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BRIEFLY

Tourist from Mumbai dies at hotel in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Apr 18 (Agencies): A 75-year-old tourist from Mumbai died after falling unconscious at a hotel in the Dalgate area of Central Kashmir's Srinagar district late on Thursday evening.

Officials said the tourist, identified as Sanjeev Jaywant Nabar, a resident of Dahisar West, Mumbai, suddenly lost consciousness at his hotel accommodation in Dalgate.

He was immediately taken to a nearby medical facility, where doctors declared him brought dead, the officials added.

Cognisance of the incident has been taken, and further proceedings are underway.

Notorious criminal booked under PSA in Arnia

JAMMU, Apr 18 (Agencies): In a significant action to maintain law and order, Jammu and Kashmir Police have booked a notorious criminal under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) in the Arnia area of Jammu.

Raman Kumar of Kathar, Arnia, has been booked under PSA for his repeated involvement in violent and unlawful activities, posing a threat to public peace and safety, a police official said.

Despite several FIRs and arrests, Raman continued with his criminal behaviour, making routine legal measures ineffective, he said.

"As a result, preventive detention under the PSA was considered necessary. The PSA warrant issued by the District Magistrate Jammu was executed on April 17, 2025, and Raman was shifted to District Jail Udhampur," the police official said.

Search operation in Poonch enters fifth day

SRINAGAR, Apr 18 (Agencies): A joint anti-militancy operation by security forces entered its fifth day in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, as search teams continued combing the Lasana forest belt, where militants are believed to be hiding. The operation, launched by the Army's Romeo Force and the Jammu and Kashmir Police's Special Operations Group (SOG), follows a brief encounter earlier this week.

On Monday, militants reportedly opened fire on Romeo Force

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Former CJI opts out of Dulat's book launch function amid Abdullah controversy

NEW DELHI, Apr 18 (Agencies): Former Chief Justice of India TS Thakur has decided to skip former R&AW chief AS Dulat's book release function, citing the political storm over certain parts of the book concerning National Conference president Farooq Abdullah.

The book, 'The Chief Minister and the Spy' was scheduled to be released later on Friday by Justice Thakur (retd).

This comes a day after Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said in Jammu that his father and veteran politician Farooq Abdullah would not be attending the book release function.



Farooq Abdullah on Wednesday dismissed Dulat's claims that he had "privately backed" the abrogation of Article 370 as a "cheap stunt" to boost the sales of the top spy's forthcoming memoir.

The Bharatiya Janata Party-led Centre abrogated Article 370, which granted special status

to Jammu and Kashmir, on August 5, 2019, and bifurcated the erstwhile state into Union territories.

In his response to Dulat's invitation, Justice Thakur (retd) said, "While I had accepted your kind invitation to participate in the release function, I have since yesterday (Wednesday)

seen a political storm brewing in the print and electronic media for certain parts of your book especially those attributing certain statements to (Farooq) Abdullah whom you admire and treat as a valued friend."

The ex-CJI said Farooq Abdullah has also publicly "disowned, if not denounced" the statements attributed to him.

"In the circumstances, you would kindly appreciate that the raging controversy and its political overtones would be an embarrassment for me which I would like to avoid not only on account of my long and cordial association with

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New rules for Traffic radar equipment verification to come into force from Jul 1: Govt

NEW DELHI, Apr 18 (Agencies): The government on Friday said new regulations requiring mandatory verification and stamping of traffic radar equipment will be implemented from July 1 to improve road safety and enforcement accuracy across the country.

The Consumer Affairs Ministry has notified the rules following extensive consultations with stakeholders, including the Indian Institute of Legal Metrology, Regional Reference Laboratories, manufacturers, and vehicle certification organisations.

"These rules will come into force from July 1, 2025, providing suffi-

cient time for industries and enforcement agencies to comply with the provisions," the ministry said in a statement.

The new rules, which fall under the Legal Metrology (General) Rules, 2011, will apply to "microwave Doppler radar equipment" widely utilised for measuring vehicle speeds on roads.

These rules specify detailed technical and safety requirements, ensuring proper calibration, stable operation under various environmental conditions and protection against tampering. Such measures will foster a culture of technological reliability

and legal accountability. The new framework requires all speed measurement devices to undergo verification and receive official stamps before deployment. This process aims to guarantee precise readings for speed and distance measurements, crucial for traffic law enforcement.

The implementation of these rules provides significant benefits to all stakeholders across the board.

For the common citizen, the mandatory verification and stamping of radar-based speed measurement equipment will ensure the accurate enforcement of speed

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DGP Prabhat thanks Centre, MHA for support; says counter-terrorism grid being strengthened

GANDERBAL, Apr 18 (Agencies): Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Friday said that J&K Police are strengthening the counter terrorism grid and efforts are on to tackle the cyber criminals.

Addressing a passing out parade here in Central Kashmir, DGP Prabhat said, "We are



thankful to Centre and Ministry of Home Affairs for providing us with all the support and help."

The DGP said, "J&K Police are committed to stand by with the families of martyrs."

Congratulating the pass outs, the DGP said, "You have become the part of one of the best police forces in the country. I see discipline and resolve in you and wish you all the best for your future."

Allegedly manhandled by Army tried to snatch weapon from Soldiers on Duty

JAMMU, Apr 18 (Agencies): In the backdrop of the alleged manhandling of a civilian by the Army in Nowshera area of Rajouri district, the Indian Army on Friday in an official statement said that the individual tried to snatch the weapon of

soldiers and initiated a scuffle with them.

"An incident has come to light wherein certain individuals were allegedly manhandled by Army personnel in Rajouri District," the Army said in a statement.

It further said that the

Army had input on the likely movement of terrorists in a vehicle in this sensitive area, adding, "Accordingly, search operations were being conducted."

Preliminary information suggests that on being stopped, the indi-

vidual tried to snatch the weapon from the soldiers on duty and initiated a scuffle with them, it further read.

It stated that, however, an enquiry has been initiated, and if any personnel are found guilty of

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Srinagar premiere of 'Ground Zero' a 'symbolic moment': Emraan Hashmi



SRINAGAR, Apr 18 (Agencies): Actor Emraan Hashmi, whose starrer "Ground Zero" is set to make history by becoming the first film

to have its red carpet premiere in Srinagar in 38 years, says it's an "important and symbolic moment". Hashmi reached the

city of Jammu and Kashmir ahead of the premiere, where he spoke to the reporters.

"We were shooting for about 30 days for our film Ground Zero. I feel happy to come back to Srinagar. It feels very nice. The weather is good here, it is better than Mumbai," Hashmi said.

"It is a very important and symbolic moment for the people here, for

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JKBOSE to declare class 12th result by April 30, class 10th results to follow

SRINAGAR, Apr 18 (Agencies): In a latest development, the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) is likely to declare the result of annual (regular) class 12th examination by April 30 of 2025.

A top official in the School Education Department (SED) told Greater Kashmir that the education minister has set a deadline for JKBOSE to declare the result of class 10th and 12th examination by April end.

"But as per the latest status received from

the JKBOSE, the Board officials have given priority to class 12th results and there are 95 percent chances that the result will be declared by April 30. If things go well the result will be declared two days prior," the official said.

The official said that the class 12th result has been given the priority as the outgoing students will have to join higher educational institutions.

"The process for declaration of class 10th results is simultaneously going on as well. The result of class 10th exams will be declared

immediately after the result of class 12th exams," the official told Greater Kashmir.

The official said the evaluation of question papers of class 12th examination was completed on April 14 of 2025 following which the result was sent for the computing process.

"The evaluation of question papers of class 10th students is expected to be completed by Sunday. The portion of evaluation completed for class 10th students has also been sent to the computing agency.

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STOP...!

MOSQUITO BREEDING

PREVENT MALARIA, DENGUE, CHIKUNGUNYA AND STAY HEALTHY

- Do not allow water to stagnate in and around your surroundings.
- Keep water tanks and other water containers tightly covered with lids.
- Get your Blood tested from Govt. Hospital/Health Worker in case of Fever with chills, rigors and headache.
- Empty water coolers once in a week.

- Discard/destroy Junk items like old tyres etc.
- Empty air coolers, drums, flower pots and birds bath weekly.
- Use Mosquito repellent creams and Bed nets while sleeping.
- Wear full body clothes to prevent mosquito bites.
- Improve basic sanitation.

In case of positive result get free treatment from the nearest Health Institution

STATE MALARIOLOGIST/STATE PROGRAMME OFFICER,
NATIONAL VECTOR BORNE DISEASES CONTROL PROGRAMME (NVBDCP) J&K
DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES JAMMU

5TH DAY

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Bhanu Partap Singh [Nanu]**.
Fifth Day will be held on 19 April 2025 Saturday 10 to 11 am at Mahajan Hall Shalamar.
Grief Stricken
Mother & Father
Smt Vandana Devi & Sh Janak Singh
Wife - Sheriya Rajput
Brothers - Daksh Rajput & Sourav Singh
Sister & Jiju - Smt Trevani & Varun
Father in Law & Mother in law
Sh Sanjay Gupta & Poonam Gupta
Brother in law & Sister in law
Ishan Gupta & Sayesha Gupta
M/S Sanjay Kumar Yash Paul
M/s Ishan Traders Opp Super Bazar
9086000118 / 9419141254



Bhanu Partap Singh [Nanu].

TENTH DAY KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SH. OMKAR NATH KOUL S/O LATE SH. AMAR CHAND KOUL** ORIGINALLY A RESIDENT OF BATAGUND KRENDI-GAM, ANANTNAG PRESENTLY RESIDING AT H.NO. 07, SEC. 01, DURGA NAGAR (ENCLAVE) JAMMU ON 16-04-2025.
TENTH DAY KRIYA SHALL TAKE PLACE AT MUTHI GHAT ON 25TH APRIL, 2025 AT ABOUT 8:30 AM.
GRIEF STRICKEN:
SMT. RATNI KOUL (WIFE)
DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW AND SONS
SMT. SUNITA & SH. RAMESH KUMAR KOUL
SMT. JULLEY & SH. VUJAY KOUL
GRANDCHILDREN
RISHU & RAHUL KOUL
RICHU, PARTH, HARDIK
MOB: 9469213893, 9797850569



SH. OMKAR NATH KOUL

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, Saraswat Vihar, Bohri, Jammu, who left for heavenly abode on 10th April 2025.
Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at Muthi Ghat on 19th April (Saturday) at 9:00 AM.
Grief Stricken
Mother - Smt. Dulari Pandita
Wife - Smt. Meena J Pandita
Daughter and Son-in-law
Smt. Manve Puran Pandita & Dhiyara Manve Puran
Smt. Mehak Puran Pandita & Shri Robin Pandita
Brother & Bhabhi
Smt. Kamlesh & Shri Ravinder Pandita
Sisters & Jija Ji
Smt. Dalry & Shri Sri Krishan Raina
Smt. Sanjay & Shri Satish Thussoo
Smt. Asha & Shri Vinod Dhar
Smt. Kiran & Shri Suresh Pandita
Contact Numbers: 9682353047, 9877939543, 8894696900



SHRI PURAN NATH PANDITA

SHRADHANJALI/TENTH DAY

We are deeply saddened to announce the passing of our beloved grandmother, **Smt. Chand Rani Bhat** W/o Lt Chuni Lal Bhat A/P Vishwa Bharti Colony, Akalpur, on 12/04/2025. She left us peacefully, surrounded by her loving family. She was a pillar of strength, wisdom, and unconditional love in our lives. Her kindness, warmth, and grace touched everyone who knew her. Her memory will forever live on in our hearts.
The 10th Day Kriya will be performed on 21st April (Monday) at Muthi Ghat near Director School Education at 9am.
GRIEF STRICKEN:-
Grandsons & Granddaughters
Aashish & Aakriti
Priya & Akin
Rashi
Aakash & Antra
Aagosh
Kartik
Aakriti & Aaradhya
Greatgrandson: Master Avyukht



Smt. Chand Rani Bhat

FIFTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Fufaji, Raman Sharma**, R/o Pathankot, husband of Smt. Rama Sharma (Guddi) who left for heavenly abode on April 16, 2025.
Fifth Day will be held on April 19, 2025 (Saturday) at 11:00 am at our residence 83 Malhotra Street, Jammu.
Grief Stricken:-
Bali Parivar
8082296483, 9419131550, 9419181682
8825061154, 94191260645



Raman Sharma

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the untimely sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt Raj Rani Mawa** W/o Lt Sh Kashi Nath Mawa original resident of Qaziya, GadaKocha, Zaina Kadal, Srinagar, Kashmir at present Lane No. 4, R K Vihar, Udaywala, Jammu (Behind Rama Krishna Hospital) on 12-4-2025.
10th Day Kriya will be held on 21-4-2025 (Monday) at Muthi Ghat, near Directorate of School Education, Jammu at 9.15 AM.
GRIEF STRICKEN & FONDLY REMEMBERED BY :-
Sh Rajinder Kumar Mawa (Son)
(Daughter in law & Son)
Smt Arji & Sh Ramesh Kumar Mawa
Sh King Krishan Mawa (Son)
(Daughter in-law & Son)
Smt Chanchan Ji & Sh Prince Ji Mawa
(Daughter & Son in law)
Smt Vijay Laxmi & Sh Surinder Kumar Anand
Smt Raj Kumari Mantoo W/o Lt S N Mantoo **(Daughter)**
Smt Sumanj & Sh Rajinder Kumar Bindoo **(Daughter & Son-in-law)**
Grand Children :
Amrita Ji, Ankur Ji, Sagar Ji, Snehti Ji, Anushi Ji, Saksha Ji, Shalash Ji, Sandeep Ji, Suraj Ji, Profy Ji, Sahil Krishan Ji, Anmol Ji
Contact Numbers :- 7006118166, 9419239609, 9622595418, 9412009642



Smt Raj Rani Mawa

10TH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform that **10th Day** of our beloved **Late Sh Nasibu Ram Kapta** S/o Late Sh. Belli Ram Mother Name Late Smt. Indari Devi R/o Lawarua Upper Baran Ward No. 4 Baran Jammu will be performed on Saturday 19th April, 2025 at our residence, at 11AM.
Satsang: 11AM to 12 Noon,
Langar: 1 PM to 4 PM
Grief-Stricken:
Smt. Gurditi (Wife)
Sh. Dev Raj Kapla & Smt. Kanta Devi - **Son & Daughter in Law**
Sh. Jagga Ram Kapla & Smt. Seema Devi - **Son & Daughter in Law**
Smt. Sheela Lovch & Sh. Pitam Lal Lovch - **Sister & Brother-in-Law**
Smt. Sunita Lovch & Sh. Ashok Kumar Lovch - **Sister & Brother-in-Law**
Daughter & Son-in-law
Vijay Kumari W/o Sh. Ashok Kumar, Some Devi W/o Sh. Biju, Ranu Bela W/o Sadaggar, Makhanu Devi W/o Rakesh Kumar
Bua & Fuffa: Vija Devi W/o Thoru Ram
Grand Son & Daughter: Ja Paul, Kurel, Jya Devi, Minisha Devi
Mobile 9419150617, 9622084204
KAPTA FAMILY



Late Sh Nasibu Ram Kapta

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Jaikishori Koul** W/o Late Sh. Arjan Nath Koul R/o Mir Danter, Anantnag, A/p H.No. 144, L.No. 9, Hari Vihar Colony, Kunjwani, Near Union Bank of India on 11-04-2025 (Friday).
Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 20-04-2025 (Sunday) at Muthi Ghat at 9.30 am
Grief Stricken
Sons & Daughter-in-Laws
Smt. Usha Koul & Sh. Rattan Lal Koul
Smt. & Sh. Ashok Ji Koul
Smt. & Sh. Rani Ji Koul
Smt. & Sh. Vinod Ji Koul
Smt. Shama Raina & Sh. A.K. Raina- **Daughter & Son-in-Law**
Smt. Sweety Koul & Sh. S.K. Koul- **Daughter & Son-in-Law**
Smt. Mitha Raina & Sh. Sunil Kumar Raina- **Daughter & Son-in-Law**
Grand Daughters: Urmika Koul, Shriya Koul, Sakshi Raina, Rakshita Koul
Ph. Nos.: 9149972956, 9986086717, 9697103180, 8130360950, 9419126767, 9419126979, 9906394202



Smt. Jaikishori Koul

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"
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 Dhraibhyar, Habba Kadal, Srinagar at present H.No. 170, Sector 23, Gurugram, Haryana.
Tenth Day Kriya will be held on 19-04-2025 (Saturday) at Shree Gauri Shankar Mandir, Gurugram, Pawala Khasrupur, Haryana at 8:00 AM.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Sister-in-law and Brother-in-law
Sunita and Jawahir Koul Kariholoo
Harshada and Neeraj Koul - Daughter-in-law & Son
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



SMT. NIRMALA KOUL (KARIHOLOO)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

We deeply mourn the passing of our mother **Kaushalya Wati Razdan**, wife of the Late Sh. Ram Ji Razdan, originally from Malmo village, Magam, Dist. Baramullah on 10th April, 2025 at Noida.
TENTH DAY KRIYA will be observed on the 19th April 2025 at Chota Haridwar, Murad Nagar.
A Condolence Assembly will be held separately at our residence: G-1601, Hawelia Valencia Homes, Sector 1, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh at 1 PM.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Razdan Family
Raina Family
Koul Family
Misri Family
CONTACT
NO: 9419207514,
9914884695,
9811108935



