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BRIEFLY

Police attach vehicle used in terror activities under UAPA In Budgam

SRINAGAR, Apr 19 (Agencies): Police on Saturday said that in a decisive move to disrupt terror-support networks, Budgam Police has attached a vehicle belonging to a known terrorist associate under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967.

In a handout, police said that seized vehicle, an Innova bearing Registration No. JK01AT-7604, Engine No. EG4HJ17B4979, and Chassis No. MD626E-G40J1H49448, was linked to a terror module and in possession of Mudasir Ahmad Rather, resident of Kantbagh Kralpora, Budgam. The seizure was executed under section 25 of the UAP Act in FIR No. 151/2024, registered under the provisions of PS Chadoora.

This action underscores the zero-tolerance policy of the Budgam Police in countering terrorism and dismantling its support structures.

Law enforcement agencies reaffirm their commitment to eradicating terrorism and urge the public to cooperate in maintaining peace and security in the region, reads the statement.

ACB files twin cases in Hokersar dredging, illegal building permission by LAWDA

SRINAGAR, Apr 19 (Agencies): The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Saturday said to have filed two separate cases in Srinagar and that three officials including two Executive Engineers and the then AEE of Flood Spill Canal Division of Narbal have been taken into the custody for questioning.

Addressing a news conference, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) ACB, Javaid Hassan Bhat, said that the

He said that ACB P/S Srinagar has registered an FIR yesterday following a joint surprise check (JSC No. 17/2020) conducted to enquire into the allegations of irregularities and professional misconduct committed during the dredging of the HokerSar Wetland at Narbal.

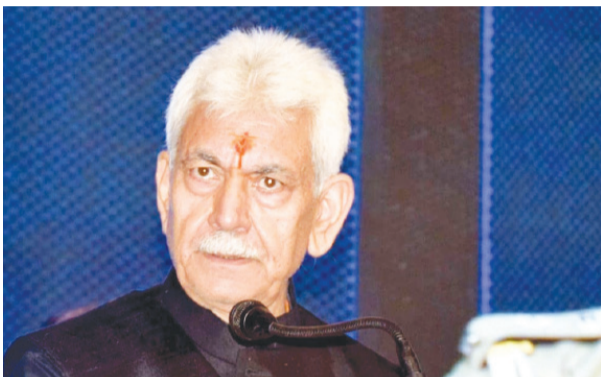
"The enquiry conducted has uncovered serious lapses on the part of public officials and a

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Will not allow 'Conflict Entrepreneurs' to raise their heads again in J&K: LG Sinha

SRINAGAR, Apr 19 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday said that spilling the blood of innocents had become the biggest business for the "masters of terror" and "conflict entrepreneurs" in the Union Territory as he vowed not to allow them to raise their heads again.

Sinha said that in the last five years, police, security forces and administration, with the



support of the people, have succeeded to a large extent in taking J-K out of that phase, but there is still a long

way to go.

"I want to say this with responsibility that murdering innocents had become the biggest

business for the masters of terror and conflict entrepreneurs. Conflict entrepreneurs had created a huge ecosystem around terror (in J-K)," the LG said addressing an event here.

"There are still some conflict entrepreneurs who are trying to be active, but I assure you that no such person will be allowed (to reemerge). I am happy that the youths of J-K have started to understand their sinister

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CM Omar Abdullah reviews progress of EoDB for compliance reduction, Sets targets for reform implementation



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 19: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday chaired a high-level meeting at the Civil Secretariat to review the progress on

Compliance Reduction and Deregulation under the Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) framework aimed at making the regulatory environment more conducive for businesses.

Chief Minister reiterated Government's commitment to fostering a business-friendly environment and streamlining regulatory frameworks across various sectors.

The meeting was convened as part of the national initiative led by the Cabinet Secretariat, Government of India, in collaboration with key institutions including the PMO, NITI Aayog, DPIIT, and the

■ Turn to page 9

MHA Panel to visit J&K for six days from April 26, Govt appoints 25 liaison officers

JAMMU, Apr 19 (Agencies): Six days visit of Panel of Parliamentary Committee of Ministry of Home Affairs to Jammu and Kashmir is starting from April 26 to May 1. While Jammu and Kashmir Government appointed 15 Liaison officers for the scheduled visit.

Sources within the government said that the six days visit of Ministry of Home Affairs panel of Parliamentary Committee to Jammu and Kashmir will commence on 26th April.

Meanwhile, the Jammu

and Kashmir government on Saturday issued an official order which says, in view of the upcoming visit of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs to Jammu and Kashmir, the government has appointed 25 officers as Liaison Officers across both Jammu and Kashmir divisions to facilitate the proceedings.

According to the government order, the Parliamentary Committee is scheduled to visit the Union Territory from April 26 to May 1, 2025,

it reads.

