gandhi series is unexpectedly beautiful; I never expected that to be such a beautiful experience. Working with Hansal Mehta and Sameer Nair was fascinating. Even Gandhi ji's life... I feel that's like a textbook, and it's a fantastic textbook for the previous or the future generations to see the father of the nation," he said. Meanwhile, Rahman attended the MAMI Film Festival 2025, in Mumbai.

Sam Neill joins cast of next 'Godzilla x Kong' movie at Legendary



Move aside, dinosaurs. Sam Neill has new creatures to face in the next installment of Legendary's MonsterVerse franchise.

Neill, the original star of Steven Spielberg's 1993 blockbuster Jurassic Park, who most

recently appeared in Jurassic World Dominion (2022), has joined the cast of the follow-up to 2024's Godzilla x Kong The New Empire.

The New Zealand actor will feature alongside Kaitlyn Dever and Jack O'Connell as well

as Dan Stevens, who played laid-back monster veterinarian and dentist Trapper in The New Empire, reported The Hollywood Reporter.

Plot details have been kept under wraps for the next entry.

According to Legendary, the yet-untitled movie will feature "several new human characters alongside the beloved and iconic Titans Godzilla and Kong as they face off against a cataclysmic world-ending threat." Grant Sputore is directing the upcoming film from a screenplay by Dave Callaham. The MonsterVerse franchise started with 2014's Godzilla, followed by Kong Skull Island (2017), Godzilla King of the Monsters (2019), Godzilla vs. Kong (2021), and Godzilla x Kong The New Empire.

It expanded with the series Monarch Legacy of Monsters on Apple TV+ and the animated spinoff Skull Island on Netflix as well.

What Jaya Bachchan told Rekha about Amitabh after inviting her for lunch at home



One of Bollywood's most talked-about love triangles – involving Amitabh Bachchan, Jaya Bachchan, and Rekha – continues to fascinate fans even today. The 1981 film "Silсила", which starred all three, has long been rumoured to mirror their real-life dynamics.

In a recent episode of the "Meri Saheli" podcast, veteran author and film historian Hanif Zaveri shed new light on the emotional saga behind the scenes.

According to Zaveri, "Silсила" director Yash Chopra attempted to bring the trio's complex relationship to the silver screen.

However, Jaya Bachchan was reportedly opposed to working in the project due to her deep dislike for Rekha.

"Jaya Bachchan never wanted to do 'Silсила'," Zaveri revealed. "She deeply disliked Rekha."

Zaveri told how Jaya and Amitabh Bachchan's love story began on the sets of "Do Anjaane", and how Rekha's entry into Amitabh's life disrupted their equation.

When the affair between Amitabh and Rekha began gaining attention, it was Jaya who decided to take a stand.

According to Hanif Zaveri, Jaya had invited Rekha over for lunch, where she made her position unmistakably clear.

"She fed her well, chatted a lot, and when it was time to part ways, Jaya looked at Rekha and said, 'Amitabh is mine. He was mine and will always be mine,'" Zaveri said.

The confrontation is said to have marked a turning point, prompting Rekha to step away from the relationship. Amitabh and Jaya's bond further solidified during the actor's near-fatal accident on the sets of "Coolie" in 1982. Her care during that difficult period won him over completely.

Interestingly, despite her reservations, Jaya eventually agreed to star in "Silсила". Zaveri credited this to actor Sanjeev Kumar, Jaya's rakhi brother, who convinced her to be part of the film on one condition – that she would be present on set every day, regardless of whether she had scenes to shoot.

Producer of Takdeer, actor Nav Bajwa says the upcoming Punjabi web series highlights the role of astrology in society

The filmmaker who introduced sci-fi genre to Bollywood is at it again. This time, he picks up astrology as a subject for a web series. Astrology, which is synonymous with superstition, is the theme for the web series being produced by Nav Bajwa titled Takdeer.

Nav along with a series of actors, including BN Sharma, Deepak Niaz, Ashita Sharma and child actor Saarthak, introduced the first two episodes of the series— Deport and Aulad. Present on the stage, along with the writer Kumar Ajay and directors Gaurav Bhalla and Jatin Suthar, was the astrologer—a turbaned jyotish acharya Satvinder Singh, who took many questions, as this unique subject was revealed. Nav is no novice to astrology, but he shared in all his earnestness that growing up he was confused between astrology and astronomy. "I wanted to be an astronaut—the one who could go to the moon. And while trying to figure that out, I realised that there was another branch of study called astrology."

The former pilot embraced the glamour industry while turning an actor, writer, director and producer in due course. "I can read anyone's



birth chart (teva) and comprehend," admits Nav. Though he claims that apart from release date, he hasn't followed it up much.

It were the two stories—one of foreign dreams, another of father-son bond—that brought him on board for this series. "Astrology is often confused as a superstitious mumbo-jumbo, but we

wanted to bring the scientific aspect of it to the fore." Does he believe in astrology? Nav says, "I go by tera bhana meetha lage (divine will tastes sweet)."

Meanwhile, Satvinder Singh shared, "Astrology is there in almost every culture, but it's our jyotish vidya that is quite exact." He makes no claims that he can help a film become a hit, but

sure tell the most favourable dates for the start and release of particular projects.

But why the need to know the future? BN Sharma shared, "You navigate well if you know where you are headed. Some seek astrological guidance to navigate through life." One episode of the series will be released each month, while Deport and Aulad would be available soon on Satvinder Singh's YouTube page.

Nav is full of ideas for the Punjabi industry. Many tell him that he has the looks of a Bollywood hero, his Hindi is on point and his choice of subject international! Why doesn't he try other languages? Nav answers, "I want to give my best to the Punjabi film industry. See how well South Indian cinema has done; I have similar dreams for our industry."

The film Madhaniyan, which will be released in September, sees Dev Kharoud and Neeru Bajwa, along with Nav in the lead roles. Nav is also eyeing festival circuits. "I want to take Punjabi cinema to Cannes," he shared. He is working on a film, tentatively titled Iqbal Singh, with Gurpreet Ghuggi. It's a real-life story, a very intense one. Also in

the pipeline for him are a couple of short films, which he wants to take to the global market. "The idea is to bring Punjabi on par with the international market."

Good times are here. Punjabi cinema today is in an amazing space. "Karan Johar did Akaal with Gippy Grewal, I am also in talks with Boney Kapoor. I could have made Madhaniyan in Hindi such is its budget and scale, but it's in Punjabi because that is where my heart is," says Nav.

Starting with music, he has enjoyed success as a filmmaker, but amongst all he prefers writing. "An idea is the beginning of it all. To create a new cinematic world gives me the most joy."

Acting was always his dream, but Nav followed his father's diktat to pursue flying. "My father served in the Indian Air Force and it was his dream that I follow in his footsteps. I did become a pilot out of respect for him because I am not the one who would rebel and run away from home." After becoming a pilot, he talked about his dream with his father, who supported him. "I still live with my parents and owe all my success to them," he shared.

Actor Nazriya Nazim Fahadh 'struggling with emotional well-being': I shut down

Actor Nazriya Nazim Fahadh has opened up about her struggle with emotional well-being in her latest Instagram post. Explaining why she had been completely missing for the last few months, she also apologised to her friends whose calls she could not attend and thanked everyone for their constant support.

"I hope you're all doing well. I wanted to take a moment to share why

I've been absent for a while," she wrote at the very beginning of her note, adding, "As many of you know, I've always been an active member of this wonderful community."

However, over the past few months, I've been struggling with my emotional wellbeing and personal challenges that have made it difficult for me to be present."

Nazriya Nazim listed how she missed sev-

eral important events in the last few months. "I missed celebrating my 30th birthday and New Year's, the success of my film 'Sookshma-darshini', along with many other important moments."

"I also want to apologise to all my friends for not explaining why I went missing and for not picking up calls or responding to messages. I'm truly sorry for any worry or inconvenience I



may have caused. I did shut down completely. I also want to extend my apologies to all my colleagues who have been trying to reach me for work. I've been absent, and I'm sorry for any disruptions this may have caused," she wrote.

She assured everyone that she is getting better. "It's been a tough journey, but I want you to know that I'm working on healing and getting better every day. I appreciate your understanding

and support during this time. I may need a bit more time to fully return, but I promise I'm on the path to recovery."

She concluded by saying, "I wrote this down today because I felt like I owe an explanation to all my family, friends and fans for disappearing like this. Love u all...and reconnect soon. Thank you all for being here and for your

endless support."

Nazriya Nazim last made a public appearance at her brother, Naveen Nazim's engagement. She, along with Fahadh Faasil, attended the celebrations and also shared photos from the happy event.

She was last seen in the Telugu film Ante Sundaraniki, co-starring Nani. It is currently streaming on Netflix.

CRPF 'backbone' of mission to rid country of Naxalism by March 2026: Amit Shah

NEEMUCH (MP), Apr 17 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said that Naxalism, which is confined to just four districts in India, will be eliminated by March 31 next year, and the CRPF is the "backbone" of this mission.

He was addressing the Central Reserve Police Force's (CRPF) 86th Raising Day function in Madhya Pradesh's Neemuch district.

"Naxalism has been confined to just four districts in India. The menace will end in the country by March 31, 2026, as stated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The CAPF (Central Armed Police Forces) and the CRPF, especially its CoBRA battalion, are playing a major role in eliminating Naxalism from the country," he said.

The Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) is a specialised unit of the CRPF, known for its proficiency in guerrilla and jungle warfare, particularly in combating the Naxal menace.

"The CRPF has set up over 400 forward operating bases in Naxal (affected) areas. Because of this, violence in these regions has come down by more than 70 per cent and we are now close to ending it," Shah said.

He said the CRPF's contribution to national security is unparalleled, whether it is fighting



terrorists in the Kashmir valley, ensuring peace in the Northeast, or confining hardened Naxalites to just four districts today.

"In all these achievements, the CRPF jawans have played a major role. No number of books can do justice to their bravery, sense of duty and courage," he said.