Kaushalya Wati Razdan

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Mr. K.K. Sharma** (Retd Dy Director, Youth Services and Sports Department) S/o Late Shri Kedar Nath Sharma, who left for heavenly abode on 14th April, 2025.
Tenth Day Rituals shall be performed on Tuesday, the 22nd April at 11:00 AM and **KRIYA** shall be performed on 23rd April (Wednesday), both at H.No. 26-J, Lane 6, Tawi Vihar Colony, Sidhra. **UTHALA** shall be performed at Shiv Mandir, Sector 3, Trikuta Nagar on 28th April, 2025 (5:00 PM to 6:00 PM)
GRIEF STRICKEN:
Mrs Vri (Neena) Sharma (Wife)
Mrs Sheetal and Mr. Mohinder Sharma (Sister and Brother-in-Law)
Mrs Shalini and Mr. Vikas Sharma (Daughter and Son-in-Law)
Mrs Shivani and Mr. Dhira Choudhary (Daughter and Son-in-Law)
Mr. Romil and Mrs. Hans Jaggi (Nephew and Daughter-in-Law)
Brothers-in-Law and Bhabhis
Mrs Parveen Kumaar W/o Late Shri Jagdish Jaggi
Mr. Kuldeep and Mrs Sugandha Manikola
Mr. Rajnish and Mrs. Jyoti Manikola
Sisters-in-Law and Co-Brothers
Mrs Snehlata and Mr. Naveesh Bahl
Mrs Sunan and Mr. Ravinder Mahotra
Grandchildren: Vaibhav, Shanya, Shivaj and Divit
Mobile: 9419243158, 9149477758



Shri K. K. Sharma

10th Day / 13th Day (Kriya)

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Krishan Singh Rai** S/o Sh. Mool Singh Rai R/o Sangaldan who left for heavenly abode on 10-04-2025.
10th Day will be performed on 19-04-2025 from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM.
Kriya (13th Day) will be performed on 22-04-2025 at our residence Sangaldan.
GRIEF STRICKEN :-
Smt. Meena Devi - Wife
Bhabhi and Brother
Smt. Indira Rai and Sh. Bishan Singh Rai
Daughter in laws and Sons.
Smt. Kavita Devi and Sh. Narinder Singh Rai
Smt. Asha Kumari and Sh. Joginder Singh Rai KAS
Smt. Sheetal Rajput and Sh. Sham Singh Rai
Smt. Mansi Singh and Sh. Aditya Dev Singh Rai
GRAND CHILDREN: Saloni, Yogesh, Aviral, Rajesh, Parth, Bhakti
Mobile: 9419175459



Sh. Krishan Singh Rai

13TH DAY

IN LOVING MEMORY
Sh. Keemat Singh Jasrotia
Resident of Village Barwal
With heartfelt sorrow, we remember the passing of our beloved Sh. Keemat Singh.
The 13th-day Rasam/Kriya will be held on 19 April, 2025 at our residence in Barwal.
We pray to the Almighty for his soul to attain eternal peace. His presence in our lives was a blessing, and his memory will forever live in our hearts.
We invite all family members, friends, and well-wishers to join us in honoring his soul and pray for his eternal peace. May his soul rest in peace.
DEEPLY MOURNED BY:
Smt. Shakuntala Devi (Wife)
SON AND DAUGHTER IN LAW
Sh. Shashi Pal Singh & Neelam Kumari.
Late Sh. Rakesh Pal Singh & Anuradha Jasrotia
And Entire Family.
Contact No. 7006170460



Sh. Keemat Singh Jasrotia

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.
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



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

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With extreme grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Nancy Pandita** W/o Late Sh. Hirday Nath Pandita R/o 242, Sector-1, Vinayak Nagar, Muthi, Jammu, presently at 249, Vipin Garden, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi - 110059, originally from Malapora, Habba Kadal, Srinagar who left us for her heavenly abode on 11 April, 2025.
Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 20 April, 2025 at Shree Gauri Shankar Mandir, T-Block, Phase-I, Sector-109, New Palam Vihar, Gurugram - 122017. Public Gathering will be held at 9:00 am.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Samast Pandita, Wangnoo, Koul and Raina Parivars
9210488249, 9103256968



Smt. Nancy Pandita

ANTIM ARDAAS

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sdn.Surinder Kour Ji** W/o Randhir Singh Ji R/o W.No.8, Near Masjid, Kathua, Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 15/04/2025.
Aramb Sri Akhand Path on 18/04/25 at 9 am at home, (H.No.65, Lane 3, Sec 1, Preet Nagar, Jammu) & **Bhog Sri Akhand Path Sahib** on 20/04/25 at 9am at home & further **Kirtan and Antim Ardaas** will be at Gurdwara Guru Angad Dev Ji, Preet Nagar, (Tent Wala Gurdwara Sahib) Jammu From 10 AM to 12.00 PM.
IN GRIEF :
FAMILY:
S. Pitam Singh (Brother)
S. Randhir Singh (Husband)
S. Ameet Singh (Son) and Sdm. Amanpreet Kour (Daughter)



Sdn.Surinder Kour Ji

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Heritage School organises Youth4 Himalayas Workshop in collaboration with IUCN

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 18: Heritage School in partnership with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), convened the Youth 4 Himalayas Workshop on 17th April 2025, welcoming 45 students from various schools across Jammu.

This full day event aimed to deepen participants' understanding of the Himalayan ecosystem and inspire youth led conservation efforts. The workshop began with a formal welcome, where green plants were presented to the resource persons as a symbol of growth and sustainability.

A student moderator greeted the participants, followed by the opening address by the Vice Principal, Rashmi Thakur. In her address, the Vice



Principal highlighted the importance of involving youth in environmental initiatives and underscored the relevance of the Himalayas as one of the most ecologically sensitive regions. She shared that Heritage School has consistently promoted green practices through initiatives like eco-clubs, plantation drives, and sustainable campus activities. She also expressed gratitude to IUCN for the collabo-

ration and hoped the workshop would inspire students to become active agents of environmental change.

The sessions were conducted by IUCN team members: Archana Chatterjee (Programme Manager), Meenal Pahuja (Senior Project Associate – Habitats and Species), and Akanksha (Communications and Partnerships Associate). They engaged stu-

dents in insightful discussions, interactive presentations, and hands-on activities highlighting conservation efforts and climate action. The workshop was further enriched by expert inputs from Dr. Pankaj Chandan, Director of the Institute for Development, Jammu, and Prof. Sachin Kumar Bhagat, Assistant Professor of Political Science at Government Degree College, Marh.

Dr. Pankaj Chandan is a wildlife biologist with 25 years' experience in Himalayan ecology and wetland management, Senior Conservation Scientist and India Lead for the Black necked Crane project, and author of six books.

Prof. Sachin Kumar Bhagat is an avid bird watcher who has documented 483 species in J&K, holds a Diploma in Ornithology, and leads regional bird conservation initiatives.

Their sessions connected environmental knowledge with policy awareness and the role of civic responsibility.

The Youth 4 Himalayas Workshop succeeded in combining awareness building with hands on learning, positioning the participating students to serve as informed advocates for the Himalayan environment.

MLA Arvind holds productive meeting with Ex Counsellors on development, citizens' welfare



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 18: Arvind Gupta, senior BJP leader and MLA West Constituency, today held an interaction with several key leaders, including senior BJP leader Assem Gupta, former Mayor Rajinder Sharma, and ex-Corporators Pappu Chudhary, Manto, Succha Singh, Neelam Nargotra, and Nidhi Nargotra.

The leaders present also took the opportunity to discuss strategies for enhancing the party's outreach and

connecting with the citizens more effectively, ensuring that their concerns are heard and addressed in a timely manner.

During the meeting, Arvind Gupta discussed various pressing issues concerning the Jammu West Constituency, with a special focus on development projects, infrastructural improvements, and ongoing welfare schemes for the residents. The discussions centered on streamlining the execution of essential projects that aim to enhance the

living standards and improve the overall quality of life for the people of Jammu West.

Arvind emphasized the importance of strong leadership and teamwork in ensuring the successful implementation of these initiatives. He noted that with the support of dedicated leaders and local representatives, the BJP government at the Centre is working tirelessly to address the concerns of the public and foster growth in the region.

The meeting also focused on various

developmental plans in the pipeline, which include better road connectivity, healthcare facilities, educational infrastructure, and the modernization of local amenities. The BJP leaders acknowledged the transformative progress Jammu West has seen under the BJP government and pledged to continue striving for further progress.

"Today's interaction was an important step in ensuring that we remain aligned and focused on the welfare of the people. The BJP's vision for Jammu and Kashmir is clear, and we will continue to work relentlessly to provide better infrastructure and services to our constituents," Arvind said following the meeting.

Arvind Gupta emphasized that BJP will continue to prioritize the needs of the citizens, working tirelessly to create a more developed and inclusive Jammu West

BJYM J&K holds protest against Congress over corruption charges in National Herald Scam

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 18: The Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) Jammu and Kashmir, led by State President Arun Prabhat, held a strong protest demonstration today outside the Press Club, Dogra Chowk, Jammu, against the Indian National Congress and its top leadership, including Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, over alleged massive corruption in the National Herald Scam.

Raising slogans against the Congress party's misdeeds, BJYM activists marched with placards denouncing financial fraud, institutional misuse, and systematic looting of public funds by the Congress leadership. The protest culminated in the burning of an effigy representing Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, signifying public outrage over the blatant misuse of power for personal and political gain.

Addressing the media during the protest, Arun



Prabhat said, "The National Herald case is not just about a financial fraud, but a glaring example of how the Congress party and its leaders, particularly the Gandhi family, have consistently treated national institutions as their private property. The funds meant for the people of India were brazenly diverted to benefit a few at the top."

The National Herald case, currently under judicial scrutiny, involves the alleged acquisition of the Associated Journals Limited (AJL) by Young Indian—a company in which Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi hold the majority stake—without compensating shareholders

or clearing dues owed to the government. Critics and investigating agencies have pointed to the wrongful acquisition of assets worth thousands of crores, including prime real estate properties across major cities, under the guise of reviving a defunct newspaper.

BJYM further condemned the long history of the Congress party's fiscal misgovernance, patronage politics, and institutional manipulation. Arun Prabhat accused the Congress of shielding corrupt practices under political cover and reiterated BJYM's commitment to exposing and resisting corrupt forces in Indian politics.

The demonstration was attended by scores of BJYM workers youth activists including Abhishek Slathia, Yuvraj Singh, Sanjay Sharma, Ishant Mahajan, Dr. Himja Mengi, Priyanka Mahajan, Luvdeval Sharma, Adv. Amit Sharma, Sonika Sharma, Rajat Singh Manhas, Monu Slathia, Rohit Sharma, Sagar Singh Kotwal, Kanav Sharma, Akash Singh Slathia, Naveen Jaiswal, Monu Slathia, Pawan Singh Manhas, Raman Sharma, Shubham Manhas, Rahul Pardhan, and senior BJP leaders from the region. The protest ended with chants of accountability and transparency, calling upon investigating agencies to expedite the legal proceedings and bring the culprits to justice.

BJYM Jammu & Kashmir reaffirmed its resolve to carry forward its mission of a corruption-free India, echoing the sentiments of the youth of the nation who demand clean governance and political integrity.

JAMMU MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
TOWN HALL JAMMU

Fresh e-Auction Notice No04(P) of 2025-26, Dated 16-04-2025 (2nd Call)

For & on behalf of Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), the Executive Engineer, Projects Division, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) invites auction bids in electronic format from registered firms dealing with scrap for auction of scrap by dismantling doors/windows, partition walls during the period of upgradation of Block "B" of Town hall Complex, Jammu "As is Where is Basis". The details of the auction shall be made available at <https://jktenders.gov.in> before the due date of tender.

S.No	Name of work	Minimum Reserved Amount (In Lacs)	Tender Fee In Rs.	EMD In Rs	Class	Time for Completion
1	e-Auction of scrap by dismantling doors/windows, partition walls during the period of upgradation of Block "B" of Town hall Complex, Jammu "As is where is basis"	2,17,620/-	1000/-	4500/-	Firm/Companies /Individuals registered with state/Central Govt.	20 Days

Important Dates

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	16-04-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 16-04-2025 to 26-04-2025 upto 1400 Hrs
4	Bid submission Start Date	16-04-2025
5	Bid Submission End Date	26-04-2025 upto 1400 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	28-04-2025 at 1200 Hrs in the office of Executive Engineer, Projects Div. JMC

No.: JMC/PD/25-26/Tech/133-40
Dt.: 16-04-2025

Executive Engineer,
Projects Div.
Jammu Municipal Corporation

DIP/J-243-P/25

Office of the Divisional Forest Officer,
Seed Development Division, SFRI Complex, Jammu- 180007
E-mail:- dfseed123@gmail.com, Tel:- & Fax: 01912953921

E-TENDERING

Notice Inviting Tender: e-NIT No.02 of 2025-26 Dated: 16.04.2025

For and on behalf of the Lt Governor, Jammu & Kashmir State, e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K UT Govt./Central Govt. Organizations having experience and knowledge of the work of nursery raising and maintenance of the plants involving the following items of works:-

Name of Work: 2nd year Maintenance of poly bagged plants raised during 2023-24(9"x6") in Sidhra Nurseries(CAPEX)

T.S & A.A= Accorded
Status of Funds= Approved

S.N o.	Name of work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In lacs)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender Document	Time of completion	Receiving /Opening Authority
1	Maintenance of plants in poly bags of size 9" x 6" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resowing of seeds in failed polybags including cost of seed and labour as per the ordered quantity Care of new germination including shade/hatching whenever required Regular weeding in polybags including disposal of weeds Cleaning of bunds and interspaces of plots and beds and all nursery area on 	78700 @ 2.66/- per plant till March 2026 Rs.2.093 lacs	4190	A,B, C & D	Rs.600/-	Maintenance Work as detailed to be done on daily basis up till 25/03/2026 or till lifting of plants from nursery	Tender Opening Committee

daily basis including disposal of weeds in a way to keep them always free from any weeds/grasses for hygiene purposes.

- Irrigation of plants as per requirement from available irrigation facility including that by water tankers to be procured from market in case of shortage of water in irrigation source of nursery and also in case of fault in motor pumps .
- Cost of diesel/petrol/ for irrigating /Watering of plants in Nursery including cost of weedicides, Insecticides spray in case of disease outbreak.
- Cost of seed/cuttings/transplants required for sowing/resowing/ transplant
- Shifting and grading of polybags as per requirement as directed by supervisory staff

Dressing of bunds/boundaries of plots/paths including general nursery maintenance and use of chemical /physical/biological methods to keep the plants and nursery free from any sort of disease and insect and animal/bird attack in Sidhra-I, II & III

The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specific Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded at www.jktenders.gov.in

Position of funds: APPROVED & (50% Funds available)

Position of AA/TS: ACCORDED

Publishing Date	16.04.2025
Download Start Date	16.04.2025 From 04:00 PM
Bid Submission Start Date	16.04.2025 From 06:00 PM
Bid submission End Date	25.04.2025 At 02.30 PM
Date of opening of Technical Bid	26.04.2025 at 02:00 PM (in the office of DFO Seed Development Division, Forest Complex, J&K FRI JANIPUR, Jammu).
Date of opening of Financial Bid(online)	26.04.2025 at 02:30 PM (in the office of DFO Seed Development Division, Forest Complex, J&K FRI JANIPUR, Jammu).