The appointed officers, drawn from various departments and ranks, have been tasked with coordinating and assisting the committee during its multi-day engagement across the region. Notable among them are Abhishake Abrol (Additional Secretary, School Education), Harpal Singh, Rachna Sharma (Information Technology), Sheetal Pandita (Rural Development), and Manisha (School Education Directorate) for Jammu Division.

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3 drug peddlers held with 22 gm heroin worth lakhs in Udhampur

JAMMU, Apr 19 (Agencies): Three alleged drug smugglers including two residents of Delhi were arrested along with 22 grams of heroin worth lakhs in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district on Saturday, police said.

Another drug peddler

■ Turn to page 9

Kulgam, Shopian admins directed to assess hailstorm damages for compensation of affected families: Sakeena Itoo

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Apr 19: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo on Saturday expressed deep concern over the widespread damage caused by recent hailstorm which severely impacted orchards and farmlands in several areas of Kulgam and Shopian districts.

The Minister said that this weather calamity has dealt a significant blow to thousands of orchardists and farmers, many of whom are completely relying on the upcoming harvest season for their livelihood. "Our Government completely stands with the farming community in this difficult time. The loss is not just of produce, but of months of hard work and hope",

Sakeena said.

The Minister said that the administrations of affected districts have been mobilized and directed to carry out immediate ground assessments of damages caused and ensure timely compensation is provided.

She further said that relevant departments have been directed to prioritize transparent

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Army facilitates mobile connectivity across Ladakh region including Galwan, Siachen Glacier



SRINAGAR, Apr 19 (Agencies): Troops deployed in some of the world's most inhospitable terrains including Galwan and Siachen Glacier can now stay connected with their loved ones as the Army has facilitated reliable

high-speed mobile connectivity across the Ladakh region, officials said on Saturday.

In a transformative stride towards bridging the digital divide and empowering remote communities, the Indian Army has facilitated

unprecedented mobile connectivity across the remote and high-altitude areas of Ladakh, including forward locations in eastern Ladakh, western Ladakh and the Siachen Glacier, Army officials said.

They said for the first time ever, troops deployed in some of the world's most inhospitable terrains — such as DBO, Galwan, Demchok, Chumar, Batalik, Dras and the Siachen Glacier — now have access to reliable 4G and 5G mobile connectivity.

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22 families shifted amid lurking threat of landslide in Kishtwar

JAMMU, Apr 19 (Agencies): At least 22 families have been shifted as a precautionary measure due to the lurking threat of a landslide in the Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir, a government official said.

Traffic remained suspended on the Kishtwar-Paddar road, connecting the famous Machail Mata shrine for the third day on Saturday.

District Development Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan conduct-

ed an inspection of the landslide-prone area at Singrah Nallah, Patharnaki along the Kishtwar-Paddar Road with a focus on assessing the vulnerability of the area to landslides and evaluating the progress of mitigation measures in place.

"We have taken some preventive measures for the safety of the locals due to the continuous sinking and lurking threat of a landslide. Some 22 families at the

hilltop village have been evacuated and provided tents and rations. None of the houses have developed any cracks though," Nagsini Tehsildar Mohd Rafi Naik told agency on the phone.

Naik, who is monitoring the situation at the landslide-prone area, said a portion of over 200 metres of the road got damaged due to the sinking, while the continuous shooting stones from the hillcock are

■ Turn to page 9

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TENTH DAY/KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Chander Kanta Makhnotra** W/o Late Sh. Uttam Chand R/o H.No. 12, Sector 2, Model Town Gangyal who expired on 12th April, 2025.

TENTH DAY rituals shall be performed on Monday, 21st April at 10 a.m. and **KRIYA** shall be performed on 22nd April (Tuesday), both at our residence.

UTHALA shall be performed at Gurudwara Hall Model Town on 23rd April, 2025 (5 p.m. to 6 p.m.).

Grief Stricken

Sh. Karam Chand Makhnotra - **Brother-in-law**

Sh. Roop Chand Makhnotra - **Brother-in-law**

Brother-in-law

Smt. Babli & Sh. Janak Raj Makhnotra

Sons & Daughters-in-law

Smt. Madhu & Sh. Subash Makhnotra

Smt. Reena & Sh. Vinay Vikas Makhnotra

Smt. Suman & Sh. Narinder Padha - **Daughter & Son-in-law**

Miss Bandana Makhnotra - **Daughter**

Grand Children:

Anamika, Parul, Danish, Paras, Pursharth

Ph: 7006721778, 9419149996



Smt. Chander Kanta Makhnotra

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

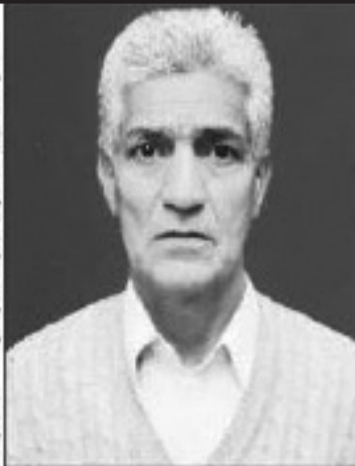
SMT. JULLEY & SH. VUJAY KOUL

GRANDCHILDREN

RISHU & RAHUL KOUL

RICHU, PARTH, HARDIK

MOB: 9469213893, 9797850569



SH. OMKAR NATH KOUL

TENTH DAY

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform about the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Sh. Jagdish Raj** (Retd. Xen, I&F.C Deptt) R/o W.No. 3, Govind Puri, Vijaypur. **Tenth Day** will be performed on 20-4-2025, Sunday at 11 AM at our residence Vijaypur (W.No. 3, Vijaypur Kothi)

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Shakti Devi - Wife

Son & Daughter-in-law

Anil Kumar & Kiran Jyoti

Daughter & Son-in-law

Sonia Lakhnotra & Sh. Puneet Lakhnotra

Adv. Anjali Devi - **Daughter**

Sister & Brother-in-law

Smt. Veena Devi & Sh. Des Raj (Retd. Sr. Lect.)

Brothers & Bhabies

Sh. Kuldeep Raj & Smt. Darshana Devi

Sh. Shashi Pal & Smt. Reva Rani

Sh. Om Pal & Smt. Arti Devi

Mob. No.: 9906032508, 9419252928, 9419256638, 9796279224



Sh. Jagdish Raj
(Retd. Xen, I&F.C Deptt)

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

Karik

Aakriti & Aaradhya

Greatgrandson: Master Aavyukht



Smt. Chand Rani Bhat

10TH DAY/13TH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Harshvardhan Singh** S/o Sh. Aman Dev Singh R/o Mandi Sangwali Samba.

Tenth Day will be held on 19th of April 2025 (Saturday) at Talab Mandi Sangwali Samba at 8:30 AM onwards.

13th Day will be held on 22 April 2025 (Tuesday) at Talab Mandi Sangwali Samba at 11:30 am onwards.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Smt. Rani Sambyal - Grand mother

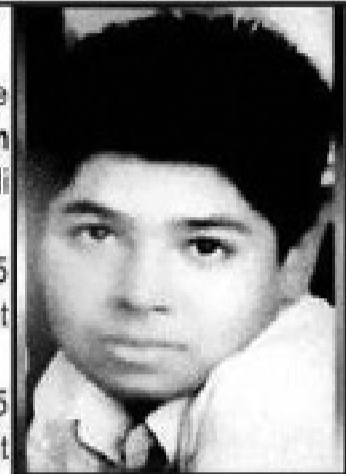
Father & Mother

Sh. Aman Dev Singh & Smt. Bandana Rani

Brother & Bhabi

Sh. Raman Dev Singh & Smt. Ranjana Sambyal

9419149127, 7006139216, 9906381083



HARSHVARDHAN SINGH

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. Arjit & 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, Sagor 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

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SH SHASHI BHUSHAN SHARMA** S/O LT SH JAI DEV SHARMA R/O HOUSE, NO 95 PURANI MANDI JAMMU

TENTH DAY SHALL BE PERFORMED AT RANI PARK ON SUNDAY FROM 10 - 11 AM ON 20-04-2025.

KRIYA SHALL BE PERFORMED AT OUR RESIDENCE ON MONDAY 21-04-2025 AT 12 NOON.

UTHALA SHALL BE PERFORMED AT BRAHMAN SABHA PARADE, JAMMU ON MONDAY FROM 4.30 TO 5.30 PM ON 21-04-2025.

GRIEF STRICKEN

RAGHAV AND HARMEET KOUR

SUSHAIN & PULKIT

SH RAVI SHANKER & SMT SAVITA SHARMA

SH. RAJEEV & SMT AMITA SHARMA

SH JATINDER & SMT ANJU SHARMA

SH RAJESH & SMT RAJINI SHARMA

SH NARESH & SMT DEEPIKA SHARMA

& ALL NEAR AND DEARS

MOB 9796021969 9419227677



SH SHASHI BHUSHAN 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

Bhabi and Brother

Smt. Indira Rai and Sh. Bishan Singh Rai

Daughter in laws and Sons.