One of the greatest achievements of the CRPF is its massive contribution in eliminating Naxalism, the minister said.

Today, even the most dreaded Naxalites tremble when they hear about CoBRA commandos approaching, he said.

"The CoBRA battalion has become a symbol of valour. I congratulate all CoBRA jawans on the 86th (Raising Day) parade and thank them for their courage," Shah said.

"Under your leadership, the CRPF jawans have made

remarkable strides in eradicating Naxalism. And today, I announce that by March 31, 2026, Naxalism will be completely wiped out from India. This is a pledge the nation has taken and the CRPF is the backbone of this mission," he added.

The CRPF has always made the ultimate sacrifice to maintain the unity and integrity of the country, Shah noted.

"That's why, whenever there is unrest anywhere in the country and, as home minister, I get to know that CRPF jawans are deployed there, I can focus on my other duties without worry because I have faith that if the CRPF is present, victory is assured," he said.

Shah further said, "2,264 among you have sacrificed their lives. I want to say to families of all the martyrs that as the nation moves forward towards

becoming the supreme power by 2047, your families' contribution is immense." When the golden history of India's independence is written, the saga of "our immortal martyrs' sacrifice will be written in golden letters. I am fully confident of this," he said.

The event here was part of the 86th Raising Day celebrations of the CRPF, an official release said.

The CRPF Day is celebrated every year on March 19, as it was on this day in 1950 that the flag was presented to the force by the then Home Minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

This year, the parade was held on April 17 as part of extended celebrations.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav also attended the event.

It was in Neemuch on July 27, 1939, that the 'Crown Representative Police' was established during British rule, which was renamed as Central Reserve Police Force by Home Minister Patel on December 28, 1949.

The CRPF has played a strong role in many fronts, ranging from the integration of princely states to internal security, counter-insurgency-terrorism operations, international peace-keeping, VIP security and disaster management.

India has set target of Rs 3 lakh cr in defence production by 2029: Rajnath Singh



NEW DELHI, Apr 17 (Agencies): The value of India's defence production this year is expected to cross Rs 1.60 lakh crore and the target is to manufacture military hardware worth Rs 3 lakh crore by 2029, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Thursday.

India will reduce its dependency on imports and create a defence industrial eco-system that will not only meet the country's needs but will also strengthen the potential of defence exports, he said.

Singh was speaking at the 'Defence Conclave 2025 — Force of the Future' hosted by 'The Week' magazine.

"The day is not far when India will not only emerge as a developed country, but our military power will also emerge as the number one in the world," he asserted.

"This year, defence production should cross Rs 1.60 lakh crore, while our target is to produce defence equipment worth Rs 3 lakh crore by the year 2029," he said.

The defence minister said while India's defence manufacturing capabilities are aimed at national security and strategic autonomy, they are also insulating manufacturing from global "supply shocks".

"Our defence exports should reach Rs 30,000 crore this year and Rs 50,000 crore by the year 2029," he announced.

Singh underlined that India's growing defence capability is not meant to provoke conflict.

"Our defence capabilities are like a credible

deterrence, to maintain peace and tranquility. Peace is possible only when we remain strong," he added.

In his address, Singh laid out a compelling vision for a "self-reliant and future-ready" India in the defence sector with a focus on indigenisation, innovation, and global leadership.

The defence minister said India is not only securing its borders but also positioning itself as a key player in the international defence ecosystem.

Singh said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the "revival and strengthening" of the defence sector is one of the biggest priorities for the government.

The government's first and foremost challenge was to change the mindset that India would simply import to meet its defence needs, he recalled.

"Today, while India's defence sector is moving ahead on the path of self-reliance, it is also ready to play a very important role in making global supply chains resilient," Singh emphasised.

He added the 'Make in India' programme is not only strengthening the country's defence production but also has the capability to make the global defence supply chain resilient and flexible.

On the evolving nature of warfare, Singh underscored that in the coming days, conflicts and wars will be more violent and unpredictable.

The cyber and space

domains are rapidly emerging as new battlefields and along with this, a war of narrative and perception is also being fought all over the world.

To address these challenges, he mentioned that the focus is on holistic capacity building and continuous reforms.

Reflecting on reforms, Singh highlighted that corporatising the over 200-year-old Ordnance Factories was a "bold but necessary step".

"Today Ordnance Factories are performing very well in their new form and have become profit-making units. I believe that changing a structure that is more than two hundred years old is a very big reform of this century," he added.

The defence minister outlined the government's indigenisation drive, noting the release of five positive indigenisation lists by the Armed Forces and five by Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs).

The defence ministry came out with the positive indigenisation lists comprising military hardware which will be produced within the country under a staggered timeline.

"The total number of defence equipment, weapon systems and platforms included in the list of the services is 509. These will now be produced in India," he said.

"Similarly, the total number of items included in the DPSU (defence public sector undertakings) lists is 5,012 including strategically important Line replacement units, sub-systems, spares and components," Singh said.

The defence minister also highlighted the government's decision to reserve 75 per cent of the defence budget for procurement from domestic companies.

'Anti-poor' Modi government bent on oppressing MGNREGA workers: Kharge

NEW DELHI, Apr 17 (Agencies): Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday alleged that the "anti-poor" Modi government is bent on "oppressing" MGNREGA workers and reiterated the party's demands that their minimum wage per day be fixed at Rs 400 and that they be provided at least 150 days of work in a year.

Kharge shared on X a media report which claimed that the government is unlikely to raise the daily floor wage under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS)

substantially, on top of the usual annual hike, despite recommendations by two panels.

"It seems that the anti-people Modi government has refused to increase MGNREGA wages. This is like attacking the rights of MGNREGA workers," Kharge said in a post in Hindi on X.

He pointed out that recently, the Joint Parliamentary Committee had recommended increasing the daily wage of MGNREGA workers to Rs 400 per day.

"Amarjeet Sinha's High Level Committee formed in 2023 had

also suggested increasing wages and increasing the budget of MGNREGA. But the anti-poor Modi government is bent on oppressing MGNREGA workers," the Congress chief said.

Be it excluding nearly seven crore registered workers from MGNREGA by imposing the condition of Aadhaar-based payment, or allocating the lowest MGNREGA budget in the last 10 years as compared to the total budget, the Modi government has been negatively impacting MGNREGA, he said.

"MGNREGA — Employment guarantee scheme



was brought by the Congress Party for the poorest families of our country. We are firm on our two demands — Minimum wage of Rs 400

per day should be fixed for MGNREGA workers and at least 150 days of work in a year be provided to them," Kharge said.

6 killed in collision between bus, auto-rickshaw in Gujarat's Patan

PATAN, Apr 17 (Agencies): Six people travelling in an auto-rickshaw were killed as their vehicle collided with a state transport bus in Gujarat's Patan district on Thursday, police said.

An official said the accident occurred near Sami village on the Sami-Radhanpur highway around 11.30 am.

The state transport bus was going towards Kutch from Himmatnagar, while the three-

wheeler was coming from the opposite direction, said Patan District Superintendent of Police VK Nayi.

"All six people travelling in the auto-rickshaw, including the driver, died on the spot. The impact was so intense that the mangled remains of the auto got stuck underneath the bus," said Nayi.

Prime facie, it appears that the bus driver lost

control over the vehicle while trying to overtake another vehicle, resulting in the collision, said the official.

The local police have started an investigation, Nayi added.

Radhanpur MLA and BJP leader Lavingji Thakor, who rushed to the spot after learning about the accident, said all six occupants of the auto-rickshaw died at the scene.

Minor domestic help found hanging in Delhi's Vasant Kunj; police suspect she may have been 14 years old

NEW DELHI, Apr 17 (Agencies): A girl working as a domestic help was found hanging in the bathroom of her employer's home in south Delhi's Vasant Kunj area, an official said on Thursday.

The police said they are trying to verify the girl's age as her parents said that she was 17 but her employers claim she was aged around 19-20. However, during the

preliminary medical examination, police found out that the girl was 14 years old, they said.

Vasant Kunj South Police Station received a call regarding the incident on Wednesday. A team was rushed to the spot where they discovered a young woman hanging from a shower pipe in the bathroom, they said.

The girl, a native of Uttar Pradesh's Rae Bareilly, had been working at the house for the last one-and-a-half months.

On Wednesday, she came to the house around 8 am for work. At around 4 pm, she also opened the door for the house owner, Deepak (39), when he returned home, the officer said. "After this, Deepak, his

wife, and their children went to sleep. At about 6 pm, the cook came. When the girl did not answer the doorbells, Deepak's wife opened the door and realised that the girl was nowhere to be seen," he added.

Eventually, they opened the bathroom door with a key after repeated knocking went unanswered and found the girl hanging from the

shower pipe and called the police, he said.

The body was taken to Safdarjung Hospital for preliminary medical examination and has been kept at the mortuary, he said.

Inquest proceedings under Section 174 CrPC are underway, the officer added.

Her parents claim that she was 17. Police are verifying it, he added.

22 Naxalites arrested, explosives seized in Chhattisgarh

Tiffin bombs, gelatin sticks, detonators, electric wires, batteries, Maoist pamphlets and other items were recovered from the arrested Naxalites.

BIJAPUR, Apr 17 (Agencies): Twenty two Naxalites have been arrested and explosive materials seized from them at three places in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district, police said on Thursday.

Seven lower rung cadres were apprehended on Tuesday near Tekmetla village under Usoor police station area, when a joint team of the CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action- an elite unit of CRPF) and local police was out on an area



domination operation, an official said. Six other Naxalites were arrested from forts

in Belchar village under Jangla police station limits, while nine cadres were nabbed from a forest in Kandarkarka village under Nelasnar police station area, he said.

Separate joint teams of security personnel were involved in these two actions.

Tiffin bombs, gelatin sticks, detonators, electric wires, batteries, Maoist pamphlets and other items were recovered from the arrested Naxalites, aged between 19 and 45 years, the official said.