DIP/J-388/25

Divisional Forest Officer
Seed Development Division,
J&K FRI, Jammu.
Dated. 16.04.2025

No. JKFR/SDD/JF-181/57-62
p

EDITORIAL

PROMOTE
JAMMU'S
HERITAGE

Nestled in the lap of the Himalayas, Jammu is often referred to as the "City of Temples," owing to its spiritual significance and ancient heritage. As the winter capital of the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir, it holds a prominent place in India's cultural, religious, and historical tapestry. Jammu's heritage is a rich amalgamation of architectural marvels, spiritual sanctuaries, vibrant traditions, and enduring folklore, all of which contribute to its distinct identity and national importance. One of the most defining aspects of Jammu's heritage is its religious significance. The city is home to the sacred Vaishno Devi shrine, one of the most visited Hindu pilgrimage sites in India. Located in the Trikuta Hills, it attracts millions of devotees every year, contributing not just to the region's spiritual aura but also its economy. The Raghunath Temple, dedicated to Lord Rama, is another iconic structure that exemplifies Jammu's religious grandeur. These temples are not just places of worship but also architectural treasures that reflect the craftsmanship of bygone eras. Beyond its temples, Jammu boasts a history that spans centuries. It was once the seat of the Dogra dynasty, whose rulers left behind a rich architectural legacy. The Mubarak Mandi Palace, an exquisite blend of Rajasthani, Mughal, and European styles, served as the royal residence and administrative headquarters. Although partially in ruins today, efforts are underway to restore and preserve this historical structure as a heritage site. Such palaces and forts are crucial links to the past, offering a glimpse into the lifestyle, governance, and artistic sensibilities of the Dogra rulers. Jammu's heritage is also reflected in its art, music, and folklore. The Dogra culture, with its colorful costumes, traditional dances like Kud and Heren, and folk music, showcases the vibrant spirit of the region. Handicrafts such as Basohli paintings, intricate Pashmina shawls, and wood carvings are examples of traditional artistry that continue to thrive. These crafts are not only a source of livelihood for many local artisans but also help preserve age-old techniques and designs that are part of Jammu's identity. Another critical element of Jammu's heritage is its linguistic and culinary diversity. While Dogri is the dominant language, the region is home to speakers of Gojri, Pahari, Punjabi, and Urdu as well. This multilingual environment has fostered a rich oral tradition of storytelling, poetry, and folklore that adds depth to the cultural landscape. The cuisine of Jammu, including dishes like Rajma Chawal, Kaladi cheese, and various preparations made during festivals, speaks volumes about the culinary traditions rooted in local ingredients and customs. The importance of preserving Jammu's heritage cannot be overstated. In a rapidly modernizing world, there is a growing need to safeguard cultural identities that are at risk of being overshadowed by urban development. Heritage is not merely about buildings or artifacts; it is about the collective memory and identity of a people. For the people of Jammu, their heritage connects them to their roots, providing a sense of belonging and pride. Moreover, Jammu's heritage plays a pivotal role in tourism and economic development. Pilgrimage tourism, cultural festivals, and heritage walks not only attract visitors from across the globe but also provide employment opportunities for local communities. With proper infrastructure and sustainable development, Jammu's rich heritage can be harnessed to boost the region's economy while fostering cultural exchange. In conclusion, Jammu's heritage is a treasure trove of history, spirituality, and culture that holds immense significance both locally and nationally. It is a testament to the resilience and creativity of its people across centuries. Preserving this heritage is essential not only for honoring the past but also for inspiring future generations. Through conservation, education, and community involvement, Jammu can continue to shine as a beacon of India's diverse and enduring cultural legacy.

Not "A Storm in a Tea Cup" but a real storm

By: Omkar Dattatray

The startling revelations made by Former RAW chief A.S. Dault is in fact a bombshell thrown by this officer of repute about ex-chief minister Farooq Abdullah's secret support to the abrogation of Article 370. It created a real tornado and a storm in the political circles of Jammu and Kashmir. If the revelations made in his book are true, it thus exposes the double standard and hypocrisy of NC President and former chief minister Farooq Abdullah and his National Conference-NC and the bombshell is no less than brewing of a political storm in J&K which may damage the political fortune of the NC and it is really a great and important issue and cannot be consigned to the dustbin as it will have serious ramifications on the ruling party NC.A.S. Dault has written in his upcoming book titled, "The chief Minister and the Spy" that NC patron and the former J&K ex-chief minister Farooq Abdullah has secretly supported the Abrogation of Article 370 and in public showed opposition to it. It is a very serious and sensitive issue and may create fissures in the mainstream, regional and traditional political party which is considered not only a political outfit but a movement as well. Dault reveals NC patron's 'secret support' to Article 370's removal. It is no ordinary issue and matter and it may cause dissensions in the NC headed by none else than senior Farooq Abdullah against whom accusations have been leveled. The strong revelations have created political storm, stir, and upheaval, acute and intense reactions from the political parties across the spectrum. Peoples Conference -PC chief and Handwara MLA Sajad Gani Lone

has exclaimed that he is not surprised over these revelations by RAW ex-Chief Dault and added that these revelations against NC chief Farooq Abdullah have come from a very responsible, high class and most credible officer and so these revelations cannot be ignored as being baseless. NC as usual has labeled these revelations as a conspiracy to damage the credibility of NC. He also said that the August 4, 2019 meeting of incumbent chief minister Farooq Abdullah with the PM was never a mystery for him. Coming from Dault Shain, the revelations sounds credible. Remember Dault Sahib is the closest ally and friend of Farooq Abdullah. Lone further said that NC is now playing a victim card for damage control but it will not help the NC. Lone further said that NC will deny the revelations and term it as another conspiracy against NC. MLA Pulwama and PDP leader Waheed Parra in a post said Dault's revelations today tear away the NC's last remaining veil. He said, "Dault's revelation's today tear away the NC's last remaining veil. It tells us that all those fiery speeches, the staged outrage, the carefully crafted image of fighting the BJP were theatrics at the best." It was a performance designed to mislead the people of Jammu and Kashmir into believing that NC was standing guard over their rights. In truth NC leaders were complicit—quite facilitators and sponsors of our disempowerment. He added further that their legacy is not one of resistance but of convenient silence dressed up as statesmanship. Parra said, "The truth is harsh but undeniable, generations after generations; the NC has built its political fortunes on the back of our dispossession. Dault's disclosure is not shock, it is confirmation

.A mirror held up to decades of hypocrisy, opportunism, and moral collapse." PDP leader Iltija Mufti said that it is clear that Farooq Abdullah chose to stay in Kashmir instead of the parliament to help normalize gutting of J&K's constitution and subsequent betrayal. Farooq Abdullah reacted that Dault's book is a bundle of lies and a figment of imagination and revelations are made only for getting chief popularity. Terming the book bombshell, "The chief Minister and the Spy" written by former RAW chief A.S. Dault as bundle of lies, NC president Dr Farooq Abdullah on Wednesday said that his claims are figment of imagination. NC president said his book is a "piece of fiction" which he is trying to project as the work based on facts. Remember Dault in his new book has written that Dr Farooq privately backed the abrogation of article 370 and publicly opposed it. Farooq reacted that me and my son Omar was put in jail for several months at the time of abrogation of article 370's removal. On release from jail I along with other leaders of several political parties flouted an amalgam for opposition and restoration of article 370 and 35 A and if I was supporting the abrogation why should I have constitution an organization called GUPKAR alliance and still I have not come out from this alliance. Whatever it is in fact it stirs a Hornets nest by saying that Dr Farooq secretly supported Article 370's abrogation. These revelations have created a very difficult or unpleasant situation as lot of the people and political parties and their leaders are angry with it. The Daults revelations have created a situation fraught with difficulties or complications. This is clear that these revelations have created a very difficult situation

for Farooq Abdullah and the National Conference and it may create fissures in the traditional and mainstream political party which has Pan Jammu and Kashmir base and following. But with the startling revelations there are chances of several emotional leaders and politicians severing relations with NC and coming out of the party. The political leaders of JK read Kashmir will not take these revelations easily and will also not brush them under the carpet. Political Pundits are watching the situation patiently and in the coming days many cupboards will be opened and the NC will get political shocks. The coming days will show how the rank and file of NC will react to the revelations made by no less a man than former RWA Chief Dault. NC spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq has dismissed these revelations as false and a conspiracy to defame NC and its chief. NC has rejected Dault's claims on Farooq Abdullah's stand on Article 370. NC's chief spokesperson and MLA Zadibal, Tanvir Sadiq rejected the claims made by former RAW chief A.S. Dault in his new book which will hit the book stalls on 18, April 2025. He termed claims as contradictory and an attempt to create controversy. In short Dault's revelations may create stir and flatter in NC and the party cannot salvage its image. There are no takers of NC's chief's innocence. However the revelations in the book is no storm in the tea cup but actual political storm which is brewing in Kashmir politics and political circles.

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

Disillusioned with Abroad

By: Vijay Garg

The news is shocking that the number of students going abroad last year has decreased by 25 per cent. While the number of students going to the US has decreased by 36 and the number of students travelling to Canada by 34 per cent. More or less the same situation is UK too. These figures are of the year 2024. Surely when the figures of overthinking will emerge in the Trump period, they will be more shocking. There was a time that the passion for studying was on the boom by going to Pardes in students. Every year, the parents were sending abroad to read the children by earning blood and sweat and cutting their stomach. Elsewhere, cases of sending children to teach abroad by selling farms and mortgaging houses also came to light. In fact, the facility of getting an education loan from banks in the country also facilitated the travel of students abroad. Every year millions of students were going abroad for golden dreams. These passions were particularly seen in Punjab, which was sixty per

cent of the students going from all over India in countries like Canada-America, etc. It was not necessary that all these students were meritorious and were all enrolled in top universities of the world. These also had many universities which were being run just for the purpose of earning from foreign students. At the same time there were some universities that remained the source of the earnings of agents sending people abroad illegally. A huge amount of money was being recovered by sending youth to these countries as a student. Indeed, gradually the students and their parents went on to realise the reality. They realized that they could find degrees as they were by spending rough money, but these jobs and green cards are not guaranteed. Yes, some students would somehow get the cost of their studies and the cost of taking off the house. Indeed, gradually the murmurers and their priorities of the U.S., the U.K., and the Canada governments made the students look to the reality of rough land. The reality of the vegetables that the agents had shown to the stu-

dents began to come out. Apart from this, the shattered economies after the Corona period, the reduction in attractive offers of the job, the difficulties in getting visas, the heightened attacks on Indians of white-skinned people from these countries created a state of disillusionment among the students. There were racial attacks on many Indian students in the US last year. Many students were murdered and many were injured. Anti-India campaigns in Canada and Britain and the anti-India attitude of Justin Trudeau in Canada also disillusioned students. By the way, instead of earning foreign exchange, we were sending billions of rupees to these countries every year. On the other hand, the meaningful aspect of disillusionment of students going abroad is that now these talents can contribute to the development of the nation by staying in the country. Kudrat's law is that plants bloom in their urvara land itself due to favourable environment. These are the failure of our policymakers that even after seven decades of independence, we could not give the country international standards

universities. Not able to develop the quality of skill development in general education. Not able to give creative options to the longing for government jobs in students. From America's Silicon Valley to all IT-related big companies are running Indian talents. After all, why are we not able to give such an environment in the country to Indian Medhais, that they can benefit the country from new discoveries and research. India is the country with the most youth in the world. If we are not able to make better use of their ability, aptitude and talent, it is our big failure. The ruling forces of the country have to think seriously in the direction of why students were on a spree to go abroad. India's resolutions developed can be completed only by giving students a favourable environment.

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

BLSKS celebrates World Heritage Day with cultural program in Jhiri

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 18: To mark the occasion of World Heritage Day—also known as the International Day for Monuments and Sites—Bharatiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan (BLSKS) organized a vibrant cultural celebration at Mayur Public School, Kalyan Pur, Jhiri, District Jammu. The event also aimed to raise awareness about the Nasha Mukat Bharat Abhiyan while promoting the rich traditional culture of Jammu & Kashmir.

The highlight of the event was the 489th Friday Series performance of the Dogri musical play "Sadi Barast" and skit "Nashe Mukat Bharat", written and directed by renowned cultural figure Dr. M.L. Dogra. The event was



held in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Govt. of India), and the Social Welfare Department of the J&K Government.

More than 250 students and teachers participated, taking a pledge against substance abuse. A certificate of appreciation was awarded to the school principal by the Ministry

of Social Justice. Chief Guest, Ram Saroop Bali, Principal of Mayur Public School, inaugurated the event, with senior faculty members Rajni Sharma, Mohinder Singh, and Om Parkash gracing the occasion as Guests of Honour.

The program featured musical performances of songs like "Nasha Na Karna - Man Lo Kehna", "Sadi Dugger Barast", "Khand Mithe Log

Dogre", and "Swachh Bharat ka Irada Kariya Humne", composed by music maestro Raju Bajgal. The artistic presentation beautifully blended messages of cultural pride and drug-free living.

In his welcome address, Dr. Dogra emphasized the importance of preserving cultural heritage, which he described as a living mirror of society—

deeply connected to our values, identity, and history. He also spoke on the physical and mental struggles associated with drug withdrawal and highlighted how community efforts can aid recovery and prevention.

Mahesh Chander Kotwal, Secretary of BLSKS, reinforced the value of collective commitment to heritage preservation through pledges and active participation in safeguarding cultural sites.

The program concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks by Deepak Kumar. The event was also recorded and shared on social media, spreading its message to a wider audience and inspiring collective action for a culturally enriched, drug-free future.

Transformers installed near GHSS Qaimoh poses threat to students' life

Top News Report

KULGAM, Apr 18: Exposing sheer negligence on the part of Power Development Department (PDD), two electric transformers installed adjacent boundary of Govt HSS Qaimoh in Kulgam district poses constant threat to the students and the locals urged the administration to look into the issue before an untoward incident takes place.

A student said that "The transformers had been installed by the Power Development department along the school building from where students are going each day," another student said. "School administration as well as the locals have approached the department for relocation of transformers in order to avoid any untoward incident, which can befall any time," another local said.

They requested concerned authorities to look into the matter at



ing the road where the transformers is installed" he said.

"These transformers can prove fatal anytime as it is close to the school building from where students are going each day," another student said.

"School administration as well as the locals have approached the department for relocation of transformers in order to avoid any untoward incident, which can befall any time," another local said.

They requested concerned authorities to look into the matter at

an earliest so that any eventuality may be avoided.

One being contacted to Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) Qaimoh Zaffar Bhat told that he would take up the matter with concerned department for immediate removal of transformers near the school premises.

Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) PDD Kulgam Irfana Rafiqi said that she would sought a report from ground staff in this regard and all possible steps for the safety of the students will be taken.

Training Programme for YUVA DOOTS held at Ramban



Top News Report

RAMBAN, Apr 18: A one-day training programme for YUVA DOOTS under Mission YUVA was organized today at the District Administrative Complex, Ramban, by the District Administration under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Baseer-UI-Haq Chaudhary.

The session was held under the leadership

of Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Ramban, Roshan Lal, who also serves as the District Nodal Officer for Mission YUVA.

The programme commenced with a welcome address by Assistant Director Employment, Ramban, Amit Kumar. The training featured insightful presentations and guidance from key speakers, including District Development Man-

ager, NABARD, Arshi Sharma, Career Counseling Officer, Ramban, Amir Hassan; and District Nodal Officer, JKEDI, Tashneef Parray.

A total of 62 YUVA DOOTS, appointed by the District Administration for grassroots engagement, participated in the training along with officials from the District Employment and Counselling Centre (DECC), Ramban.

The training aimed to sensitize the YUVA DOOTS about their roles and responsibilities under Mission YUVA, ensuring effective implementation at the Panchayat level. The focus areas included youth engagement, career counseling, entrepreneurship development, and livelihood generation initiatives to empower rural youth in District Ramban.

The programme concluded with an interactive session where participants exchanged ideas and discussed strategies to realize the objectives of Mission YUVA at the grassroots level.

JKTF holds farewell party for Sher Singh Katoch, Headmaster, GHS Mangit



Top News Report

RAMBAN, Apr 18: A grand farewell party was held at Govt High School (GHS) Mangit in honor of Sher Singh Katoch, Headmaster, who has been transferred to Govt High School Bhatni, Ramban, situated at the highest altitude in the district.

During the farewell party, Mehmood-ur-Rayaz Bhat, I/C Headmaster and Vice Chairman of Jammu Kashmir Teachers Forum (JKTF), expressed gratitude to the Education Minister and Secretary Education for approving the transfer of Headmasters, including

Sher Singh Katoch, who served in the hard zone of Mangit for over two years.

While addressing the gathering, Mehmood-ur-Rayaz Bhat requested the J&K administration to fulfill their commitment to transfer all teachers and masters from hard zones to soft zones who have completed more than one year of service in the hard zones.

Mohd Ashraf Sheikh, President of JKTF, congratulated Sher Singh Katoch and the staff of Govt High School Mangit for organizing the farewell party in honor of the outgoing Headmaster.

JKPCC condoles demise of Agha Syed Mohammad Baqar

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Apr 18: The Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) on Friday condoled the sad demise of eminent religious scholar Agha Syed Moham-

mad Baqar, terming his demise a great loss.

J&K Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) President Tariq Hameed Karra has expressed profound grief over the demise of Agha Syed Baqar Ali Al Aafvi Al Najafi and

expressed heartfelt condolences to bereaved family and relatives of the Agha Saheb.

Karra prayed for eternal peace to Late Agha Saheb and courage to bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss.

Awareness Programme on 7th Edition of Poshan Pakhwada 2025 held at GDC Ramgarh

Top News Report

RAMGARH, Apr 18: In accordance with the Ministry of Women and Child Development's Poshan Pakhwada 2025 campaign under the Poshan Abhiyan, the NCORD Cell of Government Degree College Ramgarh organized an awareness programme focused on the theme: "Healthy Lifestyle to Address Obesity in Children."

The programme aimed to educate students and staff about the importance of balanced nutrition, physical activity, and the societal responsibility in tackling all forms of malnutrition, especially the rising concern of childhood obesity.

The event was held under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Meeru Abrol, Principal of the College.

The programme was coordinated by Prof. Brham Dutt, Convener of the NCORD Cell, and included an insightful and comprehensive lecture delivered by Ashok Kumar, the esteemed Resource Person for the session.

Kumar elaborated on the causes and consequences of childhood obesity, explaining how unhealthy dietary habits—characterized by high intake of fats,



sugars, and salts—combined with increasingly sedentary lifestyles, contribute to rising obesity rates among children, even as under nutrition continues to affect vulnerable populations.

In his lecture, Kumar highlighted the World Health Organization (WHO) standards for overweight and obesity in children and demonstrated the use of the Body Mass Index (BMI) calculator to assess nutritional health.