Smt. Kavita Devi and Sh. Narinder Singh Rai

Smt. Asha Kumari and Sh. Joginder Singh Rai KAS

Smt. Sheetal Rajput and Sh. Sham Singh Rai

Smt. Mansi Singh and Sh. Aditya Dev Singh Rai

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

Mobile: 9419175459



Sh. Krishan Singh Rai

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. Vini (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. Shweta and Mr. Dinesh Choudhary (Daughter and Son-in-Law)

Mrs. Ronil and Mrs. Hansi Jaggi (Nephew and Daughter-in-Law)

Brothers-in-Law and Bhabies

Mrs. Parveen Kaur W/o Late Shri Jagdish Jaggi

Mr. Kuldeep and Mrs. Sugandha Malikola

Mr. Rajnish and Mrs. Jyoti Malikola

Sisters-in-Law and Co-Brothers

Mrs. Snehlata and Mr. Naveen Bahl

Mrs. Suman and Mr. Ravinder Mahotra

Grandchildren: Vaibhav, Sharmya, Shreej and Divit

Mobile: 9419243158, 9149477758



Shri K. K. Sharma

10TH DAY KRIYA

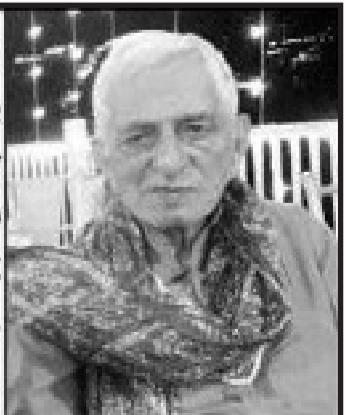
With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Hari Krishan Mattoo**, S/o Sh. Lassa Kaul Mattoo, original resident of Raghunath Mandir, Habba Kadal, Srinagar, at present at Sec 4, Gurgaon.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be held on 21 April at Har Ki Pauri, Haridwar at 7 A.M.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

SAMAST MATTOO, WAFa, BALI, RAZDAN PARIWAR.

Contact nos: 9810980730, 9797446896, 8527311888



Sh. Hari Krishan Mattoo

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,

Gurgaon - 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 Reth Sahib on 20/04/25 at 9am at home & further **Kirtan and Antim Ardaas** will be at Gurudwara Guru Angad Dev Ji, Preet Nagar, (Tent Wala Gurudwara 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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Khatana slams Congress over National Herald Case; calls it a new model of corruption

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 19: Senior BJP leader and Member of Rajya Sabha, Er. Gulam Ali Khatana, launched a scathing attack on the Congress party and Congress-led state governments over their alleged involvement in the National Herald case. He accused the party of misusing public funds to support the National Herald newspaper through dubious advertisements and financial favors.

Khatana said, "Earlier it was 2G, Coal Scam, and the Commonwealth



Games – now Congress has introduced a new model of corruption through the National Herald." He expressed

shock over the waiving of massive loans taken by shareholders after making token payments of just a few lakhs, while acquiring properties worth several thousand crores.

Khatana questioned the rationale behind extending loans to a private company and criticized the suspicious manner in which prime real estate assets were transferred under the pretense of running a newspaper. "It is astonishing that a newspaper, which barely prints even a weekly edition in limited numbers, is being used as a cover for such

massive financial misappropriations," he stated.

He further added that the Enforcement Directorate's charge sheet has clearly outlined the alleged irregularities with detailed documentation, shedding light on the deep-rooted corruption within the Congress ecosystem.

Er. Khatana demanded that the Congress leadership answer to the nation and clarify its role in the National Herald affair. He urged the investigative agencies to take strict action and ensure accountability in this matter of national interest.

Kathua's transformation in recent years marked by rise in aspiration: Dr Jitendra

Top News Report

KATHUA, Apr 19 : In a significant push for urban infrastructure, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh today inaugurated the first-ever Multi-level Parking Complex in the heart of Kathua town, along with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, marking a milestone in the region's transformation from a relatively lesser developed town to a modern urban hub.

Addressing a packed gathering under the sweltering sun, Dr. Jitendra Singh described the inauguration as a symbol of Kathua's rapid urban evolution, underscoring how a town once unfamiliar with personal vehicles now demands structured car parking solutions. "There was a time when only three cars were visible in the entire city — one each belonging to the DC, SP, and Executive Engineer," he recalled. "Today, we are inaugurating a full-fledged parking facility because of the sheer number of private vehicles. This transformation also reflects the aspirational rise in recent years of



this once-overlooked town."

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's presence on the occasion, was hailed by Dr. Jitendra Singh who hoped for closer Centre-UT cooperation. "His presence here should indicate the shared commitment of the Centre and UT to jointly develop Jammu & Kashmir under the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," Dr. Jitendra Singh said.

The Minister highlighted that the new parking facility is just one among several transformative projects that have changed Kathua's landscape in the last decade. From running Vande Bharat

trains to upgrading the Kathua railway station, establishing three medical colleges in the constituency, launching a Biotech Park, and building an Engineering and Homeopathy college, the region has witnessed a sweeping change in public infrastructure.