Roadside 'golgappa' indulgence lands 31 students in hospital at Nanded

CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR, Apr 17 (Agencies): In a suspected food-poisoning case, 31 students of different educational institutes were admitted to a government hospital in Maharashtra's Nanded city early on Thursday as they fell ill after consuming 'pani puri' or 'golgappa' at a roadside stall, officials said.

The affected students belong to three city-based educational institutions - Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, SGGGS College and a nursing college, they said.

"Thirty-one students were admitted to Dr Shankarrao Chavan Government Medical College and Hospital 4 am onwards after they started visiting the medical facility with complaints of vomiting, nausea and uneasiness following consumption of 'pani puri' at a single stall," an official of the hospital said.

After their medical examination, the students were admitted to various wards in the hospital for treatment, he said, adding that their condition was stable.

Israeli strike kills 23, including a family of 10 in Gaza as UN raises alarm over food cutoff

GAZA STRIP, Apr 17 (Agencies): Israeli strikes on the Gaza Strip overnight into Thursday killed at least 23 people, including a family of 10, local health officials said. The United Nations meanwhile raised alarm over the mounting impact of Israel's six-week-old blockade preventing all food and other supplies from entering the territory.

Israel ended its ceasefire with Hamas last month and renewed its bombardment, killing hundreds of people and seizing large parts of the territory to pressure the militants to accept changes to the agreement.

A strike in the southern city of Khan Younis killed five children, four women and a man from the same family, all of whom suffered severe burns, according to Nasser Hospital, which received the bodies. Strikes in northern Gaza killed 13 people, including nine children, according to the Indonesian Hospital.

The Israeli military says it tries to avoid harming civilians and blames their deaths on Hamas because it operates in residential areas. There was no immediate comment on the latest strikes.

The U.N. humanitarian office, known as OCHA, said that almost all of Gaza's more than 2 million people now rely for food on the only 1 million prepared meals produced daily by charity kitchens supported by aid groups.



Other food distribution programs have shut down for lack of supplies, and the U.N. and other aid groups have been sending their remaining stocks to the charity kitchens.

The only other way to get food in Gaza is from markets. But most cannot afford to buy there because of spiraling prices and widespread shortages, meaning humanitarian aid is the primary food source for 80% of the population, the World Food Program said in its monthly report for April on Gaza's markets.

"The Gaza Strip is now likely facing the worst humanitarian crisis in the 18 months since the escalation of hostilities in October 2023," OCHA said.

Most people in Gaza are now down to one meal a day, said Shaina Low, a spokesperson for the Norwegian Refugee Council. "It's far lower than what is needed," she said.

Water is also growing scarce, with Palestinians standing in

long lines to fill jerry cans from trucks. Omar Shatat, an official with a local water utility, said people are down to six or seven liters per day, well below the amount the U.N. estimates is needed to meet basic needs.

Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz said Wednesday that preventing humanitarian aid is one of the "central pressure tactics" used against Hamas, which Israel accuses of siphoning off aid to maintain its rule.

Israel is demanding that Hamas release more hostages at the start of any new ceasefire and ultimately agree to disarm and leave the territory. Katz said that even afterward Israel will continue to occupy large "security zones" inside Gaza.

Hamas is currently holding 59 hostages, 24 of whom are believed to be alive. It says it will only return them in exchange for the release of more Palestinian prisoners, a full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and a lasting truce,

as called for in the now-defunct ceasefire agreement reached earlier this year.

Hani Almadhoun, co-founder of Gaza Soup Kitchen, said his kitchen has food for about three more weeks.

"But food is loosely defined. We have pasta and rice but nothing much beyond that. No fresh produce. There is no chicken or beef. The only thing we have is canned meat," he said. He said 15-20% of the people who come to his kitchen for food leave empty-handed.

The war began when Hamas-led militants attacked southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting 251. Most of the hostages have since been released in ceasefire agreements or other deals. Israel has rescued eight and recovered dozens of bodies.

Israel's offensive has killed over 51,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, without providing evidence.

The war has destroyed vast parts of Gaza and most of its food production capabilities. The war has displaced around 90% of the population, with hundreds of thousands of people living in tent camps and bombed-out buildings.

China, US at impasse over who should start trade talks

The Donald Trump administration has been ramping up pressure on China by raising import tariffs on Chinese goods in recent months



BEIJING, Apr 17 (Agencies): China's commerce ministry on Thursday urged the United States to stop putting "extreme pressure" on the world's second-largest economy and demanded respect in any trade talks, but the two sides remained at an impasse over who should start those talks.

The Donald Trump administration has been ramping up pressure on China by raising import tariffs on Chinese goods in recent months. On Tuesday, the White House published a fact sheet stating that China now faces up to a 245% tariff.

The Chinese com-

merce ministry has criticised the tariffs as irrational and said Beijing will ignore the "meaningless" tariff numbers game. It has also warned that China will "fight to the end" if the U.S. insists on heaping substantial damage on China's rights and interests.

"The unilateral tariff increases were entirely initiated by the United States," He Yongqian, a Chinese commerce ministry spokesperson, told a weekly news conference.

Unlike a number of nations that have responded to Trump's "reciprocal tariffs" by seeking deals with

Washington, Beijing has been upping its own levies on U.S. goods in response and has not sought talks, which it says can only be conducted on the basis of mutual respect and equality.

Washington said on Tuesday that Trump was open to making a trade deal with China but Beijing should make the first move and that "the ball is in China's court".

"We urge the United States to immediately stop extreme pressure, coercion and blackmail, and resolve differences with China through equal dialogue on the basis of mutual respect," the commerce ministry spokesperson said.

The commerce ministry has been maintaining working-level communication with its U.S. counterparts, she said, adding that China is open to economic and trade consultations with the United States.

But "the person who tied the bell must be the one who unties it," she said, using a Chinese proverb.

King Charles mulls over war, suffering and heroism in Easter message

LONDON, Apr 17 (Agencies): Britain's King Charles on Thursday used his annual Easter message to reflect on war, human suffering and the heroism of those who risk their lives to protect others.

"One of the puzzles of our humanity is how we are capable of both great cruelty and great kindness," he said, describing what he called the "paradox of human life".

"At one moment, terrible images of human suffering and, in another, heroic acts in war torn countries where



humanitarians of every kind risk their own lives to protect the lives of others."

Charles, 76, will later attend the Royal Maundy Service at Durham Cathedral, a ceremony in which 76 men and 76 women receive symbolic gifts of specially minted coins in

a centuries-old custom that recognises recipients for their Christian service.

"There are three virtues that the world still needs - faith, hope and love. 'And the greatest of these is love'" Charles said, referring to a passage from the New Testament.

Taiwan Pres Lai Ching-te orders DPP officials to report China visits amid infiltration concerns

TAIPEI, Apr 17 (Agencies): In a direct response to growing concerns over Chinese influence, Taiwan President William Lai Ching-te said that all Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) officials and party workers must submit reports to the party before and after any planned visits to China, Hong Kong, or Macau, or if they have held meetings with Chinese officials, Taipei Times reported.

Lai, who also serves as DPP chairman, emphasised that such transparency is essential amid escalating cross-strait tensions.

As the political party that serves as a core defender of Taiwan's democracy and sov-



ereignty, the DPP will also conduct training workshops to educate party officials and government-affiliated members on the importance of national security and the rule of law, Lai said.

He urged DPP caucuses at both the legislative and local government

levels to create internal regulations or systems that would instil stronger national security awareness among legislators' and councillors' assistants, reported Taipei Times.

Lai warned that "foreign aggressors have stepped up measures

to infiltrate Taiwan," noting that beyond cognitive warfare and "grey zone" tactics, there are recent cases involving DPP members allegedly colluding with Chinese spies. These developments, he said, highlight the need for the party to remain vigilant.

"The DPP, which devotes itself to protecting Taiwan, is naturally the political party that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) would most want to infiltrate, not the Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT), which shares similar views with the CCP," Lai said.

He added that the DPP's mission is rooted in protecting Taiwan's democratic government, and party mem-

bers must embody the founding principles of integrity, diligence, and cultural grounding.

He said that the actions of those accused of working with Chinese operatives "contravene what the DPP stands for and betray the nation's interests for personal gain," and that they must be held accountable under party rules, the legal system, and public scrutiny, Taipei Times reported.

Lai made the remarks at the party's Central Standing Committee convention, where he also called on the DPP legislative caucus to support proposed national security and anti-infiltration amendments.

Turkey detains 525 suspects in country's biggest anti-drugs operation, minister says

ISTANBUL, Apr 17 (Agencies): Turkish police detained 525 suspected drug dealers in dawn operations across the capital, Ankara, on Thursday in what Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya said was the "biggest narcotics operation" in the country's history.

The operation involved thousands of police officers, sniffer dogs, drones and helicopters and targeted over 625 addresses, Yerlikaya said.

The raids were the result of "technical and

physical surveillance" of each suspect over six months, he added.

Yerlikaya said many of those arrested were suspected of being involved in the sale of narcotics "in neighborhoods and streets via internet-based communication platforms."

"We have shown those poison peddlers once again very clearly: the streets you have entered is a dead end," Yerlikaya wrote on his X account.

The Interior Ministry said the crackdown

would continue and more detentions would take place in the coming days.

The raids in Turkey follow a large-scale Europe-wide operation which targeted international drug trafficking and money laundering networks.

Over 230 people were arrested during the operation led by Europol and police forces in Netherlands, Turkey, Germany, Spain, and Belgium, during which \$400 million worth of assets were seized.

UAE, Kenya discuss enhancing bilateral relations, regional security

LONDON, Apr 17 (Agencies): Lana Nusseibeh, UAE's Assistant Minister for Political Affairs, met with Musalia Mudavadi, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs of Kenya, to discuss bilateral relations between the UAE and Kenya, as well as opportunities to enhance people-to-people ties and joint cooperation across several sectors.