He explained that a BMI below 18 indicates under nutrition, while a BMI above 35 is classified as third-level obesity, posing serious health risks such as diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, and psychological concerns. Kumar also

emphasized the importance of early intervention, parental involvement, and the creation of supportive community environments to encourage healthier eating habits and physical activity among children.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from all faculty members of the college, including Dr. Snobar, Prof. Sandeep Kumar, Ashok Kumar, Prof. Brham Dutt, Dr. Shivali Panigotra, Dr. Neeraj Bargaotra, Priya Sharma, Anjali Devi, Dr. Susheel Kumar, and Sayema.

A large number of students actively participated in the session, demonstrating their keen interest in understanding the issue and their commitment to promoting healthy living.

Samsung India enhances customer service with AI-powered remote diagnostic and troubleshooting tool

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 18: Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, has launched its Home Appliances Remote Management (HRM) tool, a next-generation remote diagnosis and troubleshooting solution that significantly reduces service wait times and enhances customer experience.

By harnessing the power of AI-powered remote diagnostics and troubleshooting, Samsung technicians can now resolve issues faster, reducing the need for cumbersome in-home visits. This innovative technology not only enhances customer experience with rapid resolutions and reduced downtime but also sets a new benchmark for the industry, redefining the future of customer care and reimagining the relationship between consumers and their smart home appliances.

"Samsung Service is at the forefront of home appliance diagnostics, leveraging advanced tools to identify issues with pinpoint accuracy. Through its smart diagnostics service, customers can get proactive solutions by troubleshooting and resolving problems remotely, minimizing the need for a technician visit. This breakthrough significantly reduces wait times, ensures faster resolutions, and provides timely updates on product maintenance, ultimately enhancing the customer experience," said Sunil Cutinha, VP, Customer Satisfaction, Samsung India.

HRM enables real-time issue resolution with remote counselling, monitoring, and control features for Samsung smart appliances registered on the SmartThings app. SmartThings is a customer-facing app, which works as an appliance operating tool and captures usage

patterns. With this innovation, Samsung continues to lead the way in smart device management, making home appliance maintenance more efficient and hassle-free for consumers worldwide.

When a customer contacts Samsung's support team regarding an issue with their home appliance, the HRM system automatically detects the registered device's model and serial number through Samsung's CRM (Customer Relationship Management system). Upon activation, contact center advisors can remotely diagnose, monitor, and even control certain appliance functions post customer consent, providing immediate troubleshooting guidance.

How HRM Resolved an AC Cooling Issue With summer arriving early in Chennai and temperature rising above 35°C, Rohan Luthra's air conditioner

was cooling less efficiently. Fortunately, since Rohan had the SmartThings app installed on his smartphone and the AC was already registered in the app, he received an error notification.

Immediately, Rohan requested support through Home Care service in SmartThings and got connected to the contact center advisor. Upon consultation, the advisor diagnosed the issue through HRM's remote diagnostics, and informed the customer that its microfilter required cleaning and provided a step-by-step guide to Rohan over the phone call, restoring the AC's cooling efficiency within minutes without the need for an on-site visit.

This real-world example underscores how Samsung's HRM tool is transforming customer support, making smart appliance maintenance more efficient, proactive, and hassle-free.

Anurag Kashyap not too happy with censorship issues being faced by Phule

Filmmaker Anurag Kashyap has expressed his frustration over the censorship issues faced by the biographical drama Phule, directed by Ananth Mahadevan. The film, starring Pratik Gandhi and Patralekha, was initially set to release on April 11, on the occasion of Mahatma Jyotirao Phule's birth anniversary, but was postponed due to objections from a section of the Brahmin community.

Anurag Kashyap took to his Instagram handle to share his thoughts on the issue, questioning the existence of casteism in India.

"Bhai mil ke decide kar lo. India mein casteism hai ya nahi (Brother, let's decide together. Does casteism exist in India or not?)," he wrote.

The Gangs of Wasseypur director believes Phule is among several

films facing suppression due to its bold and unapologetic themes. He cited other examples, including Punjab 95, Tees and Dhadak 2, suggesting that these films were being targeted for reflecting uncomfortable truths. Drawing from his personal experience, he recalled his first theatre production, which was centred on the lives of Jyotirao and Savitribai Phule. He questioned the objections raised by the Brahmin community, particularly pointing out the irony that if casteism had truly been eradicated in India, as claimed by some political figures, there would be no reason for the community to take offence.

Kashyap wrote on Instagram, "If casteism didn't exist in this country, why would they have needed to fight against



it?" Kashyap also raised questions about how the community had access to the film before its official release. He further criticised the censor board for its lack of transparency and for not openly stating what specifically bothered them about the movie.

Meanwhile, Phule's release has been delayed to April 25, with the film now facing cuts demanded by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC). In response to these censorship actions, Prakash Ambedkar, the president of the Vanchit Bahujan Aaghadi, staged a protest in Pune, asserting that removing crucial scenes would strip the film of its intended message. "If those scenes are removed from Phule, the purpose of the film is lost," he said.

Ali Fazal, Sonali Bendre team up for untitled series on Ranga-Billa case



Actors Ali Fazal and Sonali Bendre are set to feature in a series based around the case of real-life criminals Ranga and Billa.

Prosit Roy, who worked as a director on the critically-acclaimed series "Pataal Lok", is helming the series. Fazal and Bendre have both started shooting for the untitled show in Delhi, a press release said.

"The team has been

researching the case in detail for months now. The show will focus on the events as they unfolded following the murder case. It's being treated with sensitivity and aims to show how deeply the case affected Delhi," the release said.

In 1978, Ranga and Billa had kidnapped two siblings who had hitched a ride with them in the heart of Delhi for ransom. But when the

criminals came to know that the brother-sister duo Geeta and Sanjay Chopra were the children of a naval officer, they panicked and killed them. Geeta was raped before she was killed.

Kuljeet Singh alias Ranga Khus and Jasbir Singh alias Billa were awarded the death penalty and executed four years later.

The case led to widespread public outrage and played a significant role in the development of stricter laws related to kidnapping and child safety.

Fazal will be seen next in Anurag Basu's multi-starrer romance drama "Metro... In Dino", Sunny Deol-led "Lahore 1947", and Mani Ratnam's Tamil movie, "Thug Life", alongside Kamal Haasan.

Bendre was last seen in Prime Video's film "Be Happy", which starred Abhishek Bachchan in the lead.

'Jaat' controversy: FIR against Sunny Deol, Randeep Hooda in Jalandhar

The Christian community in Jalandhar has got an FIR lodged against film actors Sunny Deol, Randeep Hooda and Vineet Kumar Singh besides two other crew members of the recently released film 'Jaat'.

The FIR was lodged at Sadar police station under Section 299 (deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings) of the BNS.

The FIR has also been registered against film director Gopichand Malineni and producer Neveen Melineni.

The film was released on April 11.

Viklaf Gold, the complainant, has alleged that the film crew had shown disrespect to Jesus Christ. "There is a scene in the movie



in which Hooda stands under a crucifix inside the premises of a church.

He stands right above the holy pulpit where

people are seen praying. We have objection to this scene and demand that it be cut," the complainant told the police.

Malayalam actress Vincy Alishious reveals name of co-actor who used 'drugs' on set

Malayalam film actress Vincy Alishious, who shared a post on Instagram about the "inappropriate behaviour" towards her from a co-actor under the influence of drugs on the sets of a movie the other day, has now lodged a formal complaint with the Film Chamber, naming the actor as Shine Tom Chacko.

Film Chamber general secretary Saji Nanthiyatt said stringent action would be taken against the actor based on the complaint.

Alishious has also complained to the Association of Malayalam Movie Artists (AMMA) about the misconduct of Chacko on the sets of the yet-to-be released movie, "Soothravaky-



am."

AMMA adhoc committee convenor Jayan Cherthala said the association will extend all support to the actor on the issue.

At a recent function in connection with a "No to Drugs" campaign, Alishious had announced that she will no longer act with people who use drugs on film sets.

Responding to the many queries about her decision, she posted a video on Instagram explaining that she and her female colleague faced inappropriate behaviour from a co-actor who used drugs on the sets.

Alishious said when she had a problem with her dress on the set, the co-actor told her, "I'll

fix it for you," in front of everyone, creating an uncomfortable situation.

"He was also spitting a white powder from his mouth when the rehearsal for a scene was on. It was evident that he was using drug on the set," she said in the video.

Incidentally, Shine Tom Chacko was the other day acquitted in a 2015 drug case by the Ernakulam additional sessions court, citing procedural lapses on the part of the police during the drug seizure and the arrest.

Vincy Alishious is a noted actor in Malayalam, who had won the Kerala government's best actress award in 2023 for her role in the film, "Rekha."

Idea was to not go overboard with jingoistic angle: Emraan Hashmi on 'Ground Zero'

Actor Emraan Hashmi says the idea behind his upcoming film "Ground Zero", based on the heroism of a real life BSF officer, was to tell an honest story without going overboard with the jingoistic elements.

The action-thriller, produced by Farhan Akhtar and Ritesh Sidhwani's Excel Entertainment, chronicles the story of BSF officer Narendra Nath Dhar Dubey, who led the operation to track the mastermind behind the 2001 terrorist attacks on the Parliament and Akshardham Temple.

"The whole idea from my first discussions of getting into a film like this was not to go overboard with the jingoistic angle. I think that looks a little forced, over the top. The audience, while watching the film, also feels a sense of being disconnected from the truth of the story," Hashmi told agency in an interview.

The actor, known for films such as "Awarapan", "Murder", "Jannat", "Once upon a time in Mumbai", "The Dirty Picture", "Shanghai" and "Tiger 3", said they wanted to stay true to the real life story as much as possible.

"We wanted to tell the

story with the right elements of drama, entertainment and that truth and honesty keeping in mind what happened in 2001. Drama is something that if you just overdo it, it can just tip over," he added.

Citing the example of the dialogue 'Pahar Hoga' from the film, the actor said while the drama element needs to have a certain "pitch" and "tonality", it must resonate with the audience.

"I can bet my life that Mr. Dubey didn't get up on a truck and started yelling at his juniors, saying 'Pahar Hoga'. But, if that protocol would take place in an office or somewhere else, then that would be the most boring thing because if you have to heighten up the drama, you've got to whip it up. If that went into the jingoistic (zone), then it would look very fake." The 46-year-old actor said he met Dubey, whom he described as a humble individual, to get insight into his character as he didn't want it to be a "mimicry".

"You're making a film that's representative of the world of the Border Security Force (BSF), you can't go wrong on



that. Everything has to be to the 'T', the man himself, because it is up there for posterity. Their families are going to be watching this, so you've to be very cognizant of that and very sensitive to that."

Mumbai-born Hashmi reflected on the experience of filming in Kashmir for "Ground Zero" and said he was captivated by the region's beauty.

"We didn't face any

issues. We have shot in crowded places, markets, streets, and people were civil and nice to us, they were supportive too. We had the support system of all the security agencies there also. So, that also helped. It's a place which, unfortunately, has a history there," he said.

"Ground Zero", also starring Sai Tamhankar and Zoya Hussain in prominent roles, is set to release on April 25.

Urvashi Rautela claims she has a mandir to her name in Badrinath, wants one more down South

One list which will always remain as exclusive as can be when it comes to acting heavyweights is the list for the celebrities with fan-made temples dedicated to them. With names like Amitabh Bachchan, Rajinikanth and Nayanthara having achieved this exclusivity, it was only a matter of time before the internet's first lady Urvashi Rautela joined their ranks.

Hear it from the horse's mouth: "Already mere naam ka mandir hai, Urvashi mandir. Aap Badrinath ke mandir ke darshan karne jaoge na, uske theek baaju mein there is a mandir, called 'Urvashi'," she shared during a chat with Siddharth Kannan.

Siddharth, like us, was pretty surprised at this casual revelation made by Urvashi and attempted to confirm with her, not once, not twice, but THRICE, if she was serious. And each time the mega-star in her own right said, "Haan, Urvashi mandir wahan pe hai".

For anybody else, allegedly having one temple to their name would have probably



been enough of a spiritual achievement. But Urvashi being Urvashi expressed her desire to also have a mandir to her name down South. The reason? It's because

her career seems to be evidently booming there off-late and so she would like for her fans to have a place to go to, much like fandoms of the industry titans she

has starred opposite so far. She said, "Within a span of 1.5 saal, I made my debut with megastar Chiranjeevi. Phir maine Pawan Garu Kalyan ke saath kaam kiya, do filmon mein, phir maine Balaya Babu ke saath kaam kiya. Meri bas yahi chah hai ki unke bhi temples hai toh South mein aisa kuch ho, for my fans, wahan pe kuch ho".

The still-baffled interviewer tried to confirm again if she was being serious and Urvashi very matter-of-factly said, "Haan kaam South mein ho raha hai na, toh South mein hona chahiye".

When asked where exactly her mandir is located, Urvashi explained that anybody going for the Char Dham yatra would be able to spot her 'mandir' about a kilometre into the route. Siddharth further attempted to clarify if people were following common rituals like bowing their heads down, offering prayers and seeking blessings. To this Urvashi happily exclaimed, "Arre mandir hai! Wahi toh karenge".

“Immense potential for...”: PM Modi, Elon Musk speak amid US-China trade war

NEW DELHI, Apr 18 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi and tech billionaire Elon Musk spoke today about a US-India partnership in the areas of technology and innovation. The two leaders, who had met in Washington earlier this year, took forward their discussion, including about Mr Musk's auto and tech firms - like Tesla and Starlink - investing in India.

There is “immense potential” for collaboration between India and the United States in these fields, PM Modi said, adding that India remains committed to advancing a partnership between New Delhi and Washington in these domains.

“Spoke to Elon Musk and talked about various issues, including the topics we covered during our meeting in Washington DC earlier this year. We discussed the immense potential for collaboration in the areas of technology and innovation. India remains committed to advancing our partnerships with the US in these domains,” PM Modi wrote on his social media handle on X - another firm owned by Elon Musk.

TIMING OF THE PHONE CALL

The phone call between PM Modi and Elon Musk comes at a time when the United States and China are engaged in a fierce trade war, with either country imposing punishing tariffs on the other - 245 per cent on all Chinese exports to the US and 125 per cent retaliatory tariff over and above its previously existing 67 per cent tariff by China on all US imports.

These tit-for-tat reciprocal and retaliatory tariffs have had a severe impact on industry, since China and the United States are the two largest manufacturing



nations globally. Most of America's top tech firms manufacture a vast majority of their products in China, and tariffs have sent tech sector bosses searching for alternate destinations to manufacture their goods.

India, which has an established manufacturing sector in the tech and auto industry, and faces 26 per cent reciprocal tariff imposed by President Trump, is now being seeing as a favourable alternative for tech firms to gravitate towards. For Elon Musk's Tesla, the story is no different.

TESLA'S JOURNEY IN INDIA

Tesla has not officially ventured into the Indian market yet, but shortly after a meeting between PM Modi and Elon Musk in Washington in February this year, Tesla Inc, the EV manufacturer focusing on renewable energy, had commenced hiring in India. The brand had posted 13 openings on LinkedIn for various roles, including back-end jobs and customer-facing roles.

In the past, Tesla and India have had an uncertain relationship with the brand delaying its entry into the Indian passenger vehicle market. The major concern for the EV manufacturer has been the high import duties.

However, the Indian government addressed the concerns in March last year with reductions in the import duty on electric vehicles. This change came with conditions. For instance, the companies are required to set up local manufacturing facilities with a minimum of \$500 million in investments.

In the Union Budget 2025, India reduced basic customs duty (BCD) on high-end cars with a price tag of more than \$40,000 from 110 per cent to 70 per cent. This was seen as an invitation for manufacturers like Tesla.

But after April 2, 2025, when President Trump announced reciprocal tariffs on nations that tariff US goods “unfairly”, a retaliation by China soon spiralled into a trade war between the two largest economies. Each nation outdoing the other over a series of punitive taxes on imports from the other.

The impact of these tariffs sent shock waves through the manufacturing and logistics sector, including the automobile and technology sectors. Entrepreneurs like Elon Musk, who put all their eggs in the China-basket now face an uncertain future in terms of exports out of China.

STARLINK COMING TO INDIA?

Elon Musk, who openly calls himself a “big fan” of PM Modi, has ambitious plans for his Starlink satellite internet service to come to India, a country that leads the world in internet consumption, and is the biggest global market for social media and fintech sectors.

However, Starlink's entry into India has faced regulatory challenges, security concerns, and opposition from domestic telecom giants like Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Jio.

In November last year, India's telecoms minister, Jyotiraditya Scindia, stated that Starlink had yet to comply with security norms, and a license for satellite communications services would only be issued after meeting all requirements.

Elon Musk has criticised India's policy of granting spectrum for satellite services through auctioning, but the Indian government later changed its policy, deciding to assign satellite spectrum instead of auctioning it.

India's satellite broadband service market is highly competitive, with at least six companies controlling the market, led by Ambani's Reliance Jio and Sunil Bharti Mittal's Airtel.