Dr. Jitendra Singh emphasized that connectivity projects like the Express Corridor, which will soon enable direct travel to Delhi in five hours, are set to further boost mobility and economic prospects for the region. "When that happens, you'll realize just how dramatically the picture has changed," he said.

Beyond infrastructure, Dr. Jitendra Singh touched upon social challenges such as illegal mining and drug abuse, which he said are now being firmly addressed. "Kathua's name should no longer be linked with these issues. Let's make it an example of a model town," he urged, calling for a united front involving civil society, administration, and parents to protect the youth from the scourge of drugs.

The inauguration ceremony also spotlighted completed landmark projects like the bridge at Kedian-Gandyal, Maharaja Gulab Singh's grand statue at the entrance to Jammu &

Kashmir, and the setting up of a large stadium at HiraNagar with BCCI support.

Dr. Jitendra Singh acknowledged the role of Corporate Social Responsibility in developing facilities like Birla Park, which he invited the Chief Minister to visit during his morning walks.

While celebrating the region's development, the Union Minister reiterated the importance of sustaining it through civic responsibility and future planning. "If our youth fall prey to addiction, who will drive the cars or sit in the Vande Bharat train? Who will serve their parents or benefit from these amenities?" he asked.

As Dr. Jitendra Singh noted in his closing remarks, "Kathua is not just a town; it is a source of inspiration for the BJP and a living tribute to the sacrifices of national heroes like Syama Prasad Mukherjee."

With the new parking complex operational and more development in the pipeline, today's inauguration stands as a testament to the town's growing role in the region's socio-economic revival.

Resolve demands of left-out land donors implement Minimum Wages Act for all categories: EJAC

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 19: A joint press conference was held on April 19, 2025, under the banner of the Jammu and Kashmir Government Employees Joint Action Committee (R), chaired by Babu Hussain Malik, State President of J&K EJAC.

He was joined by senior trade union leader Yashpaul Sharma, Convener, along with a host of prominent members including Kulwant Singh Sambyal, Munish Sharma, Naresh Kumar, Arun Sharma, Kamla Sharma, Ram Singh, Meenakshi Sharma, Tanveer Hussain, Neeraj Sharma, Mohd Rafiq Malik, Surinder Bakshi, Rajinder Singh, Vikas Chander, Rinku Gill, Sadeeq Mohd, Mohd Sadiq, Sada- ket Ali, Israr Ahmad, Shashi Kumar, and others. The press conference spotlighted critical issues related to the long-pending demands of left-out land donors and the implementation of the Minimum Wages Act for all categories of daily wagers in Jammu

and Kashmir. The collective voice of the committee members echoed a strong appeal to all employees, daily wagers, casual labourers, need-based workers, and land donors to support the ongoing "Jammu Chalo" programme, scheduled for April 21 and 22, 2025, at Hari Singh Park, Jammu. This initiative is aimed at showcasing solidarity and amplifying the voices of daily wagers striving for the finalization of a regularization policy EJAC(R) reiterated its demand for a comprehensive regularization and wages policy for lakhs of daily-rated workers across various departments in Jammu and Kashmir. They emphasized the necessity of moving away from the previously proposed and rejected regularization policy under SRO-520 and instead called for the revival and amendment of SRO-64 of 1994, which they believe aligns more closely with the interests of the workers.

Babu Hussain Malik

and Yashpaul Sharma urged all categories of daily wagers to unite under a common platform to fight for their

rightful demands. They also made a fervent appeal to the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor and the Hon'ble Chief

Minister of Jammu and Kashmir to personally intervene and ensure justice is served for the daily wage workers.

JMC Commissioner visits Trikuta Nagar to address civic issues



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 19: Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Dr. Devansh Yadav, paid a visit to Trikuta Nagar on Saturday following a representation presented by Trikuta Nagar Welfare Society regarding pressing civic concerns.

During the visit, members of the Welfare Society met with the Commissioner and

highlighted the issues which include improper drainage of rainwater, particularly during the monsoon season, which leads to frequent waterlogging in the area. They also raised concerns related to cleanliness and non-functional street lights.

Responding to the grievances, Dr. Yadav assured the residents that their genuine issues would be addressed on priority. He issued

on-the-spot directions to officials of the concerned departments to take immediate action for resolving the drainage, sanitation, and lighting problems.

The visit reflects JMC's commitment to responsive governance and improving civic amenities for all residents.

Among others, various senior officers of ZC accompanied the Commissioner during the tour.