During the meeting, which took place on the sidelines of the London Sudan Conference, the two sides also exchanged views on the ongoing crisis in Sudan and regional efforts to support a political resolution; where both sides agreed on the importance of constructive cooperation with African partners,



including the African Union (AU) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). The UAE stressed the importance of

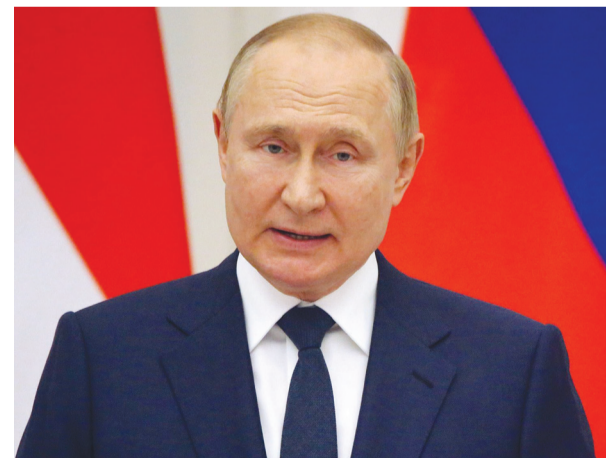
an African role in addressing regional crises, including Sudan, and reaffirmed its constant calls for African-led solutions.

Nusseibeh emphasised that "The UAE stressed again the essential role of the African Union to help bring about a ceasefire in Sudan between the warring parties and a transition to an independent civilian-led government."

Furthermore, she highlighted the importance of having institutions, such as the United Nations, take a stronger stance on the weaponisation of humanitarian aid.

Attendees from the UAE side included Mansour Belhouel, UAE Ambassador to the United Kingdom.

Putin praises Elon Musk, compares him to father of Soviet space programme



MOSCOW, Apr 17 (Agencies): Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday praised Elon Musk, comparing him to Sergei Korolev, the chief engineer behind the Soviet Union's space success in the 1950s and 1960s, state news agency TASS reported.

TASS cited Putin, who was speaking on Russia's space policy at a

meeting with students, as saying: "You know, there's a person who lives in the States, you could say that he's absolutely crazy about Mars."

It quoted him as drawing a comparison between Musk and Sergei Korolev, a Soviet engineer who was instrumental in the Soviet Union's success in sending Yuri Gaga-

rin on the world's first crewed spaceflight in 1961.

According to TASS, Putin said: "Such people rarely appear in the human population, charged with a certain idea. Even though it may seem incredible to me today, after a time such ideas are often realised."

Putin has previously praised Musk, whose business interests include the SpaceX space technology company, as "an outstanding person". Musk, a top advisor to U.S. President Donald Trump, has become increasingly vocal in his criticism of Ukraine, which has been fighting against Russia since 2022, when the Kremlin ordered tens of thousands of troops into its neighbour's territory.

DDC reviews patient care scenario at Raja Sukhdev Singh District Hospital Poonch

Top News Report

POONCH, Apr 17: District Development Commissioner Vikas Kundal reviewed the ongoing progress and activities at Raja Sukhdev District Hospital at a meeting held on Thursday in the Meeting Hall of the DC Office complex.

The DDC initiated the meeting with a comprehensive evaluation of achievements under various health schemes, focusing on the hospital's functioning, addressing issues and grievances related to the department, upgrading infrastructure, and enhancing healthcare services for patients.



Chief Medical Officer (CMO) and Medical Superintendent (MS) of the Hospital provided a detailed briefing on the health services and achievements recorded by the hospital.

The Deputy Commissioner assessed different operational aspects, including services offered in outpatient (OPD) and inpatient departments (IPD), major and minor sur-

geries, laboratory tests, institutional deliveries, 108 ambulance services, and staff rationalization.

The meeting also addressed issues projected at different platforms with a commitment to bring in further improvement in the services. The DDC directed to submit a monthly report on the 108 ambulance services provided by health institutions in the district by tomorrow. He further instructed doctors to prescribe only generic medicines with names written in capital letters.

To rationalize staff, the DDC asked for proposing a rotation-wise system for underserved

areas and instructed the cancellation of any staff attachments.

Reiterating the importance of meeting patient expectations, the DDC emphasized delivering quality, accessible and affordable healthcare services. He also directed the ACR Poonch to retrieve encroached land within the District Hospital premises.

The meeting was attended by ADC Tahir Mustafa Malik, ACR Mohd Sayeed, PO ICDS Khalid Hussain Wafa, CMO Dr. Parvaiz Ahmed Khan, Executive Engineer of PWD (R&B), Jal Shakti, JPDC, Medical Superintendent DH Poonch and other concerned stakeholders.

Modi Govt's policies propel J&K into tourism spotlight: Kavinder Gupta



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 17: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta, has lauded the remarkable surge in tourism witnessed in Jammu and Kashmir, attributing the upward trend to the visionary and pro-people policies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government.

Citing official data, Gupta noted that over 5.25 lakh tourists have visited Kashmir in just the first three months and one week of 2025 alone which seems to be a clear evidence that the region is fast emerging as a global tourism hub.

Speaking at a meeting held at the BJP Headquarters in Jammu, Kavinder highlighted that this sharp rise in tourist footfall is a direct outcome of the Central Government's continu-

ous efforts to restore peace, promote development, and improve infrastructure in the region. "The abrogation of Article 370 proved to be a turning point," he said, adding that the removal of the temporary provision opened new doors for investments, job creation, and infrastructural growth, significantly benefiting the tourism sector.

He emphasized the importance of flagship events like the G20 Tourism meet, Khelo India Winter Games in Gulmarg and the annual opening of the Tulip Garden in Srinagar, which have become key attractions and are drawing both domestic and international tourists in large numbers. He added that development of better road connectivity, upgraded airports, and increased air traffic has further boosted the ease of travel to

the Union Territory.

Kavinder further said that the Modi Government is committed to transforming Jammu and Kashmir into a vibrant economic zone, with tourism playing a pivotal role. "Tourism not only brings economic prosperity but also bridges cultural gaps, creates livelihood opportunities and strengthens national unity," he asserted.

Looking ahead, the former deputy Chief Minister expressed optimism that Jammu and Kashmir is steadily shedding the shadows of the past and is poised to become one of India's most sought-after tourist destinations. He reiterated the Modi government's resolve to continue strengthening infrastructure, enhancing security, and creating a welcoming environment for tourists from across the globe.

DDC Udhampur hands over keys of e-rickshaws to progressive fishermen under PMMSY



Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Apr 17: District Development Commissioner Saloni Rai on Thursday handed over keys and ice boxes of three-wheeler e-rickshaws to progressive fishermen of the district under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana.

While interacting with the beneficiaries, the District Development Commissioner con-

gratulated them and highlighted the Government's continued efforts to support the fisheries sector.

She informed that the Department of Fisheries, besides generating employment through the construction of carp ponds, trout Raceways and Backyard Mini-RAS units, is also extending financial and logistical assistance to fish farmers and fishermen by providing them with

three-wheeler e-rickshaws.

She added that this initiative aims to strengthen the marketing and transportation infrastructure for fish and fish products. The provision of e-rickshaws will enable the fishermen to transport their produce more efficiently to nearby markets, while the ice boxes will ensure the freshness and quality of the fish is maintained during transit, the DC added.

The beneficiaries expressed heartfelt gratitude to the government and the District Administration for this support, which will significantly enhance their income-generating capacities and improve livelihoods.

Four Indian Grey Wolves trans-located from Gujarat to Jambu Zoo

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 17: Department of Wildlife Protection is delighted to announce the successful translocation of two pairs of Indian Grey Wolves to Jambu Zoo. The wolves were donated by Sakkarbaug Zoological Park, Junagadh, Gujarat in exchange for one pair of leopard cats from Jambu Zoo.

The transportation was facilitated by Indian Railways, ensuring a smooth and safe journey for the wolves via Veterinary Passenger Units (VPU). Throughout the transit, utmost care was taken to minimize stress and ensure the well-being of the animals. Upon arrival, the wolves have been placed under a mandatory quarantine care

and observation period of two weeks at Jambu Zoo. A dedicated team comprising Zoo Veterinary Officer Dr. Ranjit Singh Katoch, Range Officer Sumit Kumar and skilled animal keepers has been overseeing their translocation and acclimatization in Jambu Zoo. The wolves will be introduced to the public exhibits after successful completion of the quarantine, in accordance with established animal welfare protocols.

The Indian Grey Wolves, known for their sharp intelligence, live in small family packs, often forming monogamous pairs. They can communicate through howls, body posture, and scent marking. They usually hunt in pairs or small packs.

DDC reviews implementation of PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana in Kishtwar District

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Apr 17: A review meeting to assess the implementation and progress of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana was held on Thursday here with District Development Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan in the chair.

At the outset, the Executive Engineer JPDC briefed the District Development Commissioner on the current status of applications received and consumer registrations under the scheme.

While reviewing the progress, the District Development Com-



missioner directed all Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) of the government departments to actively publicize the scheme. He emphasized seamless

access to loan services by facilitating the interested persons in registrations and linking with banks. The DC also laid special emphasis on achieving vis-

ible results, including in cases of slackness. Furthermore, he instructed the Executive Engineer to widely circulate the step-by-step procedure for availing the scheme from registration to vendor selection, bank linkage, and finally installation and commissioning. The meeting was attended by CPO Shahnawaz Bali; ACR Idrees Lone; SDM Marwah Mohd. Ashraf; SDM Chatroo Nayeem Ur Rahman; DSWO Zubair Ahmed; Dy. Registrar Cooperative/EO Municipality Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal; AD FCS & CA Shafiqat Ali Keen; Executive Engineer JPDC Er. Latif Wani besides others.

From Page No: 1

JK BJP holds protest against Cong, says ED chargesheet against Gandhis final nail in party's coffin

take responsibility for their involvement in the National Herald case and resign from the Congress, she said.

"Instead, they shamelessly use Congress cadres across the country to organise protests and portray themselves as victims. The mother-son duo are trying to deceive the people and conceal their scams by compelling their workers to hold protests," she said.