More than 7,000 active satellites of Mr Musk's Starlink are orbiting Earth, providing low-latency broadband to some 4.6 million people worldwide. However, if Mr Musk wants to enter the Indian market - with more than a billion internet active internet connections daily, Starlink's high pricing could become an issue. India currently has one of the cheapest rates of mobile data globally.

‘Used it as ATM’: BJP’s Anurag Thakur slams Congress over National Herald case

The ruling BJP kept the heat on the opposition party following the probe agency's chargesheet against the Gandhis in the National Herald Case.



NEW DELHI, Apr 18

(Agencies): The BJP on Friday dared Congress leaders facing corruption charges to seek a quick and time-bound disposal of cases, as it slammed the party for citing politics as the reason for the Enforcement Directorate's action against Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi in the National Herald case.

The ruling BJP kept the heat on the opposition party following the ED's chargesheet against the Gandhis and accused chief ministers from the Congress-ruled states of ploughing public money as advertisement into the weekly newspaper which few read.

Former Union minister Anurag Thakur alleged that the Congress used the newspaper as its ATM, claiming that Gandhis sought to acquire properties worth Rs 2,000 crores of the National Herald without

investing a penny from their pocket.

Both Gandhis together owned 76 per cent of the Young Indian company which was, he said, given Rs 50 lakh loan by the Congress.

The company then took over the Associated Journals Limited, which owns the newspaper affiliated to the Congress, in lieu of Rs 90 crore it owed to the opposition party, he said.

Mr Thakur asked if a political party can give a loan.

To a question about the allegation that the ED action was politically motivated, the BJP leader dared Congress leaders facing corruption charges to move courts to seek quick and time-bound trial in the cases against them.

“If they have guts, they should do it,” he said, adding that in the “Congress model of corruption”, the thieves make a lot of noises.

The National Herald case, he said, has stunned the Congress ecosystem into silence.

Mr Thakur noted Gandhis have moved courts for quashing action against them for many times since a lower court took cognizance of the matter before the Modi government came to power.

The courts gave them no relief except that they are on bail, he said, adding that the judiciary did not intervene in the Enforcement Directorate's probe.

Turning to his home state Himachal Pradesh, where the Congress is in power, Mr Thakur accused the party of not fulfilling any of its 10 main promises but spending crores of rupees on advertisement in the National Herald.

“Does any Congress leader or member read it in Himachal,” he asked, demanding that people should be given details of money spent by different Congress governments on advertisements in the newspaper, which is available digitally.

The Congress has been organising protests in different parts of the country against the ED action.

Chhattisgarh man kills 70-year-old mother after she refuses to give him Rs 200 to buy dog

RAIPUR, Apr 18 (Agencies): A man allegedly bludgeoned his 70-year-old mother to death after she refused to give him Rs 200 to buy a dog in Chhattisgarh's Raipur on Friday, police said.

The accused, Pradeep Dewangan (45), also allegedly injured his wife during the attack that occurred in Nageshwar Nagar under the Urla police station limits around 8 am, station house officer B L Chandrakar said.

He said Dewangan was eager to purchase a puppy for Rs 800 and was falling short of Rs 200, which he sought from his mother, Ganeshi.

The official said the



accused, an e-rickshaw driver, has two sons and a daughter.

Chandrakar said Dewangan bludgeoned the victim to death with a hammer after she refused to give him money, and he also assaulted his wife, Rameshwari.

The accused managed to escape from the spot when his 15-year-old son intervened and

alerted the neighbours about the attack, he said.

The police reached the spot and rushed the two women to a hospital, where Ganeshi succumbed to injuries during treatment, he said.

The official said efforts were on to nab the accused, and a case of murder has been registered against him.

Akhilesh Yadav condemns Jain temple demolition in Mumbai

LUCKNOW, Apr 18 (Agencies): Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Friday voiced concern over the recent demolition of a Jain temple in Mumbai, accusing the BJP governments of systematically targeting the peaceful Jain community across India.

He was responding to reports in a section of the media that a Jain temple has been demolished in Mumbai.

In a post on X, Yadav addressed the Jain community directly, stating, “In today's times, being a minority in the country is becoming a curse. The fear, insecurity, and uncertainty currently prevailing among the Jain community is deeply concerning and has drawn worldwide attention and condemnation.”

Highlighting a series



of incidents, Yadav claimed these were part of an increasing pattern of aggression towards the community.

He referred to the violent attack on Jain monks in Singoli, Madhya Pradesh, a leaked audio clip from Jabalpur allegedly containing objectionable remarks against Jains by BJP members, and the demolition of a Jain temple in Mumbai, where sacred idols, scriptures, and religious

books were allegedly disrespected.

Yadav questioned, “Why is it that wherever there is a BJP government, such incidents targeting Jain temples, pilgrimage sites, and institutions occur?”

He alleged that BJP-backed elements have been eyeing not just Jain religious and public properties but also their private assets.

Listing past incidents, he recalled the controversy around Shri Ginar

Ji in Gujarat, central government's interference at Shri Samed Shikhar Ji, and the opposition to the installation of a Jain idol in Baghat, Uttar Pradesh.

He also referred to the 2022 killing of 65-year-old Bhawaral Jain in Neemuch, Madhya Pradesh, allegedly at the hands of a powerful BJP supporter.

Yadav further alleged that the BJP views the Jain community only through the lens of donations and votes.

“Does the BJP believe our importance lies only in giving donations? Who will protect our religion and community?” he asked.

“Rebuilding a temple cannot undo the insult caused to our idols, scriptures, and sentiments.”

Praising the Jain philosophy of non-violence,

co-existence, and compassion, Yadav said, “Jainism has long stood as a model of tolerance and morality, contributing immensely to India's culture, economy, and education.”

He assured the community of support, saying the Jain community may be numerically small but is a part of the broader PDA (Pichhda-Dalit-Alpsankhyak) alliance representing 90 per cent of the population.

“These discouraging actions by those in power will not weaken the Jain community.

We stand united with them in this difficult time.”

The former Uttar Pradesh chief minister ended his message with a sharp remark: “The Jain community must remember- BJP is loyal to no one.”

Woman murders sons with coconut chopper, kills self after husband told her to ‘die’

HYDERABAD, Apr 18 (Agencies): A 32-year-old woman killed her two sons and then herself in the suburbs of Hyderabad. She also left a six-page suicide note behind, the police said. The incident occurred in Gajularamaram area of the Telangana capital, within the jurisdiction of Jeedimetla Police station.

The police said the woman, Tejaswini, killed her sons with an axe used to chop coconuts and then jumped to her death.

According to the police, Tejaswini, who had been

battling a long-standing eye condition, passed on the hereditary illness to her two children, Arshit Reddy and Ashish Reddy. The condition reportedly required them to use eye drops every four hours, without which they struggled to see. This constant struggle allegedly became unbearable for Tejaswini, leaving her physically and emotionally drained.

Reportedly, constant quarrels were happening at home due to this issue. Tejaswini mentioned in her suicide note that her husband would often angrily



tell her things like “Die if you want” during heated arguments, the police said, adding the strain was too much for her to bear.

In her suicide note, Tejaswini expressing her pain and frustration. She then took a coconut chopper and killed her

two sons and jumped from the fifth floor of their apartment building, sealing the tragedy.

While Tejaswini and Arshit both died immediately, Ashish, the younger of the two, succumbed to his injuries on the way to the hospital.

Tourist dies in Rishikesh rafting accident; five others rescued

DEHRADUN, Apr 18 (Agencies): A tourist has died in an accident on the Ganges River in Rishikesh, Uttarakhand, a location renowned for river rafting, after a raft overturned during an excursion.

The fatality occurred near the Garud Chatti area within the Muni Ki Reti police station limits in Tehri district. The deceased has been identified as Sagar Negi, a resident of Dehradun. Police teams rushed to the scene upon receiving news of the accident and took custody of the body, which has been sent for post-mortem.



Senior Sub-Inspector Yogesh Pandey stated, “The incident occurred at Muni Ki Reti during a rafting excursion involving a group of six people.”

According to information received from SDRF Inspector Kavinder Sajwan, a tourist from Dehradun died after a raft suddenly

overturned near Garud Chatti in Tehri district's Muni Ki Reti police station limits.

Police have initiated an investigation into the incident and are questioning the raft operator. According to preliminary information, Sagar Negi and his friends arrived at Shivpuri, Rishikesh, for rafting.

According to the sources, the trip commenced from Shivpuri. However, as the raft approached the Garud Chatti bridge, it suddenly capsized, plunging everyone into the fast-flowing river.

The rafting guide acted swiftly to pull the tourists back onto the raft safely one by one. Tragically, during this effort, Sagar Negi became unconscious.

He was quickly brought to the riverbank and transported by road to the Rishikesh government hospital, where doctors pronounced him dead.

Deadly US strikes hit Yemen fuel port used by Houthis, kill 58, injure more than 100

Strikes, confirmed by US military's Central Command, represent one of the highest reported death tolls so far in campaign launched under President Donald Trump

SANAA, Apr 18 (Agencies): Yemen's Houthi rebels said US strikes on a fuel port killed 58 people and wounded more than 100 on Friday, making it the deadliest attack of Washington's intensified month-long air campaign.

"The death toll from the American enemy's targeting of the Ras Issa facility has risen to 58 martyrs and 126 wounded," the Houthi's Al-Masirah TV said, quoting health authorities in rebel-held Hodeida.

The attack on the Ras Issa fuel port aimed to cut off a source of supplies and funds for the Iran-backed Houthis, the US military said.

Washington has hammered the Houthis with near-daily air strikes since March 15 in a bid to end their attacks on civilian shipping and military vessels in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.

The Houthi rebels began their attacks in late 2023, claiming solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza. Israel's army said Friday they had intercepted an incoming missile from Yemen.

In a statement, the US Central Command (CENTCOM) said: "US forces took action to eliminate this source of fuel for the Iran-backed Houthi terrorists and deprive them of illegal revenue that has funded Houthi efforts to terrorise the entire region for over 10 years."

"The objective of these strikes



was to degrade the economic source of power of the Houthis, who continue to exploit and bring great pain upon their fellow countrymen".

Ships "have continued to supply fuel via the port of Ras Issa" despite Washington designating the rebels a foreign terrorist organisation earlier this year, the military command added, without specifying the source of the fuel.

Houthi health ministry spokesman Anees Alasbahi said the preliminary death toll stood at 20, including five paramedics.

There were also "50 wounded workers and employees at the Ras Issa oil port, following the American aggression", he said on X.

"The death toll is likely to rise as body parts are still being identified," he added.

Fireball
The port lies along the west coast of Yemen on the Red Sea. In images broadcast early

Friday by the rebels' Al-Masira channel, which it presented as the "first images of the US aggression" against the port, a fireball lit up the area around the ships, while thick columns of smoke rose above what appeared to be an ongoing blaze.

"Civil defence rescue teams and paramedics are making every effort to search for and extract victims and extinguish the fire," said Alasbahi.

The Houthis have regularly fired missiles and drones on Israel for its genocide in Gaza.

"Following the sirens that sounded a short while ago in several areas in Israel, a missile launched from Yemen was intercepted," Israel's army said Friday on Telegram, adding that aerial defence systems had been deployed "to intercept the threat".

Houthi attacks have hampered shipping through the Suez Canal -- a vital route that normally car-

ries about 12 percent of world shipping traffic -- forcing many companies into a costly detour around the tip of southern Africa.

The United States first began conducting strikes against the Houthis under president Joe Biden's administration, and his successor President Donald Trump has vowed that military action against the rebels would continue until they are no longer a threat to shipping.

On Thursday evening, France's Defence Minister Sebastien Lecornu said a French frigate in the Red Sea destroyed a drone launched from Yemen.

"Our armed forces continue their commitment to ensuring maritime freedom of movement," he said on X.

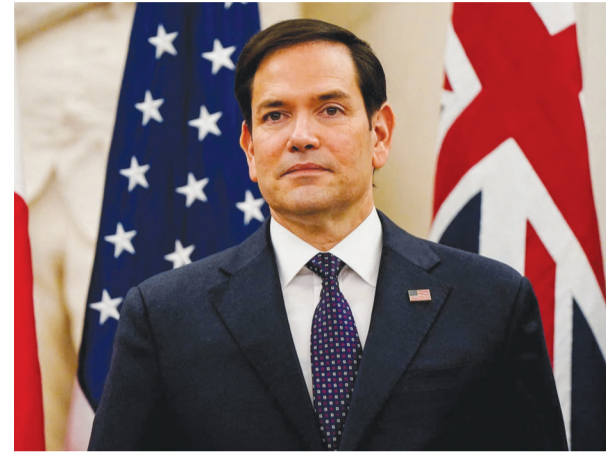
US State Department spokeswoman Tammy Bruce told journalists Thursday that the Chinese satellite firm Chang Guang Satellite Technology Company was "directly supporting Iran-backed Houthi terrorist attacks on US interests".

"Their actions -- and Beijing's support of the company, even after our private engagements with them -- is yet another example of China's empty claims to support peace," she said.

Bruce did not initially provide details on the nature of the company's support for the rebels, but later referred to "a Chinese company providing satellite imagery to the Houthis."

Rubio suggests US will drop Ukraine-Russia peace efforts if no progress within days

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio says the U.S. may be ready to "move on" from efforts for a Russia-Ukraine peace deal if there is no progress in the coming days



PARIS, Apr 18 (Agencies): U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Friday that the U.S. may be ready to "move on" from efforts for a Russia-Ukraine peace deal if there is not progress in the coming days.

Speaking in Paris after a marathon day of landmark talks among U.S., Ukrainian and European officials, Rubio said the discussions had been constructive and produced an outline for steps toward peace.

French officials said a new meeting in the same format is expected in London in the coming days. Rubio

said he could join that meeting, and it's expected early in the week.

"We are not reaching a point where we need to decide whether this is even possible or not," Rubio told reporters upon departure.

After weeks of efforts by the Trump administration to broker a ceasefire between Russia and Ukraine have failed to bring an end to the fighting, Rubio said the U.S. administration wants to decide "in a matter of days whether or not this is doable in the next few weeks."

France hosted high-

level talks Thursday to discuss Ukraine and its security, the first time since President Donald Trump's inauguration that top American, Ukrainian and European officials are known to have met together to discuss an end to the war.

The meetings came as European concerns grow about Trump's readiness to draw closer to Russia.

Rubio and presidential envoy Steve Witkoff have helped lead U.S. efforts to seek peace. Several rounds of negotiations have been held in Saudi Arabia. Witkoff has met three times with Putin, Rubio said.

Moscow has effectively refused to accept a comprehensive ceasefire that Trump has pushed and Ukraine has endorsed. Russia has made it conditional on a halt in Ukraine's mobilization efforts and Western arms supplies, which are demands rejected by Ukraine.

Dubai Chamber of Commerce organises trade mission to Angola, Mozambique

DUBAI, Apr 18 (Agencies): Dubai Chamber of Commerce, one of the three chambers operating under the umbrella of Dubai Chambers, has completed preparations for its upcoming trade mission to Angola and Mozambique, which will take place from 21st to 25th April.

The mission comes as part of the chamber's "New Horizons" initiative, a strategic programme designed to support the international growth of Dubai-based companies by facilitating access to high-potential global markets.

The chamber held a virtual pre-mission briefing recently attended by members of the trade mission's delegation, which includes representatives from a diverse range of Dubai-based companies. The businesses participating in the mission represent sectors including agriculture; construction and building materials; electronics; energy and



petrochemicals; engineering; FMCG trading; food and beverages; information technology; manufacturing; maritime and shipping services; metallurgical industries; real estate; retail; and supply chain and logistics.

During the briefing session, participants were provided with an overview of the mission agenda, which includes a series of bilateral business meetings and networking sessions with companies in Angola and Mozambique.

The "New Horizons" initiative comes as part of the chamber's efforts to promote the global expansion of Dubai-based companies and

enable them to capitalise on rewarding opportunities in new international markets. The initiative aligns with the goals of the 'Dubai Global' initiative, which seeks to help local companies explore new business prospects across 30 priority markets worldwide.

As part of the New Horizons programme, the chamber successfully organised trade missions last year to Indonesia, Vietnam, Senegal, Morocco, Serbia, Türkiye, Uganda, and Tanzania. The missions facilitated more than 2,227 B2B meetings between participating companies and their counterparts in these markets.

"Because he dreams of building a proud nation": Khyber Pakhtunkhwa CM says Imran Khan ready for dialogue

LAHORE, Apr 18 (Agencies): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur stated on Friday that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan was willing to hold talks as he "dreams of building a proud, independent nation", agency reported.

He made the remarks while speaking to a joint general house of the Lahore High Court Bar Association and the Lahore Bar Association.

He said, "Imran Khan is ready for a dialogue not because he wants power or the prime minister's chair, but because he dreams of building a proud, independent nation."

Gandapur said the talks should aim at Pakistan's national interest and stability. He said the government was considering the possibility of trying the PTI founder in a military court and that Pakistan cannot be governed through coercion.

He claimed that there was rigging in the general elections held in



2024 proved that Pakistan was being run by selected, not elected, people. He claimed that Imran Khan was in prison not due to any wrongdoing but because "he is a threat to the current system".

Gandapur said that repeated experiments had been made in Pakistan to impose selected individuals on the people, which has resulted in Pakistan plunging into Pakistani Rupees (PKR) 76 trillion debt, agency reported.