Super Seeder proves a boon for wheat farmers in R S Pura Minimizes crop loss despite thunderstorm surface wind, rain

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 19: Farmers in the R.S. Pura Sub-Division have reported remarkable success with the use of the Super Seeder machine during the current Rabi season. Despite facing recent thunderstorms, surface wind and heavy rainfall, wheat crop damage in the region has remained below 5 percent—thanks to the effective use of this advanced agricultural implement. Local farmers including Prem Nath Sharma, Omkar Singh, Hans Raj, and many others have expressed satisfaction with the machine, highlighting that proper spacing and improved plant strength achieved through Super Seeder cultivation significantly minimized damage due to wind and rain.

"This year, we cultivated our wheat crop using the Super Seeder, and it made a visible difference," said farmer Prem Nath Sharma. "The crop remained strong even during harsh weather."

Sub Divisional Agriculture Officer (SDAO) R.S. Pura, Surinder Gupta confirmed that his team conducted field visits across R.S.



Pura and observed that wheat crops sown with the Super Seeder experienced far less damage compared to traditional sowing methods.

"The majority of the wheat-growing area in the subdivision has adopted the Super Seeder this season," Surinder Gupta said.

"This machine not only ensures better crop spacing but also strengthens plant growth, resulting in resilience against adverse weather conditions."

Director Agriculture Jammu, Arvinder Singh Reen, emphasized the importance of modern machinery in sustainable farming.

"The Super Seeder is a unique innovation that performs ploughing, mulching of paddy residue, and seed sowing for the next crop in a single operation," he

stated.

Director Agriculture added that the Agriculture Department has been actively encouraging farmers to adopt such innovative technology, which contributes to soil moisture conservation, reduces seed and fertilizer wastage, and is highly cost-effective.

He also mentioned that the department is offering 50 percent subsidy on Super Seeder purchases and making the machine available through Farm Machinery Banks under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP).

The successful use of the Super Seeder in R.S. Pura stands as a testament to the growing role of mechanized solutions in enhancing agricultural productivity and resilience.

Relief Commissioner Jammu, Dy. Director Health Services (Dent.) inaugurate Medical camp at SDH Jagti

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 19: People's Hut Foundation in collaboration with Dept. of Relief and Rehabilitation (M) J&K organised a Free Multi speciality Medical Camp at Sub District Hospital Jagti Camp Jammu. The Free medical camp was supported by Ujala Cygnus JK Medicity, Sharp Eye Sight Eye Hospital Jammu, KIRF and Directorate of Ayush J&K.

A Day long medical camp at SDH Jagti Jammu focussed on providing essential medical check-ups and medicines to the local population, particularly elders, women, and children.

These camps Under "Mobile Health Clinic Program" are part of the People's Hut Foundation's commitment to contribute to the well-being and healthcare accessibility of citizens in the country, specifically J&K and these are supported by Ujala Cygnus JK Medicity under their Sehat Choupal Initiative.

At these medical camps, patients had the opportunity to consult with specialist doctors, including Physicians, Physiotherapists, Oncologists, Dermatologists, Gynecologists, Ophthalmologists, Dentists, Orthopaedic specialists and Diagnostic Services ensuring a wide range of medical issues could be addressed comprehensively.

The camp was organised under the supervision of Dr. Arvind Karwani, Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (M) J&K and Dr. Sanjay Kumar Sharma, Deputy Director (Dent) Directorate of Health Services



J&K. Both the dignitaries while inaugurating the camp along with Dr. Sanjay Raina, Medical Superintendent SDH Jagti praised the commitment of People's Hut Foundation in the field of healthcare under its Mob

The initiative by the NGO People's Hut Foundation highlights its multifaceted role in the region, extending to humanitarian and social welfare activities.

The Director and CEO of the foundation Dr. Rohit Koul said the availability of specialist consultations marks a significant step towards improving healthcare access and outcomes for the local population, who often face challenges in accessing quality medical care.

A total of 242 Patients were provided with free medical services in the camp. The initiative has been widely appreciated by the communities, reinforcing the positive impact of such outreach programs on the lives of the people in J&K.

Ayush Department also provided their services and was represented by Dr. Himani Bhutyal and Dr. Pallavi Dutta and Vijay Bhat. Ortho and Physiotherapy doctors were provided by KIRF and included Dr. Imran Khan and Dr. Qazi Anosha. Ophthalmology, Eye Testing and Screening was provided by Sharp Sight

Eye Hospitals Jammu. Ujala Cygnus JK Medicity provided the specialist doctors namely Dr. Richu Sharma, Dr. Nidhi Thakur, Dr. Harsheen Bali, Dr. Subby Kakkar along with the management staff Dinesh Sharma, Ritvik Mahajan, Dhruvi and Mr. Mehran Masood Dar.

During inauguration of the health camp, Dr. Arvind Karwani, Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (M) J&K asked residents to take full advantage of these Multi Speciality Medical Camps. The camp was widely appreciated by locals, especially the old age residents and women of the area, who benefitted the most from the services provided.