The Congress on Wednesday held protests outside ED offices across the country over the agency filing the chargesheet against its leaders.

MLA Arvind Gupta said the Congress leaders will face justice.

"While the opposition party may have the right to hold demonstrations, it does not have the right to misappropriate public properties allocated to the National Herald newspaper," he said.

Six from J&K make it to IAS and IPS, Cadres allotted by Centre

allotted Gujarat, while Seerat Baji (AIR 516), from the Scheduled Tribe category, will serve under the AGMUT cadre.

The successful candidates from Jammu and Kashmir are now set to begin their careers in the Indian civil services, with postings across various parts of the country, reflecting the broader national integration policy under the current cadre allocation rules.

Incharge XEN attached, Another given addl charge

been entrusted with the additional charge of the Nowshera Division until further orders.

Mehbooba Mufti accuses BJP of grabbing Waqf Land, Demolishing Mosques

Conference (NC) over what she termed a longstanding "covert understanding" with the BJP. She referred to former RAW chief AS Dulat's statements and claimed his closeness to the Abdullah family was "no secret."

"The book only confirms what many of us have known — that NC leaders have maintained contact with the BJP behind closed doors since 2014," she said. Mehbooba also recalled that PDP faced public backlash when it allied with the BJP, whereas NC "quietly went ahead."

She accused Omar Abdullah of hypocrisy, citing his appearance in Srinagar's Tulip Garden alongside

the Union Minority Affairs Minister, who she said introduced the controversial Waqf Bill, even as Waqf properties in Jammu and Kashmir were being targeted.

On her party's role in the legislature, Mehbooba noted that the PDP had introduced four key bills, including one on electricity and another concerning daily wagers, and brought in a resolution against the Waqf Bill.

Appealing directly to the BJP, Mehbooba said, "You are now the ones riding high — arresting youth under UAPA and PSA, seizing passports, and terminating employees. Talk to the people of Kashmir. It is the crown of India— let it remain that way."

She also voiced hope that the Supreme Court would rule in favour of Muslims in the ongoing Waqf Act case. Drawing a parallel with the execution of Afzal Guru, she said, "There was no solid evidence, yet he was hanged citing the collective conscience of the nation. We hope that same conscience now protects Muslim rights."

Widespread rains

lash J&K; Gulmarg records highest rainfall

night on April 20, the MeT office added.

MeT said the tourist resort of Gulmarg in Baramulla district received the highest rainfall in the region, recording 39.4 mm. In the last 24 hours the summer capital Srinagar recorded 17.9 mm of rain, while Qazigund and Pahalgam in south Kashmir received 20.8 mm and 16.0 mm respectively.

Kupwara in north and Kokernag in south Kashmir recorded 10.8 mm and 22.0 mm.

In Jammu Division, rains were more intense in some areas. Jammu city received 32.6 mm of rain. Banihal was among the wetter places in the division with 24.0 mm of rainfall.

The MeT data also revealed that Batote and Baderwah saw 17.2 mm and 10.3 mm of rain.

Kupwara Police

bust South-North drug route, woman drug kingpin among 3 held

circumstances to bypass security. That will no longer be tolerated," he asserted.

Referring to certain absconders involved in previous drug cases in Tangdhar, SSP Jeelani issued a stern warning: "Your properties will be attached. There will be no escape from the law."

He also said that anyone involved in drug trade will face strict legal consequences, including the attachment of properties.

Fire leaves residential house among 3 structures damaged in Rajouri

No loss of life was reported in the incident.

Mission YUVA: Orientation Training imparted to Yuva Doots at Poonch

Top News Report

POONCH, Apr 17: An Orientation-cum-Training Programme for Yuva Doots was successfully conducted under the auspices of Mission YUVA at the Multipurpose Hall of SKC GDC Poonch on Thursday. The event was chaired by District Development Commissioner Vikas Kundal.

In his address, the DDC underscored the critical importance of strategic planning and active coordination in fostering an entrepreneurial spirit among the youth.

He urged the Yuva Doots to serve as effective communicators and facilitators, bridging the gap between the administration and aspiring young entrepreneurs at the grassroots level.

Deputy Director Employment Mohd Rafiq emphasized the vital role that Yuva Doots can play in identifying potential entrepreneurs, raising awareness about various self-employment schemes, and assisting them in



accessing benefits under Mission YUVA.

The programme featured a comprehensive presentation delivered by Resource Persons from the Employment Department, who detailed the

specific responsibilities of the Yuva Doots within the mission framework.

The presentation provided valuable insights into the various components of Mission YUVA, including its objec-

tives, expected outcomes, and key features such as: Interest Subvention Schemes: Financial incentives to support new businesses, Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC): A one-stop E-commerce marketing platform aimed at enhancing online business opportunities, District Level Small Business Development Units: Support units designed to assist small businesses at the district level, Sub-Divisional Level Business Help Desks: Local help desks to provide guidance and support to entrepreneurs.

The session was designed to sensitize Yuva Doots about their roles and responsibilities in this ambitious initiative, which aims to promote entrepreneurship and self-employment among the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

The event concluded with an interactive Q&A session, encouraging Yuva Doots to engage actively and seek clarifications regarding their roles in implementing Mission YUVA.

Farooq's double standards on Art 370 exposed: Adv. Purnima Sharma

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 17: Reacting sharply to the recent revelations made by former RAW chief A.S. Dulat in his new book 'The Chief Minister and the Spy', BJP Spokesperson and former Deputy Mayor Jammu, Adv. Purnima Sharma, has accused National Conference (NC) President Dr. Farooq Abdullah of indulging in blatant political hypocrisy and double standards on the issue of Article 370.

In a press statement issued here today, the BJP Spokesperson said that Dulat's claim that Dr. Farooq Abdullah was "willing to work with Delhi" after the abrogation of Article 370 is a damning indictment of the NC leadership's duplicity. "While Farooq Abdullah and his party have been shouting from rooftops against the abrogation of Article 370 in public, behind closed doors, they were ready to cooperate with the Central Government," she said. Highlighting a por-



tion of Dulat's book where Farooq Abdullah is quoted saying, "We would have helped. Why were we not taken into confidence?", She questioned the integrity of the NC's public posturing. "This clearly exposes how the NC leadership was more interested in political bargaining than the so-called 'cause' they claim to champion," she added.

The senior BJP leader also pointed out Dulat's assertion that Farooq Abdullah even contemplated having the proposal passed in the Legislative Assembly. "This statement confirms what the people of J&K have long suspected—that the NC leadership's

opposition to the move is nothing but political drama aimed at misleading the public," she said.

Purnima Sharma called upon the youth and the people of Jammu and Kashmir to see through the smokescreen created by dynastic political parties like NC. "The abrogation of Article 370 has opened new avenues of development, investment, and empowerment for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. It's time to reject those who only seek to cling to power through confusion and contradiction," she asserted.

Purnima reiterated BJP's stand that the decision to revoke Article 370 was in the national interest and has proved beneficial for the common people, especially the marginalized sections who were previously deprived of rights under the special status regime.

"Farooq Abdullah's double speak stands exposed. The people of J&K will not be misled again," she added.

Army conducts medical patrol for locals at Patli Top



Top News Report

RAJOURI, Apr 17: Indian Army has always been known for its ethos, values and traditions of highest order. The professional and humane face of Indian Army is well known and is always praised and commended. Following its ethos and traditions, Indian Army has been at the forefront and working along with the Awam in their fight against the medical related issues. Indian Army at Samote organised medical patrol in far flung areas of Patli Top, Rajouri.

A total of 32 locals including 14 men, 11

women and 07 children from village of Patli Top availed the benefit of free medical treatment & free distribution of medicines.

Medical representative from the Indian Army provided treatment to all patients during medical patrol which was organised with the objective of providing medical aid to people. The local populace appreciated selfless efforts of the Indian Army and said such events not only help in taking medical aid to the doorstep of the people but also help in the synergy between the Indian Army and the Awam towards development of the region.

Medical Ayush and Veterinary Camp Organised at Sarsot, Reasi



Top News Report

REASI, Apr 17: As part of continued efforts to reach out to the remote and underserved areas of Jammu & Kashmir, the Indian Army organised a Comprehensive AYUSH and Veterinary Camp at Sarsot (Batsiyala).

The initiative was aimed at providing much-needed healthcare service to the local populace with a special focus on remote villages having limited access to medical facilities.

The camp witnessed participation from dedicated teams of doctors from the Indian Army, specialists in AYUSH (Ayurveda Yoga & Naturopathy) and Veterinary experts.

A wide range of services were provided, including general health check-ups, distribution of free medicines, Veterinary treatment and vaccination of Livestock's, AYUSH consultations, awareness sessions on Health & Hygiene.

The event was well received by the villagers, who expressed immense gratitude for the Indian Army's sustained support and humanitarian outreach in the region.

This initiative is part of the Indian Army which aims to foster goodwill, trust and collaboration with the Indian Army's commitment to support the health and well-being of citizens in the most remotest and challenging terrain.

Awareness Programme on Menstrual Hygiene held at G&B Girls Hostel Doda

Top News Report

DODA, Apr 17: An awareness programme on Menstrual Hygiene was on Thursday organised at Gujjar and Bakarwal Girls Hostel by Mission Shakti, Social Welfare Department under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative.

The programme was graced by Gender Specialist at the Hub for Empowerment of Women, Dr. Sanya Khan and Centre Administrator at One Stop Centre (OSC) Sandiya Thakur along with the warden and staff of the hostel.

Dr. Sanya Khan sensitised adolescent girls about the biological and emotional changes during puberty, especially menstruation. She emphasized the importance of maintaining proper menstrual hygiene to prevent long-term health issues and stressed the need to normalise menstruation and eliminate the social taboos attached to it. She also highlighted the significance of nutrition and recommended iron-rich foods and regular physical activity for



better menstrual health. Sanitary pads were distributed among the girls during the session.