Slamming the system in Pakistan, Gandapur said, "You want selected people because you are the ones who want to run and overthrow gov-

ernments. If you're the judge, the lawyer, and the complainant, then how can a country function like this?"

He questioned the authorities about how long they would keep Imran Khan in prison. He asked, "How long will you keep Imran Khan behind bars? When the voice of 240 million people is not being heard by the establishment and the decision makers, it means they are not with the people but with their personal interests."

Ali Amin Gandapur said the PTI launched a peaceful movement. However, the rallies of the party were stopped,

and leaders and workers were put in jail, agency reported.

Speaking about PTI's protest in Islamabad in November last year, he said that authorities responded with bullets when people decided to rise, killing 14 PTI supporters and injuring many others. He announced a financial grant of Pakistani Rupees (PKR) 50 million for the Lahore High Court Bar Association.

On Thursday, several Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lawmakers and family members of party founder Imran Khan were briefly detained near Adiala Jail in Pakistan's Rawalpindi on Thursday, agency reported.

Opposition Leader in the National Assembly, Omar Ayub, Punjab Assembly Opposition Leader Ahmed Khan Bhachar, SIC chief Sahibzada Hamid Raza, and Imran Khan's three sisters -- Aleema Khan, Uzma Khan and Noreen Khan -- along with their cousin Qasim Khan, were among those

arrested on Thursday. Later, police released all of them.

PTI shared the video on the social media platform X when the leaders were being taken into the police van.

While sharing the video on X, PTI wrote, "Imran Khan's sisters and PTI leaders have been detained outside Adiala Jail. What kind of justice system arrests family members and party leaders for following court-approved visitation procedures? Imran Khan's sisters and PTI officials are being targeted simply for exercising their legal right to see him at Adiala Jail. This is a direct assault on the foundations of justice and due process."

According to eyewitnesses and statements made by Aleema Khan and Omar Ayub, police took them on a mysterious drive across the city in a prison van, with stops at places like a petrol pump and a restaurant before being finally released.

Israeli strikes kill at least 17 in Gaza

Among the dead were 10 people in the urban Jabaliya refugee camp, including eight from the same house, according to the Indonesian Hospital, which received the bodies.

GAZA, Apr 18 (Agencies): Israeli airstrikes across Gaza killed at least 17 people early Friday including children, hospital workers said, as the new U.S. ambassador to Israel made his first public appearance in Jerusalem.

Among the dead were 10 people in the urban Jabaliya refugee camp, including eight from the same house, according to the Indonesian Hos-

pital, which received the bodies.

In the southern city of Khan Younis, seven people were killed, one of them a pregnant woman, according to Nasser Hospital, where the bodies were brought.

The strikes came a day after more than two dozen people died in Gaza as Israel ramps up attacks, pressuring Hamas to return the hostages and disarm.

U.S. Ambassador to

Israel Mike Huckabee on Friday appeared at the Western Wall, the holiest Jewish prayer site in Jerusalem's Old City. Huckabee inserted a prayer into the wall, which he said was handwritten by U.S. President Donald Trump. "Those are his initials, D.T.," said Huckabee while showing the note to the media.

In his first act as ambassador, Huckabee said Trump told him to



take his prayer and pray for the peace of Jerusalem, he said. Huckabee also said every effort was being made to bring the remaining hostages

held by Hamas home. A one-time presidential hopeful, Huckabee has acknowledged his past support for Israel's right to annex the West Bank

and incorporate its Palestinian population into Israel but said it would not be his "prerogative" to carry out that policy.

During his first term, Trump recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital over Palestinian objections and moved the embassy from Tel Aviv. Palestinian seek the eastern part of the city that Israel captured in the 1967 Mideast war as their future capital.

Huckabee's arrival

comes at a pivotal time in the 18-month war, as international mediators including the U.S. are trying to get a broken ceasefire back on track.

Israel is demanding that Hamas release more hostages at the start of any new ceasefire and ultimately agree to disarm and leave the territory. Israel has said it plans occupy large "security zones" inside Gaza.

Khalil al-Hayya, head

of Hamas' negotiating delegation, said Thursday the group had rejected Israel's latest proposal along those lines.

He reiterated Hamas' stance that it will return hostages only 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 in January.

JKCLUF submits memorandum to Sat, seeks help for redressal of their demands

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 18: A deputation of the Jammu & Kashmir Casual Labour United Front (JKCLUF), led by their President Tanvir Hussain, called on senior Sat Sharma CA, President, Jammu and Kashmir BJP and submitted a memorandum detailing the grievances and long-standing demands of casual labourers employed in various government departments in the Union Territory.

MLA Ramnagar Sunil Bhardwaj and BJP Spokesperson Adv. Ankur Sharma were also present on the occasion.

The members of the deputation included Pardeep Sharma, Davinder Singh, Basu Dev, Vinod Kumar and Rakesh Kumar.

During their meeting



with the BJP President, the members of the deputation highlighted several issues affecting thousands of casual and daily-wage workers, who have been awaiting justice and recognition for years. Among the primary demands included in the memorandum were fixing the minimum wages, regularization of daily wagers, online

registration of left out casual employees in all departments, and provision of compensation in cases of death during service. The delegation also raised the issue of land acquisition by government departments without adequate compensation, impacting the livelihoods of several families.

President Tanvir Hus-

sain expressed concern over the lack of a streamlined and unified mechanism for addressing the plight of casual labourers. He emphasized that despite years of dedicated service by many workers, their contributions remain unrecognized, and they continue to work under uncertain conditions.

Sat Sharma, assured

the delegation of the full support of BJP and commitment to addressing their grievances. He acknowledged the vital role casual labourers play in the functioning of government services and infrastructure projects. It is unfortunate that despite contributing to the system for years, these hardworking individuals are still struggling for their basic rights, he said.

Sat Sharma assured to take up the matter with the concerned authorities and ensure that these issues are resolved.

He also welcomed the demand for online registration, noting that digitization can bring transparency and accountability to the system, benefiting both the workers and the departments they serve.

Congress era has ended in country; BJP leading India towards Viksit Bharat: Kavinder



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 18: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta today asserted that the Congress era has come to an end in India, as the people have overwhelmingly rejected its outdated politics.

Addressing media persons after chairing a crucial meeting at the Party Headquarters in Jammu, Kavinder said that the Congress party, which once held a central position in the nation's political landscape, is now reduced to a crumbling entity marked by internal discord, lack of vision, and diminishing public trust.

Kavinder criticized the recent statement made by the newly appointed AICC general secretary and in-charge of Jammu and Kashmir, who accused the BJP of vendetta politics. He termed these allegations as desperate attempts by a party

that has lost its political foothold to remain relevant. "It's both ironic and laughable that a party entangled in internal factionalism and leadership confusion is attempting to lecture others on democratic values," he remarked. He further emphasized that the Congress should introspect on its repeated electoral failures and acknowledge the growing disconnect it has with the people.

Kavinder highlighted that under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP-led government has ushered in an era of transparency, accountability, and fast-paced development. "Unlike the Congress, which thrived on dynastic politics and appeasement, the BJP is focused on empowering the common citizen and delivering good governance. Our commitment is towards nation-building and not settling political scores," he asserted.

The senior BJP leader also underscored the party's initiatives in strengthening grassroots democracy, especially in Jammu and Kashmir. He pointed out that Panchayat and DDC elections were successfully held in the region, which had long been neglected by successive Congress regimes.

"It was the BJP that brought the people of J&K into the mainstream democratic process and gave them a voice in governance," he stated.

Kavinder emphasized that the people of India have moved beyond the politics of entitlement and now aspire for progress, opportunity, and decisive leadership.

"The BJP represents the new aspirations of India. The Congress era is over, and the future belongs to a stronger, self-reliant, and empowered nation under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi," he added.

GDC Mahanpur organizes Fit India program

Top News Report

MAHANPUR, Apr 18: The Department of Sanskrit, in collaboration with the Department of Environmental Science of GDC Mahanpur, organized a Fit India program on Friday emphasizing the importance of physical fitness, wellness, and a healthy lifestyle among individuals. Fit India Movement Launched on August 29, 2019, by the Honorable Prime Minister of India, this initiative aims to promote physical fitness and wellness nationwide.

The program aimed to

promote regular physical activity, healthy eating habits, and a culture of wellness and fitness, highlighting the interconnectedness of physical, mental, and environmental well-being.

Chief guest Principal Dr. Sangeeta Sudan delivered an inspiring speech and highlighting the role of yoga and fitness in achieving holistic health.

As a part of the event, Dr. Mohinder Nath Sharma, Head of the Sanskrit Department, delivered an insightful lecture on the significance of Ashtanga Yoga

and encouraging students to prioritize their health and well-being.

Dr. Nishu, HOD Environmental Science, delivered the welcome address and vote of thanks, highlighting fitness as a vital aspect of daily life.

More than 60 students were participated in this event and the faculty members present on the occasion were Dr. Hilal Ahmed Bhat, Dr. Anju Bala, Dr. Suhail Dar, Prof. Namita Trogia, Prof. Pooja, Prof. Monika, Prof. Anuradha, Prof. Shivani, Mango Ram, Kishori Lal and Romesh Lal.



Remove garbage, other construction materials from roadside within one week or face action: AEE Devsar to people



Top News Report

KULGAM, Apr 18: Assistant Executive Engineer Roads and Buildings (R&B) Department Devsar asked people of the Devsar belt to remove garbage, cow dung and construction materials being dumped on the roadside within the next one week.

In this regard an order issued by the Assistant Executive Engineer R&B Devsar Rayees Ahmad, said that the General Public especially Gudder, Akhal, Brinel Lamner, Kund, Chowgam, Mandhole, Agroo, Sopat and other areas

of Devsar Sub division is hereby informed that some miscreants have unlawfully dumped the garbage/cow dung and Construction materials along the roadsides and public places, which has resulted in a shabby look to the villages and could lead to infections/communicable diseases.

"Therefore the general public is hereby informed to remove the Garbage/Cowdung and other Construction Materials within one week from the issuance of this notice, otherwise the department will initiate legal action against such persons", he said.

Dr. Shiraz expresses concern over human rights violations in J&K



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 18: Dr. Shiraz, Chairman of Human Rights Law Protection,

has expressed serious concern over the ongoing human rights violations in various parts of Jammu and Kashmir. He has called upon the Human Rights Commission to take immediate notice of the situation.

Dr. Shiraz stated that incidents of violations of civil liberties, enforced disappearances, and excessive use of force are on the rise in the region, which are in direct violation of international human rights laws.

He emphasized the need for action against the responsible authorities and called for justice for the victims. He also urged the international community and human rights organizations to play their role in addressing the situation.

From Page No: 1

Former CJI opts out of Dulat's book launch function amid Abdullah controversy

the Abdullah family but also because as a totally apolitical person I would not like to be seen promoting or endorsing a book which is being disowned by the very person about whom the same has been written," Justice Thakur (ret'd) said.

The former chief justice said besides, Farooq Abdullah, who was supposed to be sharing the dais with journalist Vir Sanghvi for a discussion on the book, may also not be doing so.

"I am acutely conscious of the fact that my recusal on the eve of the launch would inconvenience and force you to look for a substitute but given the situation in which I am placed, you will forgive me for the discomfort that it may cause to you or the publisher of the book," he said.

New rules for Traffic radar equipment verification

to come into force from Jul 1: Govt

limits, thereby preventing unfair penalties and significantly enhancing road safety.

For industries, particularly those involved in manufacturing radar-based speed-measuring devices, the new rules establish a clear technical and regulatory framework aligned with international standards.

For law enforcement agencies, the introduction of verified and stamped devices ensures a higher degree of operational effectiveness and credibility.

This initiative is a key step towards data-driven governance in traffic management. It helps reduce road fatalities, enhances discipline on highways and supports sustainable economic development by minimising the social and economic costs associated with road accidents, vehicle wear and tear, and damage to infrastructure.

Allegedly manhandled by Army tried to snatch weapon from Soldiers on

Duty

misconduct, strict action will be taken as per the existing law.

"The Indian Army remains steadfast in upholding the highest standards of professionalism and discipline in the conduct of counter terror operations," the statement read, adding, "all sections of the society are requested to continue to cooperate and collaborate with the Indian Army for collective and comprehensive security in this sensitive area."

Srinagar premiere of 'Ground Zero' a 'symbolic moment': Emraan Hashmi

this region. The people here are very good and talented, but they need a medium, that avenue in films and television to explore their creativity in any stream."

Directed by Tejas Deoskar, "Ground Zero" is produced by Farhan Akhtar and Ritesh Sidhwani's Excel Entertainment.

The action thriller chronicles the story of BSF officer Narendra Nath Dhar Dubey, who led the operation to track the mastermind behind the 2001 terrorist attacks on the Parliament and Akshardham Temple.

Hashmi shared a post on his X handle on Friday morning as he reached the city along with the director, Deoskar.

"#Groundzero touchdown landmark day: first Red carpet movie screening after 38 years in #Srinagar, this is a special movie screening to honour BSF soldiers and their officers," read the caption.

The film is releasing on April 25.

JKBOSE to declare class 12th result by April 30, class 10th results to follow

The process is going on simultaneously. Our efforts are to declare the results on time," the official said.

The official further said that as per the reports received from JKBOSE, 75 percent evaluation of class 11th question papers has been completed as well.

"But class 11th results will be declared after 12th and 10th. We are not in a hurry for class 11th," the official said.

Earlier, the education minister Sakina Itoo convened a meeting of the JKBOSE and set a deadline for the declaration of the results.

"The Board officials are working

hard to declare the results of all the three classes in a time bound manner to meet the deadline fixed by the government," the official said.

As already reported, this year, the class 10th to 12th annual Board examinations were scheduled in February month as the government restored the previous November session in schools.

As per the official figures, around 355963 students- 317136 soft zone and 38827 students were registered for the annual examination of class 10th, 11th and 12th classes in hard and soft zone areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

The exam for class 10th and 12th students in soft zone areas was scheduled from February 15 while the examination for class 11th students was scheduled February 18 of this year.

In class 10th around 132992 students- 114413 in soft zones and 18579 students in hard zones appeared in the exams in 1553 exam centres- 1313 in soft zones and 240 in hard zone areas of J&K.

Similarly in class 11th examination as many as 120673 students-109137 in soft zones and 11536 in hard zones were registered for the exams in 1134 exam centres- 1004 in soft zones and 130 centres in hard zone areas.

Also, 102298 students-93586

in soft zones and 8712 students in hard zone areas of Jammu and Kashmir had registered for the annual Board examination in 989 exam centres- 873 in soft zone areas and 116 exam centres in hard zones areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

Search operation in Poonch enters fifth day

personnel near Lasana village, which lies along the Poonch-Jammu National Highway. One security personnel sustained injuries in the attack.

Security forces have cordoned off large sections of the forest area and are conducting intensive searches using aerial surveillance and ground units.

Inspector General of Police, Jammu Zone, B.S. Tuti, confirmed that the region has witnessed a resurgence in militant activity in recent years. "For the last one and a half to two years, Poonch has been grappling with a fresh wave of militancy," Tuti said, adding that a coordinated action plan has been put in place with the Army to neutralise the threat.

"We have identified several areas of concern. Our teams are on the job, and results will be visible soon," he added.

17th Junior National Super Seven Cricket Championship

Sports are crucial in building a progressive, disciplined & drug-free society: Tony

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 18: The spirit of sportsmanship and youth empowerment took center stage at the M.A.M. Stadium in Jammu as the 17th Junior National Super Seven Cricket Championship was commenced with great enthusiasm.

On the occasion, Taranjit Singh Tony, senior Congress leader and DDC Member Suchetgarh, was the Chief Guest, who declared the Championship open in presence of Charanjit

Singh Raina, Convenor, Jasmeet Singh, State Coordinator, S Jatinder Singh, Surinder Singh, Varyam Singh, Upendra Singh and Ajay Sharma.

The championship is being organized by Ridhima Sports Club India in collaboration with Super Seven Cricket Federation of India which budding cricketers across the country took part, showcasing exceptional talent and team spirit.

Today match was played between Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh. Besides, budding cricketers from J&K, NCR,

Punjab, Puducherry, Delhi, U.P, Ladakh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Chandigarh and Maharashtra are also participating.

In his address, Tony emphasized the pivotal role of sports in shaping disciplined, healthy, and future-ready citizens. He commended the organizers for providing a national-level platform to young cricketers and promoting a culture of competitive sports in the region.

"Sports not only build physical stamina but also instill values like teamwork, leadership, and

resilience," he remarked, adding that such championships are vital in identifying and nurturing grassroots talent.

Lauding the efforts of Ridhima Sports Club India, Tony urged government bodies and private organizations to support such initiatives that engage youth constructively and keep them away from negative influences.

Tony interacted with the players, encouraged them to pursue their dreams with dedication, and assured them of his continued support for sporting events in Jammu & Kashmir.

Folk Singer Chandi Ram Chandi was first to start duet songs in Punjab, says Kaith

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 18: At a brief function held in Surya Vihar here today, social and political activists remembered the renowned Punjabi Folk Singer Chandi Ram Chandi.