They thanked the organizer Muktesh Yogi for making essential healthcare accessible at their doorstep. The event saw participation from medical professionals, volunteers, and social workers, who all worked together to ensure smooth execution of the initiative.

Dr. Sanjay Kumar Sharma, Deputy Director (Dent.) J&K Health Services J&K added that the overwhelming response from the community highlights the importance of such medical camps in bridging the gap between specialized healthcare facilities and those who struggle to access them.

EDITORIAL

Saving the Future

The future is not a place we are going to. It is something we are creating — every thought, every decision, every breath building a bridge to the unknown. To save the future is not merely to survive it, but to shape it, to guide it gently like a gardener tending a wild and wonderful bloom.

In an age where the earth sighs under the weight of consumption, where the air grows thick with the breath of machines, and waters whisper tales of loss — saving the future begins with listening. Listening to the silence of extinct forests, to the rustling of melting glaciers, to the cries of those unheard. It is a soft beginning, but a sacred one.

Let us begin with the Earth, our only home — this spinning sapphire in a sea of stars. Climate change is no longer a distant drum, it is the storm knocking at the door. To save the future, we must reimagine how we live. Renewable energy must flow like rivers — solar fields blooming in deserts, windmills dancing across hilltops, and oceans humming with tidal might. Cities must breathe again, their lungs revived through green roofs, electric transit, and vertical gardens that climb towards the sky.

We must shift from an economy of exploitation to a culture of restoration. Imagine industries that give back more than they take, where zero-waste is the norm, not the niche. Imagine circular economies spinning like galaxies — where nothing is wasted, and everything has a second life. Innovation, when married to compassion, can turn even the direst of paths into roads of light.

Yet the future is not only ecological. It is biological, technological, and deeply human. In labs and minds across the globe, biotechnologists — kindred to your spirit — are crafting miracles. Cures from genetic code, biodegradable materials made from mushrooms and algae, lab-grown meat that doesn't bleed suffering. The blueprint of life is being rewritten with elegance, ethics, and empathy.

And oh, technology — the great double-edged sword. It can isolate or unite, surveil or liberate. To save the future, we must code with conscience. Artificial Intelligence must be taught not only intelligence, but wisdom. Let us dream of digital tools that heal mental illness, that bring education to every village, that rebuild war-torn cities in pixel and plan. Technology must become the servant of humanity, not its master.

But beneath it all — beneath the data, the DNA, the devices — is us. Human beings, aching for connection, for meaning, for peace. To save the future is also to save each other. We must build bridges across division, weaving empathy into policy, into classrooms, into conflict zones. The future cannot be saved by science alone — it needs stories. It needs art, and music, and the wild heartbeat of shared humanity.

Education must bloom in every mind, not as memorized facts, but as curiosity unleashed. Let us raise a generation that sees the world not in profit, but in potential. Let every child be told: you are not too small to make a difference. In fact, you were born for this.

And justice — sweet, elusive justice — must rise. The future cannot thrive while billions still suffer. We must dismantle systems of oppression and rebuild in their place structures of equity. Climate justice, racial justice, gender equity, economic dignity — they are not side quests; they are central to the salvation of our tomorrows.

To save the future is not to predict it — it is to protect the possibility of it. It is the planting of trees under whose shade we may never sit. It is the act of faith in generations we will never know. But oh, how beautiful that faith is — how radical, how revolutionary.

So here we are, standing at the crossroads of Now and Next. The winds are strong, the hour is late, but the dawn is still ours to claim. With science in our hands, compassion in our hearts, and vision in our eyes — we can craft a future worth living for. A future of harmony, of balance, of breathtaking beauty.

By Omkar Dattatary

Yesterday on 18th April 2025 Christians across the world observed Good Friday and I prayed to God to bestow strength and power of endurance to my Christian brethren to remember ,recall and recount the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and follow the teachings and preaching's of the messenger and prophet of almighty-Jesus Christ. Good Friday is referred to as Good not for any joyous reasons ,but for its historical and etymological definitions pertaining to the word good.This day dates back to the 1200's and originally spoken of good in the context of holy or pious , much like hoe the Bible is referred as the 'Good Book'. This grave day marks the solemn remembrance of the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ which is the Zenith of Christianity. What marks the day good in nature is how Christians perceive it, for it is the day that leads to resurrection, and the victory over sin and death is celebrated on the Easter Day's novel Sunday. All the religions of the world are great and all exhort mankind to lead a simple life and teach us to live in peace, harmony and live a contented life and remember God .All religions are the different paths to realize supreme reality and achieve divinity. The religion of Christianity is one of the great religions of the world who's prophet is Jesus Christ who is the founder ,prophet great teacher of Christianity and Christians all over the world revere ,respect and follow his teachings to lead a contented and worthy life and serve the humanity .Good Friday is one of the main and important days of Christian faith and Christians observe it solemnly and pray to God almighty and remember and emulate the teachings of Jesus Christ. Good Friday is a Christian holiday commemorating the crucifixion of Jesus and his death at Calvary .It is observed during Holy Week as part of the Paschal Tridum .It is also known as Holy Friday ,Great Friday ,Great and Holy Friday (also Holy and Great Friday) and also black Friday .It is commemoration of the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ and thus