Sandiya Thakur elaborated on the importance of personal hygiene and health awareness during adolescence and briefed the participants about the objectives of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

She discussed its role in combating gender discrimination, improving the sex ratio, and ensuring the safety and education of the girl child.

She also spoke about the services offered by the One Stop Centre (OSC), which was established in 2017 to

provide 24-hour support to women, including police assistance, medical aid, temporary shelter, counselling, and legal support.

Sandiya Thakur also threw light on sensitive issues such as teenage pregnancy and underage marriages, stressing the legal consequences of marrying a girl under 18 years of age, even with her consent.

She encouraged the use of emergency helpline numbers and urged the attendees to spread awareness about the various government schemes and support systems available for women's empowerment and welfare.

ADC reviews arrangements for Hajj Pilgrimage 2025 at Kishtwar



Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Apr 17: A meeting to review the arrangements for the Hajj Pilgrimage 2025 was held on Thursday under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Pawan Kotwal.

The Hajj Incharge apprised the ADC that a total of 33 pilgrims from District Kishtwar will be undertaking the Hajj pilgrimage this year. The pilgrims are scheduled to depart from Kishtwar to Hajj House Srinagar on May 12, 2025.

The meeting deliberated on various logistical and administrative

aspects related to the smooth conduct of the pilgrimage. The ADC urged the Police Authorities to ensure adequate security arrangements for the pilgrims.

It was informed that vaccination for the pilgrims is scheduled from April 20, 2025 to April 25, 2025.

The Chief Medical Officer was directed to provide an ambulance along with a doctor to accompany the pilgrims to the Hajj House Srinagar.

The ADC also reviewed other necessary arrangements including currency exchange

facilities, transportation, and boarding arrangements at Islamia Faridia School.

The ADC emphasized coordinated efforts among all departments to ensure hassle-free and safe travel for the pilgrims.

The meeting was attended by ACR Idrees Lone; SDM Chatroo Nayeem Ur Rahman; Dy. Registrar Cooperative Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal; Tehsildar Nirbhay Sharma; Dy. SP Headquarters Dr. Ishan Gupta; Hajj Incharge, members of the Hajj Committee and officials from banks and other concerned departments.

NC cheated in silence, PDP hugged BJP in public: Hakeem Yaseen

• Says Farooq Abdullah must sue Dulat or stop misleading people
• Both NC and PDP jointly sold out Kashmiris for power, chair

Top News Report

Srinagar, Apr 17: Hakeem Muhammad Yaseen, President of the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Front (PDF) and former minister, on Thursday held both National Conference (NC) and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) responsible for the present mess in the region and stated some cheated in silence and some hugged BJP in public.

Reacting strongly to the explosive revelations made by former RAW Chief A.S. Dulat, Hakeem said the people of Jammu and Kashmir had long suspected betrayal—and now the dots are connecting.

"Dulat Sahab is no ordinary man. He's someone who was seen as the closest confidant of Farooq Sahab. In Del-

hi's political circles, he's considered the biggest advocate for Farooq Abdullah. So when he says that the abrogation of Article 370 happened with Farooq Sahab's consent and that from 2020 to 2023 Farooq was desperate to align with BJP—it carries tremendous weight," Hakeem said.

"If these claims are false, then file a defamation case against Dulat. But don't try to mislead the people with emotional speeches. Silence in such matters is not innocence—it's an admission," he said.

Taking the attack further, Hakeem said that let's be honest, NC betrayed people from behind the curtain—but PDP did it openly. They shamelessly formed a government with BJP in 2014, knowing very well the ideological

consequences for Kashmir. All for power. Both parties have played with the sentiments of the people, one with a dagger in the dark, the other in broad daylight."

Hakeem said it's time for both NC and PDP to tender a public apology to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"They must come forward, admit their mistakes, and apologise for decades of exploitation, lies, and political deceit. The people of J&K deserve honesty—not backroom deals and secret understandings."

The PDF chief Hakeem said that the new generation will not be fooled by photo-ops, grand speeches, or crocodile tears. "Kashmiris know who stood firm and who sold out. The era of hollow promises is over," he added.

Army distributes Sleeping Bags to Gujjar and Bakarwal Communities at Dera ki Gali

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Apr 17: As part of its ongoing commitment to social welfare and community outreach, the Indian Army distributed sleeping bags to members of the Gujjar and Bakarwal communities at Dera Ki Gali, Rajouri.

This initiative aims to provide much-needed warmth and improve living conditions for these nomadic groups, especially in the face of harsh weather during the winter months. The distribution is a reflection of the Indian Army's continued dedication to the welfare of all segments of society, particularly those residing in remote and underserved regions. The outreach also serves a broader purpose strengthening bonds with the local population and fostering



a spirit of trust, inclusivity, and empowerment.

By supporting the Gujjar and Bakarwal communities, the Indian Army reaffirms its role not just as a protector, but as a partner in the socio-economic development of the region.

This effort promotes community engagement, encourages sustainability, and contributes to enhanced safety

during winters.

Moreover, it helps in building a positive and secure environment, deterring susceptibility to radical ideologies and anti-national elements. The Indian Army remains steadfast in its dual mission ensuring national security while also uplifting the quality of life for the communities it serves across the country.

Cricket board likely to remove assistant coach Abhishek Nayar; support staff set for overhaul

Fielding coach T Dilip, and Strength and Conditioning coach Soham Desai are also on their way out after completing more than three years in their respective positions

NEW DELHI, Apr 17 (Agencies): Just eight months into the biggest assignment of his career, it could be curtains for Mumbai stalwart Abhishek Nayar as the Indian cricket team's assistant coach amid speculation that he has fallen out with a high-profile member of the support staff.

If board sources are to be believed, Nayar has already been intimidated of the BCCI's decision to part ways with him.

Fielding coach T Dilip, and Strength and Conditioning coach Soham Desai are also on their way out after completing more than three years in their respective positions.

The new Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) of the BCCI has capped the support staff's tenure at three years.

It is learnt that India's first ever Strength and Conditioning coach Adrian Le Roux is likely to return for a second stint. The South African is widely credited for ushering in a new fitness culture in the then Sourav Ganguly-led Indian team during the 2003 World Cup.

When BCCI secretary Deva-



jit Saikia was contacted by the agency, he neither confirmed nor denied the development.

"Certain things are being finalised. You will receive a press note from the BCCI in some days," Saikia said when asked about the speculation.

The 41-year-old Nayar, a former all-rounder who played three ODIs but was largely a domestic stalwart with 103 first-class games, didn't respond to a text message sent by agency. His presence deemed 'counter-productive'

It is learnt that Nayar's removal was on cards after Sitanshu Kotak was added to the Indian team's support staff as an additional batting coach.

"...just after the tour of Australia, there was a review meeting conducted by the BCCI. The top officials of the board, including secretary Devajit Saikia and vice-president Rajeev Shukla, were present along with important members associated with the Indian team, and the nation-

al selectors," a senior BCCI source told agency on condition of anonymity.

"On the sidelines of the meeting, a powerful member of the support staff expressed his apprehensions about Nayar's presence and said how him being in the dressing room is proving to be counter-productive.

"While the BCCI didn't act immediately but they brought in Kotak, the former Saurashtra run-accumulator. It was a way of side-lining Nayar during the Champions Trophy," the source added.

It is understood that Nayar was never the first-choice assistant for head coach Gautam Gambhir when the appointments were finalised. Nayar was appointed as he was seen as someone who could act as a bridge between Gambhir and skipper Rohit Sharma.

Nayar and Dilip have been the Indian skipper's "most trusted lieutenants" and it is not known whether Rohit was kept in the loop by the BCCI mandarins about these decisions.

Neeraj Chopra begins season with 84.52m throw in South Africa



NEW DELHI, Apr 17 (Agencies): Two-time Olympic medal-winning javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra started his season on a high by winning the Potch Invitational Track event in Potchefstroom, South Africa.

Chopra topped the six-man field, hurling the spear to a distance

of 84.52m at the World Athletics Continental Tour Challenger event.

The Indian star finished ahead of 25-year-old South African Douw Smit, whose best throw was 82.44m. But Chopra's effort was below his personal best of 89.94m, while Douw came close to his personal best of 83.29m.

Chopra and Smit were the only two athletes to cross the 80m mark in the competition.

Another South African Duncan Robertson finished third with an effort of 71.22m.

Chopra has been training in Potchefstroom under his new coach Jan Zelezny of Czech Republic, who is a three-time Olympic champion and the world record holder.

The 27-year-old parted ways with his long-time German coach Klaus Bartonietz last year.

Chopra is scheduled to begin his elite-level campaign at the Doha Diamond League on May 16.

He won back-to-back Olympics medals in the 2020 Tokyo (gold) and 2024 Paris Games (silver). His personal best of 89.94m was achieved in 2022 and he has been trying to breach the 90m mark for considerable time.

Delhi Capitals vs Rajasthan Royals match: Steely Starc seals Super Over win

NEW DELHI, Apr 17 (Agencies): Mitchell Starc starred as Delhi Capitals pulled off a stunning win against Rajasthan Royals in a thrilling Super Over finish at the Arun Jaitley Stadium.

Chasing 189, Rajasthan needed 12 runs in the Super Over, but Starc's disciplined bowling and two key run-outs restricted them to just 11. Tristan Stubbs then sealed the win for Delhi with two balls to spare, smashing a short ball from Sandeep Sharma over deep mid-wicket.

The victory looked like a dream when both Nitish Rana, who scored a fifty in only 26 balls and Dhruv Jurel, brought Rajasthan on the doorstep of a famous win. However, Stark bowled three crucial overs—two in the death and one in the Super Over to get Delhi over the line.

This win marked Delhi's ninth consecutive victory at the Arun Jaitley Stadium when batting first and took them to the top of the IPL points table with 10 points.