While paying tribute, R.L.Kath said after partition of India in 1947, two diamonds came from Pakistan to Ludhiana, Punjab. Their names were Lal Chand Yamla and Chandi Ram Chandi. They came into music industry at the same time. Both took place in the hearts of audience with their brilliant singing skills. Chandi Ram Chandi (popularly known as Chandi Ram Walipuria) belonged to Kaith clan of Batwal Community. He was born to Sarda Ram and Fatti at village Chali Chak Sargoda in Lyallpur District of Pakistan, the region that now includes both India and Pakistan. After the partition of India, his family relocated to Village Walipur in Ludhiana and started living in a hut due to being in acute poverty. Chandi Ram Chandi had five brothers named Faqir Chand, Karam Chand, Hari Chand, Sadhu Ram and Babu Ram. Being the eldest son, Chandi Ram Chandi deemed fit to assist his father. He worked as a Bull Cart driver to earn and feed his family.

Chandi Ram Chandi was very enthusiastic in learning Tumbi and once he urged Lal Chand Yamla to train



him for that but he didn't agree.

Soon after, Chandi Ram Chandi started his musical journey, inspired by traditional folk music and local festivals. He was introduced first to Inderjeet Hassanpuri and later to Sajjan Rai Koti, who wrote a number of songs for him. 'Na Ja Burma Nu', 'Chitte Kurte Te Phull', 'Mitrana Da Challa', 'Lai De Challa', 'Pana Lai Dane', 'Rang Cho Ke Parat Wich', 'Bhul Ke Tere Naal Punana', 'Bari Barsin', 'Masiya Nu Jaan Walliye', 'Charheyana Di Nazar Buri', 'Chandi Dian Jhanjhan', 'Meri Sass Ne Makki Da Tuk', 'Sass Chandi Pehave Chakian', 'SasseTera Putt Vech Ke', 'Ve Tu Sehar Di Kudi' and 'Mera Na Kasoor Sasiye', sung by Chandi Ram Chandi during the period from 1960 to 1966, made him increasingly popular and became anthems for Punjabis, particularly those living in both India and Pakistan.

Chandi Ram Chandi started the first duet song with Shanti Devi of Chandigarh in the

Punjabi Music Industry. After that, duet songs became really popular in Punjab.

Chandi Ram Chandi's songs often explored themes of love, loss and struggles of everyday life, resonating deeply with his audience, and were broadcasted even by the All India Radio's Vivid Bharti and the Soviet Union's Moscow Radio.

Chandi Ram Chandi was married first to Shanti Devi from whom he had no child, and then to Poonam Devi from whom he had a child named Sanjeev Kumar.

During the last days of his life, Chandi Ram Chandi lived at Jeera, Chur Chak, Batala, Amritsar and Fazilka. In January, 1996, Chandi Ram Chandi fell unconscious and ill. He was immediately flown to hospital by his pupils. After thorough investigation, he was diagnosed with tuberculosis. After a brave fight with the fatal disease, he died on January 23, 1996.

The Punjabi music industry deprived of one of the greatest singers.

NSF tribute of 66th Death anniversary of Barindra Ghosh

Dr Vikas urges youth to contribute in nation-building

Top News Report

JAMMU Apr 18: National Secular Forum (NSF) paid tributes to Barindra Ghosh on his 66th Death Anniversary at University Campus, who laid his life for the country.

Dr. Vikas Sharma Coordinator Jammu District and Zonal Secretary JKNC was the chief guest while, Dr Sukhdev Singh State President NSF presided over the function and Vikshay Vashist state Secretary NSF, was the guest of honour.

Speaking on the occasion Dr. Vikas Sharma appreciated the initiative taken by the University Unit NSF to remember the death anniversary of those who have contributed their lives for the Country. Dr Vikas threw light on the life and supreme sacrifices of "Barindra Ghosh".

Sharma also said Barindra Kumar Ghosh or Barindra Ghosh, or popularly Barin Ghosh (5 January 1880 – 18 April 1959), was an Indian revolutionary and journalist. He was one of the founding members of Jugantar Bengal weekly, a revolutionary outfit in Bengal. He urged the younger generation to stay away from drugs and work towards building a progressive society.

Taking a strong stand on the political situation in Jammu and Kashmir, the senior NC leader said, "Restoration of statehood is not just a political necessity but a constitutional and moral obligation that must be fulfilled at the earliest. The time for delays and empty promises is over; the people demand action." He asserted that without statehood, the

aspirations of the people for development, peace, and prosperity would remain unfulfilled. He called upon the Central Government to recognize this reality and act swiftly to restore J&K's statehood.

On this occasion, Dr Sukhdev Singh State President NSF said that during this time, (late 18th century – early 19th century) Barin was influenced by Aurobindo and drawn towards the revolutionary movement. Ghosh was a younger brother of Sri Aurobindo. In 1906, he started publishing Jugantar, a Bengali weekly and a revolutionary organization named Jugantar soon followed. HE also said that Barin and Jatindranath Mukherjee alias Bagha Jatin were instrumental in the recruitment of many young revolutionaries from across Bengal.

Renowned Sufi Singer Kanwar Grewal to perform in Aryans Roshan on April 21



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 18: World renowned Sufi Singer Kanwar Grewal will enthral the audience during 19th Annual cultural extravaganza "Roshan" at Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura, Near Chandigarh to be held on 21st April. Mrs Shashi Prabha, (IPS) DGP (Railways), Punjab will be the Special Guest of the occasion. This year a trib-

ute will also be paid to Late Sh. Prof Roshan Lal Kataria, Founder, Aryans Group during 19th Roshan.

Thousands of Students, Alumni of Aryans Group would attend this mega cultural function. It is to be mentioned that every year Aryans Group host two cultural events where "Roshan" is the cultural extravaganza & "Rajni" is a celebration for fresher's welcome.

World-renowned cardiologist Dr HK Bali to honor leading people from health in J&K and Ladakh



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 18: World-renowned interventional cardiologist, Dr Harinder K. Bali, will be honoring the best of health care providers from Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh through Heart Foundation Awards 2025 for J&K, Ladakh.

In a press statement issued here today Dr Bali said that The Heart Foundation has been holding international conclaves on heart diseases and has been honoring aces in the field of health with Heart Foundation Awards for the past one decade.

He said that holding this event at Jammu is his bid to pay back to his motherland Jammu. Dr Bali studied MBBS from Jammu and then did his MD & DM from PGI Chandigarh.

Dr Bali stated that the Heart Foundation recognizes outstanding performance in medicine, healthcare, education, and sports. He added that all citizens residing in the UTs of Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh are eligible for awards.

He added that the

applicants can either apply themselves or be recommended by prominent personalities in their respective fields. Online applications will be accepted, and they should be submitted to heartfoundation23@gmail.com on or before the 20th of April 2025 by 12 pm.

Giving details about the award categories Dr Bali said that Lifetime Achievement Award will be accorded for Medicine and Healthcare, Outstanding Performance would be accorded to student of +2 Medical Stream, Outstanding Academic Performance Award will be conferred to MBBS student for his/her performance, Outstanding Contribution in Medicine / Healthcare (National / International Impact) will be given, Outstanding Contribution in the field of school education will be given. Besides this Best Postgraduate Award will be given to MD and MS, Best Emerging Sportsperson and Best contribution in the field of Social Service will be given.

Applications will be scrutinized by a high-level jury-cum-awards committee constituted exclusively for this purpose. He added that the jury-cum-awards committee has the mandate to consider any eligible person (even if they have not applied) with outstanding credentials.

The award ceremony is slated to be held on the 26th of April 2025 at Radisson Blu, Jammu

Teachings of Indian saints have impact on our lives: Onkar Seth

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 18: Onkar Seth, former Chairman of Citizen's Cooperative Bank, Jammu, emphasized the profound influence of Indian saints on society, stating that their teachings continue to guide us toward peace, unity, and progress. He highlighted how the spiritual and social messages of great saints have left a deep mark on individual lives and the collective consciousness of the nation.

Onkar Seth, who has also served as a Member of the State Commission for Backward Classes, expressed deep admiration for Guru Ravidass, describing him as a visionary whose teachings continue to hold immense relevance today. He praised Guru Ravidass for advocating values of equality, dignity, love, and compassion—principles that transcend barriers of caste, religion, and geography. According to Seth, Guru Ravidass' message fosters social harmony and unity.

Onkar Seth made these remarks on receiving a portrait of



Guru Ravidass from Balbir Ram Rattan, National General Secretary of Guru Ravidass Vishwa Mahapeeth, Indian Branch General Secretary of the British Ravidasia Heritage Foundation, and Member of Begampura Vishwa Mahasabha.

Balbir Ram Rattan lauded Guru Ravidass not only as a revered spiritual figure but also as a powerful social reformer. He noted that the portrait presentation was a symbolic gesture of respect for the Guru's

enduring legacy, which continues to inspire movements for justice and the upliftment of marginalized communities. Rattan emphasized the need to carry forward Guru Ravidass' teachings by promoting inclusivity, compassion, and social justice.

Both Seth and Rattan agreed that the messages of saints like Guru Ravidass are more relevant than ever. They called for a collective effort to spread these teachings and work towards a more equitable society.

Bali Bhagat slams Congress for undermining Constitutional values



Top News Report

AKHNOOR, Apr 18: Senior BJP leader and former Minister Bali Bhagat today strongly criticized the Congress party for its historical track record of constitutional violations, asserting that the Bharatiya Janata Party stands as the true guardian of the Constitution as envisioned by Bharat Rattan Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

He was addressing a large gathering during the "Samman Abhiyaan" organized in honor of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar by the BJP District Akhnoor unit at Akhnoor. Member Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma was the chief guest, Local MLA Mohai Lal Bhagat was the guest of honour and mandal president Kuldeep Sharma presided the event.

During his keynote address, Bali Bhagat highlighted the contrast between BJP's unwavering commitment to constitutional integrity and the Congress party's deliberate attempts to distort and dilute constitutional values for political convenience.

"The Congress, despite its long tenure in power, repeatedly betrayed the Constitution by imposing Emergency, suppressing dissent, and sidelining Dr. Ambedkar's ideals. In contrast, the BJP has honored Ambedkar by safeguarding constitutional institutions and ensuring social justice reaches the last man in the queue," Bhagat

asserted. "Congress divided India, ceded parts of our sacred land to Pakistan and Bangladesh, and even gave away PoJK. Aksai Chin—38,000 sq km—is still under illegal occupation by China due to the Congress party's weak leadership and indecisiveness," he said.

The former Minister recalled a shocking moment in history when then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, during a Parliamentary debate, downplayed China's occupation of Aksai Chin by saying 'not even a blade of grass grows there'. He noted how Congress MP Mahavir Tyagi had humorously yet pointedly responded by referring to his bald head and asking, 'Nothing grows here either, should this be handed over too?'

Bali Bhagat further stated that Congress has repeatedly violated the basic structure of the Indian Constitution by carrying out 75 out of the total 106 constitutional amendments through six of its Prime Ministers, often bypassing public interest and weakening democratic values.

In stark contrast, he said, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has introduced historic reforms that honor the true spirit of Dr. Ambedkar's Constitution. He listed major achievements of the BJP government Abolition of Triple Talaq, Passage of the Uniform Civil

Code (UCC) in several states, Amendments to the Waqf Act to ensure transparency,

Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) for persecuted minorities, construction of the grand Ram Temple in Ayodhya, etc.

"These steps reflect the Modi government's resolve to deliver justice, equality, and respect to every Indian—principles that Dr. Ambedkar envisioned," he added.

The senior BJP leader praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership in mainstreaming Ambedkar's legacy and implementing pro-poor, pro-backward policies that echo the spirit of the Constitution. Bhagat also hailed the BJP's initiatives aimed at uplifting marginalized communities, especially through targeted welfare schemes and institutional empowerment.

Bali Bhagat called upon the youth to study the real history of India and recognize the BJP as the true torchbearer of Ambedkar's ideology and national unity. He urged the people to remain vigilant against those who manipulate the Constitution for vote-bank politics.

At last, the former MLA Akhnoor Rajiv Sharma delivered the vote of thanks

Among the notable attendees were former State Chairman Daljit Singh Chib, District Vice Chairman Panchayats Suraj Singh, Mohan Singh, and other senior BJP leaders.

As IPL turns 18 today, a look at top 5 highest aggregate encounters of the competition

As the Indian Premier League (IPL) turns 18 on Friday, let's take a moment and have a look at the highest aggregate encounters in the history of the cash-rich league.

NEW DELHI, Apr 18 (Agencies): As the Indian Premier League (IPL) turns 18 on Friday, let's take a moment and have a look at the highest aggregate encounters in the history of the cash-rich league.

The league started in 2008 with Brendon McCullum of Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) hitting up the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium with an unforgettable 158* off just 73 deliveries, smashing ten fours and thirteen sixes against Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB). That knock announced the arrival of a cricketing carnival.

The talk about the league's best players can go on and on. Over the years, several players, both Indian and overseas, capped and uncapped, have made their impact in this competition. The league has provided several talented individuals with the opportunity to showcase their abilities and secure a spot on their respective national teams. On the other side, several international heavyweights have expanded and diversified their legacies after delivering power-packed performances in the IPL, which have resulted in them winning the trophy for their side or getting other honours like Orange Cap (for most runs), Purple Cap (for most wickets), Player of the Tournament award etc.

On this day in the Indian cricketing history, let's take a look at the highest aggregate encounters of the competition so far:

--- Royal Challengers Bengaluru vs Sunrisers Hyderabad (549 runs in IPL 2024)

As per the ESPNcricinfo, batting first in the Indian Premier League 2024, the Sunrisers Hyderabad went on to score the tournament's highest score as they slammed a massive total of 287 runs for the loss of just three wickets. This score was made with the help of knocks from Travis Head (102 runs off 41 balls), Heinrich Klaassen (67 runs from 31 balls), Abdul Samad (37* runs in 10 balls), Abhishek Sharma (34 runs off 22 balls) and Aiden Markram



(32* runs from 17 balls).

In reply to chasing a mammoth total of 287 runs, the Bengaluru franchise fell short of the target by 25 runs as they were able to score 262/7 in their 20 overs. The scorers for the side in this game were Dinesh Karthik (83 runs off 35 balls), Faf Du Plessis (62 runs from 28 balls), and Virat Kohli (42 runs in 20 balls).

--- Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Rajasthan Royals (528 runs in IPL 2025)

Sunrisers Hyderabad were put to bat first by RR, who opted to field first. A 45-run stand between Abhishek (24 in 11 balls, with five fours) and Head kickstarted things for SRH. An 85-run stand between Head (67 in 31 balls, with nine fours and three sixes) and Kishan accelerated the run-rate. Cameos came from Nitish Kumar Reddy (30 in 15 balls, with four boundaries and a six) and Heinrich Klaassen (34 in 14 balls, with five fours and a six) and provided good support to Ishan, who ended with 106* in 47 balls, with 11 fours and six sixes.

During the run-chase, Rajasthan Royals sunk to 24/2, with Yashasvi Jaiswal and skipper Riyan Parag going back to the pavilion for single-digit scores. However, a fighting 111-run partnership between Sanju Samson (66 in 37 balls, with seven fours and four sixes) and Dhruv Jurel (70 in 35 balls, with five fours and six sixes) gave RR a fighting chance. Shimron Hetmyer

(42* in 23 balls, with four and four sixes) and Shubham Dubey (34* in 11 balls, with a four and four sixes) did put an 80-run stand, but the score was too big for RR, and they ended at 242/6, losing the game by 44 runs.

--- Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Mumbai Indians (523 runs in IPL 2024)

Sunrisers Hyderabad were put to bat first by Mumbai Indians. MI got Mayank Agarwal (11) early. But fiery knocks came from Travis Head (62 in 24 balls, with nine fours and three sixes), Abhishek Sharma (63 in 23 balls with three fours and seven sixes) that powered SRH to 148/2 in their 10 overs. Abhishek-Head put on a 68-run partnership for the second wicket.

Following a brief 48-run stand between Abhishek and Aiden Markram (42* in 28 balls, with two fours and a six), Heinrich Klaassen (80* in 34 balls, with four boundaries and seven sixes) formed a 116-run stand in 54 balls to take SRH to 277/3 in their 20 overs, the highest-ever IPL total.

Chasing 278, openers Rohit Sharma (26 in 12 balls, with a four and three sixes) and Ishan Kishan (34 in 13 balls, with two fours and three sixes) gave MI a fine start, racing to 56 in 3.2 overs.

After both openers were dismissed, Naman Dhir (30 in 14 balls, with two fours and two sixes) and Tilak Varma (64 in 34 balls, with two fours and six

sixes) formed an 84-run stand, taking MI to 150 in 10.4 when Dhir was dismissed in an unbelievable counterattack.

Tilak kept fighting for MI along with skipper Hardik Pandya (24 in 20 balls, with a four and six), taking MI to 182/4 in 14.1 overs at the time of Tilak's dismissal.

--- Kolkata Knight Riders vs Punjab Kings (523 runs in IPL 2024)

Punjab Kings sent Kolkata Knight Riders to bat first after winning the toss. Following this, Sunil Narine (71 in 32 balls, with nine fours and four sixes) and Philip Salt (75 in 37 balls, with six sixes) delighted the Eden Gardens crowd with an exhilarating batting display and obliterated PBKS bowlers to power KKR to 261/6 in 20 overs.