Rajasthan needed 31 runs in the last three overs chasing a target of 189 runs with seven wickets in hand. In walked Stark, who only conceded eight runs and scalped the prized wicket of Rana with an in-swinging delivery. Only a streaky boundary by Shimron Hetmyer ruined the over. He then bowled the final over off the innings when Rajasthan needed only nine runs. But once again, the big Australian had his say as both Hetmyer and Dhruv Jurel failed to take Rajasthan over the line as Jurel was run out going for the second run off the last ball.

In the Super Over, Stark kept things tight despite two boundaries. His efforts helped dismiss both Riyan Parag and Yashasvi Jaiswal via run-outs, limiting Rajasthan to 11. Stubbs made light work of the chase, finishing it in four balls.

The score was overhauled in only four balls as Stubbs took full toll of Sharma's short ball for a famous win.

Earlier, the home team

had to lean on their lower middle order batters to take them to a competitive total. Skipper Axar Patel who scored a quick fire 14-ball 34 and Stubbs who contributed 38 unbeaten runs to take the core to 188.

After an explosive start where openers Abhishek Porel and Jake Fraser-McGurk added 32 runs in the first two over, Delhi scoring rate dipped considerably as both Fraser-McGurk and Karun Nair went dismissed in the same over. Although Porel top scored with 49 Delhi's innings was stuttering.

Delhi had only scored 111 runs by the end of 15th over. All changed since the 16th bowled by Wanindu Hasaranga. Axar hit Hasaranga for two successive boundaries and followed it up for a slog sweep six. 19 runs came off that over and Delhi's innings was back and running. However, it was always felt that the home team was 20-run short. But Delhi had Stark on their side who took them home.

RCB batters look to rise above PBKS' spin challenge led by Chahal

BENGALURU, Apr 17 (Agencies): Royal Challengers Bengaluru's push for a maiden home victory this season will depend on their batters taming the canny Yuzvendra Chahal in the IPL match against a supremely confident Punjab Kings here on Friday.

Chahal, in the company of off-spinner Glenn Maxwell, will have noticed Bengaluru batters' struggle against slow bowlers R Sai Kishore (2/22, Gujarat Titans), Kuldeep Yadav (2/17) and Vipraj Nigam (2/18, both Delhi Capitals) here, especially once the field was spread out.

Besides, both Chahal and Maxwell will also be armed with their familiarity with the conditions here, courtesy the years spent at the Royal Challengers' dug out.

Theoretically, the RCB camp can take a slight consolation from the fact that they batted first against GT and DC and their spinners took full advantage of a no-dew atmosphere.

But Chahal, who returned to form with a four-wicket haul against



Kolkata Knight Riders, and Maxwell, assuming that dull form with the bat will not hinder his inclusion in the eleven on Friday, operate aside from the conditions.

Chahal is a master of lengths rather than of magic balls. The leg-spinner lures with offerings wide of off-stump and the batters need to reach out to the ball for big hits, often resulting in catches in the deep.

He also varies his pace quite cleverly, and the batters need to put that extra effort if they want to hit sixes against him.

Maxwell too is a similar operator, relying on control rather than big turn or dippers.

The Aussie has also found some success against right-handers in white ball formats, and that might come handy for Punjab against their

opponents whose batting line-up has an array of right-handers.

RCB have their set of spinners in Krunal Pandya and Suyash Sharma, giving the hosts hopes of trading some punches of their own.

The Punjab outfit also has capable pace options in Arshdeep Singh and Marco Jansen, though not as decorated as Josh Hazlewood and Bhuvneshwar Kumar in the opposition ranks.

Captain Patidar vs Captain Shreyas

On the periphery, Rajat Patidar and Shreyas Iyer have little in common. Iyer has proven credentials, an IPL winning captain with an excellent track record as a batter in this tournament.

Patidar, on the other hand, is a first-time cap-

tain in the IPL and does not have a glittering CV as his PBKS counterpart as a batter.

But the dissimilarities end there. They have exuded a reassuring calmness while guiding the team irrespective of outcomes.

Patidar has been authoritative without being overbearing while leading a squad full of super stars such as Virat Kohli and Hazlewood.

He has to be at his tactical and managerial best against a versatile opponent.

A superb player of spin, Patidar will also have to take upon himself the task of nullifying the twin threat of Chahal and Maxwell if the M Chinnaswamy deck retains its slow-paced character.

Iyer too is one of the best players of spin around, the best equipped in Punjab line-up to tackle RCB's Krunal and Suyash.

As a team, Punjab will be high on confidence after their 16-run win over KKR in a recent low-scoring thriller.

But they will be well aware that RCB, which

has depth in batting and bowling, will be a harder opponent to overcome.

Teams (from): Royal Challengers Bengaluru: Rajat Patidar ©, Virat Kohli, Yash Dayal, Josh Hazlewood, Phil Salt, Jitesh Sharma (wk), Liam Livingstone, Rasikh Salam, Suyash Sharma, Krunal Pandya, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Swapnil Singh, Tim David, Romario Shephard, Nuwan Thushara, Manoj Bhandage, Jacob Bethel, Devdutt Padikkal, Swastik Chhikara, Lungi Ngidi, Abhinandan Singh, Mohit Ramee.

Punjab Kings: Shreyas Iyer ©, Priyansh Arya, Prabhsimran Singh (wk), Nehal Wadhwa, Shashank Singh, Glenn Maxwell, Marcus Stoinis, Marco Jansen, Yuzvendra Chahal, Arshdeep Singh, Yash Thakur, Suryansh Shedge, Praveen Dubey, Vijay-kumar Vyshak, Harpreet Brar, Azmatullah Omarzai, Josh Inglis, Xavier Bartlett, Vishnu Vinod, Aaron Hardie, Kuldeep Sen, Harnoor Singh, Musheer Khan, Pyla Avinash.

Match starts at 7.30 pm. IST.

Georgia Voll, Tess Flintoff get maiden call-up as Cricket Australia reveal contract list for 2025/26 season

Right-hand batter Georgia Voll and all-rounder Tess Flintoff have earned their first central contracts for the national side as Cricket Australia revealed their list of 18 contracted players for the 2025/26 season, as per the ICC.

MELBOURNE, Apr 17 (Agencies): Right-hand batter Georgia Voll and all-rounder Tess Flintoff have earned their first central contracts for the national side as Cricket Australia revealed their list of 18 contracted players for the 2025/26 season, as per the ICC.

Voll only made her international debut in December, but the 21-year-old already has an ODI century to her name and was earlier this week named the ICC Women's Player of the Month for March

due to her efforts with the bat in New Zealand.

While Voll received a contract upgrade after making her debut at the end of last year, this is the first time the hard-hitting right-hander has been named on the initial contract list by Cricket Australia.

While Voll's inclusion was expected, Australia's decision to include all-rounder Tess Flintoff on the list of 18 players with contracts was somewhat of a surprise, given that the 22-year-old has yet to feature at

the international level. Flintoff won a contract after some good performances for Australia A during the recent series against England A.

The seamer has always been on the selectors' radar, given that she was also called into Australia's squad during their tour of Ireland in 2023.

The biggest exclusion from the contract list was the surprise omission of veteran all-rounder Jess Jonassen. Despite being a six-time World Cup winner and regularly



performing well at the domestic level around the world, she hasn't played for Australia

since the end of 2023. Australia selector Shawn Flegler said the promotion of Voll and

Flintoff for the first time was well deserved and noted that there is still opportunities for Jonassen and those players outside the contract list to feature for Australia.

"Tess is an exciting young player who we can see having a long future in the green and gold. Having overcome injury, we're looking forward to seeing her fit and firing throughout summer, which adds further depth to our pace-bowling stocks. Georgia has made a sensational start to her international

career, showing her immense talent from the onset and playing a pivotal role for the team in the absence of Alyssa Healy at the top of the order," Flegler said as quoted by the ICC.

"Her ability to adapt to the various formats has been impressive and will come into play with an ODI World Cup later this year and a multi-format series against India in the new year.

While Jess Jonassen has not been included on this year's list, we're always keeping an eye

on players outside of the squad, and she is no exception," Flegler added.

Australia's contracted women's players 2025/26: Darcie Brown, Tess Flintoff, Ashleigh Gardner, Kim Garth, Heather Graham, Grace Harris, Alyssa Healy, Alana King, Phoebe Litchfield, Tahlia McGrath, Sophie Molineux, Beth Mooney, Ellyse Perry, Megan Schutt, Annabel Sutherland, Tayla Vlaeminck, Georgia Voll, Georgia Wareham.

Dogri Song ‘Sada Shair Akhnoor’ released



Top News Report

AKHNOOR, Apr 17: A Dogri song ‘Sada Shair Akhnoor’ was released on YouTube channel DishA Kala Jagat in the presence of a large gathering at Kameshwar Temple hall by the MLA Jammu North Sham Lal Sharma and MLA Akhnoor Mohan Lal. Mahant Rameshwar Dass showers the blessings on the occasion.

The singer of the song is Ashok Kumar and the lyrics are given by Jugal Chanan. Nirbhay Slathia composed the song, and the video director is Ravi Sharma. Editing and color grading at Dhanraj Studios. While music is given by Dr. V Kaith and the song featuring Ishita, Jugal Chanan and Raghuraj Singh.

The song ‘Sada Shair Akhnoor’ depicts all famous and historical places of Akhnoor which appeals to the listeners to visit Akhnoor.

Speaking on the occasion Sham Lal Sharma terms the release of this song a milestone in the history of Akhnoor and urged the people to see the worth

and beauty of Akhnoor through this song. He congratulated the whole team involved in the production of this song.

MLA Akhnoor Mohan Lal appreciated the efforts of the team and assured all possible support to the artists in future for such songs. Mohan Lal said that this song will highlight the glory of Akhnoor.

On the occasion SDPO Virender Gupta, Sr Journalist and founder President of Press Club KShakti Singh, Ranvir Singh (Jt.sec DGPC) and Retaish Gupta (Vice president Civil Society) were the special guests. While Rakesh Malhotra and Dipesh Singh graced the function as special guests.

Prominent among other who were present including Subash Singh, Bishan Lal, Sewa Ram, Thoru Ram, Kewal Kumar Kewal, RL Bhardwaj, OP Shakir, Kewal Krishan, Virender Mishra, Krishan Chand.

Anil Sharma conducted the proceedings of the function.

Singer and producer of the song thanked all the dignitaries and media persons for making the song release function successful.

Empowering MSMEs at Grassroots: JKTPO hosts second District-Level RAMP Awareness Workshop

Top News Report

REASI, Apr 17: The Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) on Thursday conducted the second district-level awareness workshop under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme at the DC Office, Reasi. The workshop underscored the J&K Government’s resolve to build a robust MSME ecosystem and drive inclusive economic growth at the grassroots.

The event was held under the guidance of Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner/Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department, and Sudarshan Kumar, Managing Director, JKTPO.

It was organized in collaboration with the Grant Thornton-led State Project Implementation Unit (SPIU) and District Industries Centre (DIC), Reasi.

Kishor Singh Karoch, General Manager, DIC Reasi, addressed the participants, emphasizing the vital role of MSMEs in the district’s economic development. He encouraged MSME units and stakeholders to actively leverage the RAMP scheme’s sup-



port mechanisms for enhancing productivity, market access, and institutional linkages. This workshop is part of a series of outreach programs planned across the Union Territory to build awareness and capacity among MSMEs, stakeholders, and implementing agencies under the RAMP initiative.

Jammu and Kashmir has been allotted Rs 74.03 crore under the RAMP scheme, comprising Rs 66.63 crore from the Central Government and Rs 7.40 crore from the UT’s contribution. The Department of Industries and Commerce is steering the implementation, with JKTPO serving as the Nodal Agency for

seamless coordination and execution.

During the event, the SPIU team delivered a comprehensive presentation outlining the approved interventions under RAMP in J&K. Key highlights included the formalization of MSMEs through Udyam Registration and the strategic packaging and promotion of GI-tagged, ODOP, DEH, and other distinctive regional products. The presentation also emphasized cluster development efforts by supporting the creation of producer companies and associations, alongside initiatives like Buyer-Seller Meets (BSMs), Reverse Buyer-Seller Meets (RBSMs), and the launch of the J&K MSMEs Health Clinic.

Further, the team showcased plans for a dedicated Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Dashboard, along with robust Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programs (ESDPs) and

Management Development Programs (MDPs). Promoting digital financing solutions emerged as a pivotal component, aimed at empowering MSMEs and fostering economic resilience across the region.

The workshop saw active involvement from MSME entrepreneurs, officials from the Industries and Commerce Department, ITI Reasi students, financial institution representatives, and other significant stakeholders. SPIU consultants clarified doubts and reaffirmed the administration’s dedication to ensuring effective implementation on the ground.

The event wrapped up with a unified commitment to broadening the scope and influence of the RAMP scheme throughout the Union Territory, empowering MSMEs in J&K to become more robust, competitive, and prepared for the future.

Arif, Verma demand early restoration of Statehood to J&K

Top News Report

BATOTE, Apr 17: Mohammad Arif Mir, Provincial Secretary of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), and Sunil Verma, District President of JKNC Udhampur, have jointly expressed serious concern over the prevailing administrative inertia in the Union Territory, stressing the urgent need for restoration of full Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing a gathering of party workers during their visit to Batote area in Ramban district, the senior National Conference leaders came down heavily on the hollow policies of the BJP-led government at the Centre, blaming it for the developmental stagnation and governance crisis gripping the region. They said the absence of an elected government has only worsened the woes of the common people.

The leaders visited several villages of Block Batote, including Champa, where they interacted with locals



and listened to their grievances related to poor road connectivity, erratic water supply, lack of healthcare facilities, and neglect of rural development. They said these pressing issues reflect the ground reality of administrative neglect and policy paralysis under the current bureaucratic regime.

Mohammad Arif Mir strongly criticized what he termed as a ‘dual

power structure’ prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir, saying it has led to confusion in governance and delay in public service delivery. ‘Bureaucrats, no matter how efficient, cannot replace a people’s government that understands the pulse of the masses,’ he added.

Sunil Verma emphasized that only a democratically elected government can truly

represent the aspirations of the people and address their issues in a meaningful way. He urged the Central Government to stop delaying and immediately restore Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, thereby reinstating the political and constitutional rights of its citizens.

The leaders also called upon National Conference workers to remain steadfast, strengthen grassroots connectivity, and work tirelessly to resolve the local issues of the people.

Prominent among those present during the visit were Mannmohan Verma, Block Batote, NC Tikri; Samullah Bhatti, Senior Leader; Farooq Ahmad Magrey, District Vice President JKNC Ramban; Nazir Ahmad Magrey and others.

‘Thief Crying Foul’: Ritika Trehan slams Congress over ED protest

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 17: In a fiery press conference today, Ritika Trehan, Chief Spokesperson of BJP Mahila Morcha, lashed out at the Congress party for its protests against the Enforcement Directorate (ED) investigation into the National Herald case, involving Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi.

Trehan didn’t mince words, likening Congress’s outrage to a ‘thief crying foul,’ asserting that the party is attempting to dodge accountability through dramatic street protests. ‘The ED’s charge sheet is a consequence of the Gandhis’ own actions, not some politi-



cal conspiracy,’ Trehan declared, firmly brushing aside allegations of vendetta politics. She reminded the press that the roots of the case date back to Congress’s own tenure, underscoring the irony in their protests. She accused the Congress of converting a legal process into a

political drama, driven by what she described as the Gandhi family’s ‘greed.’

Reaffirming the BJP’s commitment to justice, Trehan said, ‘The law is clear—those who break it must face the consequences. No family, no name, no legacy is above the law.’

As the ED continues its probe into alleged financial irregularities, Trehan urged all parties to let the legal system function without interference or political noise.

‘The system must be allowed to speak—firmly, fairly, and fearlessly,’ she concluded.

BJP KDD highlights key community concerns in meeting with Relief Commissioner

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 17: BJP Kashmir Displaced District (KDD), under the leadership of its president Rajiv Pandita, held a comprehensive and result-oriented meeting with the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner, Dr. Arvind Karwani. The meeting focused on several urgent and long-standing issues concerning the welfare of the Kashmiri Pandit community.

One of the first matters discussed was the delay in the release of monthly cash assistance for the month of April.

Dr. Karwani clarified that the delay was a one-time issue specific to this month and assured that the Treasury is set to release the pending payment within the next couple of days.

The issue of road connectivity to the Machbhawan Transit Accommodation in Mattan, which has been pending for quite some time, was also taken up. Dr. Karwani stated that he is planning an on-ground visit



within the week and will coordinate with the concerned authorities to secure the necessary clearance and ensure progress.

Concerns were also raised regarding discrepancies in the accommodation allotment lists. Specific instances were pointed out where couples were allotted two flats, and several names appeared in incorrect gender-based lists. The latest Machbhawan list was presented as a reference. Dr. Karwani assured that the discrepancies would be addressed, and future lists will be carefully verified before final-

ization. It was also strongly recommended that genuine medical cases be given preference in floor allotments. Furthermore, it was urged that the pending lists of transit accommodations across North, Central, and South Kashmir be released at the earliest.

The shortage of staff in various zone offices during the coupon issuance month of April was another pressing concern.

Dr. Karwani Ji informed that his department is already working on this issue and has requested deployment of additional staff

to manage the workload effectively.

The delay in the allotment of shops at the Muthi camp was discussed as well. Dr. Karwani responded positively and mentioned that the matter is in its final stages and should be resolved soon.

The discussion also included the completion of allied works in transit accommodations across Kashmir.

Dr. Karwani shared that necessary funds have been received and that the work is expected to commence shortly.

While speaking on this particular meeting BJP KDD president Rajiv Pandita appreciated the proactive and constructive approach of Dr. Karwani in addressing these concerns and looks forward to timely action on all the fronts.

He further added that party remains committed to continuously engaging with authorities to ensure that the interests of the Kashmiri Pandit community are safeguarded and advanced.

Foundation stone laid for Library-cum-Women Gathering Centre at Palam

Top News Report

LEH, Apr 17: The Anjuman-E-Imamia Women Wing, Leh, today organised a foundation stone laying ceremony for a Library-cum-Women Gathering Centre at Palam.

The facility is envisioned as a vibrant space for learning, community interaction, and the empowerment of women in the region. Executive Councillor Ghulam Mehdi attended the event as the Chief Guest on behalf of the Chairman, LAHDC Leh, Tashi Gyalson. President of Anjuman-E-Imamia, Ashraf Ali Barcha, Nominated Councillor Mumtaz Husain and Dr. Yangchan Dolma, were present as the Guest of Honour.

Also in attendance were President of the Women’s Wing of Anjuman-E-Imamia; Presidents of the Women’s Wings of the Ladakh Buddhist Association, Christian Association, and Anjuman-e-Moinul-Islam; President of the Women’s Alliance of Ladakh; Anjuman -E-Imamiya Vice President; ACD Leh; Chief Controller of Finance, LAHDC Leh; Xen Construction



Division; Nambardar of Chuchot, and several other dignitaries and local residents. CEC Tashi Gyalson commended the Anjuman-E-Imamia Women’s Wing and its President Nasreen Maryam for their sustained dedication towards women’s empowerment and community upliftment.

He lauded the vision behind the centre, describing it as a much-needed initiative that will foster education, dialogue, and social development, especially for women in the area.

He further assured that the Hill Council remains committed to supporting such initiatives that aim at educational growth and inclusive community development.

He reiterated that

women’s empowerment continues to be a key focus for the Council, and welcomed such grassroots efforts that align with that vision.

Speaking on the occasion, Executive Councillor Ghulam Mehdi congratulated the Anjuman-E-Imamia Women Wing on the laying of the foundation stone for the Women Gathering Centre.

He appreciated the efforts of the President and Executive Members for their dedicated work in empowering women, particularly those from underprivileged backgrounds, and acknowledged their significant contribution to the socio-economic upliftment of Ladakh’s minority communities.