During the run chase, Jonny Bairstow (108), Prabhsimran Singh (54 in 20 balls, with four boundaries and five sixes) and Shashank Singh (68* in 28 balls, with two fours and eight sixes) played an unbeaten knock to chase down the massive target with eight balls to spare and script history.

--- Delhi Capitals vs Mumbai Indians (504 runs in IPL 2024)

Mumbai Indians put Delhi Capitals to bat first after winning the toss. Openers Jake Fraser McGurk (84 in 27 balls, with 11 fours and six sixes) and Abhishek Porel (36 in 27 balls, with three fours and a six) had a quickfire 114-run opening stand in 45 balls. After their dismissals, Shai Hope (41 in 17 balls, with five sixes), skipper Rishabh Pant (29 in 18 balls, with two fours and two sixes), Tristan Stubbs (48 in 25 balls, with six fours and two sixes) and Axar Patel (11* in six balls, with a six) continued scoring at a high rate and took DC to 257/4 in their 20 overs.

For the Mumbai Indians, Tilak Varma scored 63 runs while skipper Hardik Pandya scored 46 for the five-time champions as they fell short of the target by just 10 runs. The Hardik Pandya-led side were able to score 247 runs for the loss of nine wickets in their 20 overs.

Raiza Dhillon finishes 5th in women's skeet



LIMA, Apr 18 (Agencies): Paris Olympian Raiza Dhillon finished a creditable fifth after entering her first ISSF World Cup final in the women's skeet event on a day when India maintained their impressive run in the tournament here.

At the end of second

competition day, India were second in the medals tally with two gold, one silver and a bronze. China lead the standings. Raiza, a former junior world championship silver medalist and a bronze winner at the Asian Championships last year, enjoyed a solid

final in a strong field before bowing out at the halfway stage of the 60-shot decider with 26 hits to her name.

She could not get the better of the fourth-placed Jiang Yiting of China, a Paris Olympics mixed team bronze medallist, whom she had to beat given the disadvantage of having the highest bib number. She had shot 19 out of the first 20 to fend off the second Chinese finalist Che Yufei.

Teammate Ganemat Sekhon went the other way, starting at sixth overall and ending at ninth with 116. Darshna Rathore was further down in 15th with 110.

Rafael Nadal to be honoured with ceremony at this year's French Open

NEW DELHI, Apr 18 (Agencies): Rafael Nadal will be honoured at this year's French Open in recognition of his remarkable legacy and achievements at Roland Garros, as per the Olympics.com.

The 38-year-old Spaniard is a 22-time Grand Slam champion, with a record 14 of those titles coming on the Paris clay. The ceremony will take place on the opening Sunday of the tournament, 25 May, on Court Philippe-Chatrier, following the day's matches.

Nadal, a two-time Olympic champion (Beijing 2008 singles, Rio 2016 doubles), retired in November last year. His remarkable win-loss record at Roland Garros reads 112-4, and there are plans for him to take up an ambassadorial role at the Grand Slam.

French Tennis Federation president Gilles Moreton said of the tribute, as quoted by the Olympics.com, "It's a love story. I think it's important to talk about a love story because he has deep respect for the tournament, for clay, and we have the same respect for the player, for the ambassador he can become for Roland Garros and for the federation."

Tournament director Amelie Mauresmo added that details of the ceremony will remain a surprise.

"Rafa has, of course, marked the history of Roland Garros in many differ-



ent ways and his 14 titles will perhaps remain unequalled in a Grand Slam tournament. He will not be playing this year at Roland Garros, but he will be very present by our side for this 2025 edition. Rafa has an important bond with Roland Garros. We want it to be a surprise," she said.

Nadal's first title in Paris came in 2005 and his last in 2022. His final appearance at the French Open was in 2024, where he lost in the first round to Alexander Zverev.

Zverev became just the third man ever to beat Nadal at Roland Garros, joining Robin Soderling and Novak Djokovic (twice).

Nadal also played on the red dirt of Paris at last year's Olympics, losing to eventual champion Djokovic in the second-round singles and bowing out of the doubles with Carlos Alcaraz at the quarter-final stage.

VVS Laxman offers prayers at Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple in Tirumala



TIRUMALA (ANDHRA PRADESH), Apr 18 (Agencies): Former Indian Cricketer and head coach of NCA (National Cricket Academy), VVS Laxman on Friday visited Tirumala in Andhra Pradesh to offer prayers at Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple.

The temple, dedicated to Lord Venkateswara, an incarnation of Lord Vishnu, is one of the most visited religious sites in India, attracting millions of devotees annually.

In the visuals, VVS Laxman was seen dressed in a traditional kurta-pyjama as he performed the necessary rituals during his visit to the Lord Venkateswara Temple.

Laxman's recent assignment with India's cricket team was at the Asian Games, where he served as the head coach. Though play-

ing an under-strength side, the 'Men in Blue' beat Afghanistan in a rain-curtailed match to clinch gold.

Laxman represented India in 134 Tests, aggregating 8,781 runs in 225 innings at an average of 45.97. He has 17 centuries and 56 half-centuries against his name, with a best score of 281 in an unforgettable Test match against Australia at the iconic Eden Gardens.

He also featured in 86 ODIs for the Men in Blue, scoring 2,338 runs at an average of 30.76. He also scored six centuries and 10 half-centuries in the 50-over format, with the best score of 131.

Laxman's many match-winning innings and his partnerships with lower-order batters earned him the nickname 'Very Very Special' Laxman.

Bright young talents shaping the future of Indian Football: ISL 2024-25 season wrap

MUMBAI, Apr 18 (Agencies): The Indian Super League (ISL) has consistently served as a launch pad for India's most promising football talent -- from Sandesh Jhingan, Jeje Lalpekhlua to Sahal Abdul Samad, the platform has given rise to household names who've gone on to inspire millions. The 2024-25 season was no different, with young stars lighting up the league and charting the future course of Indian football.

While Mohun Bagan Super Giant created history by completing the League Double this season -- lifting both the ISL Shield and the ISL Cup -- it was FC Goa's Brison Fernandes who stood out individually, bagging the Emerging Player of the Season award. From frontlines to backlines, here are some of the most impressive breakout performers this season, as per the ISL press release:

Brison Fernandes (FC Goa) At just 23, Brison scored seven goals and made two assists, becoming the first Indian to score back-to-back braces in ISL history. His exploits earned him a national team call-up, validating coach Manolo Marquez's faith in him. He finished the season as the second-highest Indian scorer, only behind Sunil Chhetri.

Nathan Rodrigues (Mumbai City FC)

An Reliance Foundation Young Champs (RFYC) graduate, Nathan stood tall in a challenging season for Mumbai City FC. He contributed with



three goals and an assist and recorded impressive defensive stats: 29 interceptions, 22 tackles won, 78 duels, and 33 clearances. With an 84% pass accuracy, his composure was unmatched for his age.

Ramhlunchhunga (Hyderabad FC)

Ramhlunchhunga, the Hyderabad FC No. 10, was an ever-lively presence in their frontline, making five goal contributions (2G, 3a), in addition to his tenacious defensive outputs.

The 23-year-old was consistently involved in the final third, making 28 touches inside the opposition's box, completing 25 successful dribbles, winning 106 duels, 107 recoveries, and producing 26 goal-scoring chances. As Hyderabad FC look to get their performances back on track next season, Ramhlunchhunga

could form an important part of their Indian core.

Korou Singh Thingujam (Kerala Blasters FC)

Kerala Blasters FC's Korou Singh entered ISL 2024-25 after playing just 13 minutes last season. This year though, the dynamic 18-year-old made his opportunities count by recording two goals and four assists (joint second-most by an Indian after Jithin MS - 5) in 17 appearances.

Korou created 15 scoring opportunities, 19 successful dribbles, and made 24 passes per game at 77% accuracy. His incisive deliveries into the final third were a critical component of the Kerala Blasters FC gameplay and new head coach David Catala will bank on the youngster's acquaintance with the league to gain better returns from the team in 2025-26 season.

Buanthanglun Samte (North-East United FC)

As NorthEast United FC made an inspiring run to the knockouts, one player quietly pulling the strings from the back was Buanthanglun Samte.

Averaging 23 passes per game, he helped them make inroads offensively and was equally enterprising on the defensive front, winning 26 tackles, 68 duels, alongside 52 clearances and 58 recoveries too. His three assists were the joint third-most by an Indian player in the league, and Samte is slated to remain an important cog in Juan Pedro Benali's setup moving forward.

Lalrinliana Hnamte (Chennaiyin FC)

Lalrinliana Hnamte, 21, earned his first call-up for the Blue Tigers in October after a season where he revamped his defensive outputs to become a mainstay in the Chennaiyin FC squad. Hnamte is the player with the second-most successful tackles (53), whereas he also chipped in with 26 interceptions, 30 clearances, and 105 victorious duels. As Chennaiyin FC get their house in order to produce a better outing next season, Hnamte is well-poised to be a vital member of that setup.

Tekcham Abhishek Singh (Punjab FC)

In only his second ISL campaign, defender Tekcham Abhishek Singh impressed with returns that saw him become the player with the third-most interceptions (47).

The 20-year-old won seven aerial duels, 17 tackles, 23 clearances, in addition to making 70 recoveries, while forming an impeccable partnership with Nikhil Prabhu, who has made the most interceptions in the league this season (56).

Dippendu Biswas (Mohun Bagan Super Giant)

Dippendu Biswas, 21, bagged 14 appearances in a star-studded MBSG line-up and carved an impact with his defensive contributions, comprising 14 interceptions and victorious tackles each, 42 duels won, and 39 recoveries. He also occasionally delivered upfront, producing a goal and two assists, and was named the ISL Emerging Player of the Month for February 2025.

Vinith Venkatesh (Bengaluru FC)

Midfielder Vinith Venkatesh had a productive debut season in the top tier, scoring once and notching two assists in addition to clocking 602 minutes across 19 matches. At 80% accuracy, he completed 191 passes and was handy defensively, as enumerated by his numbers: five clearances, six interceptions, 18 recoveries, and 43 duels won.

As the ISL completed yet another landmark season, it reaffirms its role as the breeding ground for India's next footballing stars. With a promising crop of young players already making waves, fueling both their personal journeys and the rise of Indian football.

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

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 18: Amid growing demands for the restoration of Jammu & Kashmir's former status, Mission Statehood Jammu Kashmir, under the leadership of Sunil Dimple, staged a powerful protest rally in Jammu on Friday.

The rally called for the immediate restoration of J&K's Dogra statehood, special status, Article 370, and the resumption of the traditional Darbar Move from this April itself.

Addressing the gathering, Dimple made an impassioned appeal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, urging them to fulfill their promises of restoring J&K's statehood in accordance with Supreme Court directions.

He stressed the significance of reinstating the Permanent Resident Certificate (PRC)



system and preserving the unique identity of the Dogra princely state.

Dimple fiercely criticized former intelligence officer A.S. Dulat, accusing him of sowing confusion and weakening the ongoing struggle for the restoration of statehood and Article 370. He alleged that Dulat, acting under BJP's influence, was playing mind games and using the legacy of Dr. Farooq Abdullah to promote his book while

distracting from the real issues. Dimple claimed Dulat's statements were part of a larger conspiracy to dilute the movement and accused the Bharatiya Janata Party of engineering horse-trading among MLAs.

The protestors also raised concerns over the halting of the historic Darbar Move, stating that the business community has suffered severe economic losses due to its discontinuation.

"The Darbar Move is not just a tradition, it is the pulse of Jammu's seasonal economy," Dimple declared. "Its revival is vital for thousands of traders and employees."

Dimple further alleged that the government had issued over 84,000 domicile certificates to non-residents and allotted lakhs of kanals of land to nearly 200 outside investors, accus-

Amit Kapoor welcomed by parents after victory in age relaxation for Class 1 admission



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 18: Amid cheers, garlands, and heartfelt gratitude, Amit Kapoor, President of the Parents Association Jammu, was warmly welcomed by parents whose long-standing demand for age relaxation in Class 1 admission has finally been accepted by the government. The moment was one of celebration, as parents hailed Kapoor as the reason behind the smiles now blooming on their children's faces.

Addressing a press conference, Kapoor expressed deep appreciation to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, and Education Minister Sakina Ittu for understanding the sensitivity of the matter and taking prompt action. The government's recent order, allowing age relaxation for Class 1 admissions, comes as a major relief to hundreds of families across

Jammu. Calling it a "victory of every parent and every child who raised their voice," Amit Kapoor credited the success to the relentless struggle carried out under his leadership. He noted that the New Education Policy had mandated a minimum age of 6 years for Class 1 enrollment, which had inadvertently excluded many eligible children just shy of the cutoff.

This sparked continuous protests by parents and children, who rallied together for justice and inclusion.

"This is the third time our movement has led to a positive decision from the administration," Kapoor said, highlighting the LG administration's responsiveness in past instances as well. He emphasized that the decision not only saves a crucial academic year but also reflects a humane and practical approach to policymaking.

Kapoor did not stop at

celebrating the victory—he used the platform to urge fellow parents to remain vigilant and proactive.

"This win is a reminder that when parents unite, change is possible," he said. He called on all parents to now raise their voices against the arbitrariness of private schools, particularly in matters of exorbitant fees, overpriced uniforms, and irregular transport charges.

He also requested the government to consider extending the relaxation further, especially for children in the 5+ age bracket, so that no child is left behind due to rigid technicalities.

In closing, Amit Kapoor extended congratulations to every parent who stepped out of their homes and stood shoulder to shoulder in this peaceful battle.

"This is not just a victory for our children," he said, "but a milestone for participatory parenting, where our unity shaped our children's future."

St. Peter's Catholic Church takes out Good Friday procession

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 18: St. Peter's Catholic Church, Prem Nagar organized Good Friday Procession on Friday celebrating the suffering and death of Jesus on the Cross following the gracious tradition of the Catholic Church.

The procession began from Candle Church Chowk at Christian Colony, via Shaheedi Chowk, Residency Road and Vivekanand Chowk the sorrowful enactment and prayerful journey on knees reached St. Peter's Catholic Church through Jogi Gate Road.

The Annual commemoration of the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ by the parish faithful depicted the suffering of Jesus through the streets of Jerusalem to Calvary hills.



A large number of the faithful participated in the procession dressed in a sorrowful manner, recalling crowds of Jerusalem. As the procession reached the Church, there was a Good Friday service

which was conducted by the priests of the community.

Good Friday holds very important place in the devotions of Christians who make conscious efforts to follow the first Christian community

of Jerusalem to suffer with Jesus and offer pains and difficulties for the good of others like Jesus who offered his life on the Cross for the salvation of the entire mankind.

The procession was

organized with the supportive help and collaboration of the Police, Traffic and Municipal forces. The onlookers too joined in the suffering of Jesus by their empathetic participation.

The Catholic Church of Premnagar thanked all the people helped for the smooth-functioning of the event and participated in the same with faith and devotion. May Jesus' life-giving values help our society and city to grow into a peaceful and harmonious always.

Balwant Thakur inaugurates Dance Workshop at Natrang



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 18: Director Natrang Balwant Thakur inaugurated a Dance workshop at Natrang Studio Theatre with the lighting of traditional lamp. Aimed at promoting the art of dance amongst youth this workshop has been organised by Natrang.

Speaking on the occasion Natrang Director Balwant Thakur said that in the whole of Jammu & Kashmir we hardly have training opportunities in the field of dance. This has resulted in the promotion of sheer mediocrity in this field.

The designated institutions mandated to pro-

mote this art are hardly bothered to train the young aspirants in this field. Instead a fashion is being encouraged where untrained dancers are being given the performance opportunities thus resulting in poorest of poor performances on stage. This trend has sabotaged the cause of culture.

Natrang has the credit of taking the dances of J&K to national/international dance events. Perhaps Natrang is the only organisation which has taken the dances of Jammu & Kashmir to the majority of International Festivals held in London, Dubai, Russia, Germany, Bhutan,

Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

For making it to the international events one has to acquire a level of excellence and average level performers have no takers.

On the occasion, Balwant Thakur also informed that Natrang is the only cultural institution of Jammu & Kashmir which has been empanelled by Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Ministry of External Affairs for international performances. To make it to that level, the group and its performances are required to achieve that level of world excellence.

Natrang also takes

pride in the fact that the most prestigious festival of the post India independence period, G20 Cultural show was devised, designed, executed, performed and presented by Natrang.

In the current dance workshop which is being conducted by the ace choreographer Sunny Mujoo a diverse range of dance practices are being introduced. Jammu & Kashmir being multi-cultural and having a diverse range of dance traditions, an effort is being made to introduce all the participants to the entire diversity of the region.

Those who are taking part in this workshop include Muskan Thakur, Isha Sharma, Amit Rana, Arun Sharma, Kangana Pradhan, Vishveet Singh, Anuradha, Rajeshwar Tiwari, Mahi Thakur, Radhika Khajuria, Suhani Bhasin, Vrinda Gujral, Kunal Singh Jamwal, Aryan Sharma, Vanshika Manhas, Manvi Devi, Kartik Kumar and Boomika Pandita.

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