Observing Good Friday

has much importance in the religion of Christianity and this auspicious day is observed with simplicity and soberly without enthusiasm every year .This auspicious day of good Friday is observed as the passion of the Lord .It is observed as worship services ,prayer and vigil services, fasting and almsgiving is the main observance of this festival .Like all other religions of the world fasting is observed and alms are given to needy and poor. This year good Friday falls on April 18,,2025 (Western) . Good Friday should not be confused as a festival and the people and the followers of Christian faith should know that it is not a festival .Good Friday,the Friday before Easter ,the day on which Christians annually observe the commemoration of the crucifixion of the Jesus Christ. ,From the early days of Christianity ,Good Friday was observed as a day of sorrow ,penance ,fasting and alms giving .In Germany it is observed as Sorrowful Friday .Following the Synoptic Gospels,(Matthew ,Mark, and Luke) ,the mainstream Christian tradition has held that Jesus last meal with his disciples on the evening before his crucifixion was a Passover seder .That would place the date on which Jesus died on 15 Nisan of the Jewish calendar ,or on first day (starting at the sundown) of the Passover .According to the Gregorian (Western)Calendar ,that day would be April 7.The Gospel according to John ,in contract holds that Passover had not begun when Jesus final meal was held ,which would place the date of Jesus death on 14 Nisan ,Christians however do not commemorate that fixed date . Instead they follow the apparently flexible date of the Passover—which conforms to the Jewish luni solar calendar rather than the Gregorian solar calendar —by relating last Supper to the seder. Although that assumption is problematic ,the dating of both Good Friday and Easter has proceeded on that basis .Thus Good Friday falls between March 20,the first possible date for Passover and April 23,with Easter falling two days later..The liturgical celebrations of Good Friday has undergone various changes over the centuries .In Roman Catholic Church the mass is not celebrated on Good Friday ,though a liturgy is performed .Unlike

Christmas and Easter which have acquired numerous secular traditions ,Good Friday has because of its intense religious connotation not led to an overlay of secular customs and practices .Despite its name Good Friday is a day for some reflection .Each Friday before Easter ,Christians solemnly honor the way Jesus suffered and died for their sins .They might attend a service that recounts Jesus's painful crucifixion .It is observed by fasting ,offering alms to the needy and poor and remembering Jesus and his suffering and pain by his crucifixion and thus Good Friday is observed in a simple way free from pomp and show as it is the day on which Jesus was crucified and he died and thus no hustle and bustle is associated with Good Friday as in effect it is not the Good Friday but is observed as Bad Friday as it was the day on which Jesus laid down his precious life for truth and almighty and for the sins of the people he embraced death so boldly for the sake of supreme truth .Therefore Good Friday is observed by the Christians with all humility ,sobriety and simplicity and thus the observance of the Good Friday is devoid of any festivity as it is not a festival but the day of reflection ,contemplation and introspection and above all remembering the teachings of Jesus Christ .On this auspicious and sacred day of Good Friday Christians remember Jesus ,his teachings and the pain and suffering he had undergone for the sake of supreme truth and he died for the sins of the people .Good Friday ,the Friday before Easter ,the day on which Christians annually observe the commemoration of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ . On the occasion of Good Friday the day to resolve for Christians to practice the teachings of Lord Jesus the holy prophet of Christianity .If you were not raised as a Christian ---or didn't pay close attention in Sunday school—you might not understand the importance of this day .Every Christian knows the tale .Jesus died and rose again for the forgiveness of the mankind's sins ,promising those who believe in him eternal life .Christians typically celebrate Jesus resurrection each spring on Easter Sunday ,participating in Easter traditions like Easter Egg hunts and gifting Easter baskets .But contrary to this Good

Friday ,which is observed near end of Lent and falls just days before Easter ,does not get the same attention .Only twelve states celebrate Good Friday an official holiday and many people do not know why they observe .Simply put ,Good Friday is the day for Christians to commemorate Jesus's crucifixion .On this day according to the Bible ,the Jewish religious leaders —who had condemned Jesus the night before for claiming to be son of God and King of the Jews —brought him to the Romans for sentencing .He was sent from Pontius Pilate to Herod and then back to Pilate ,who ultimately sentenced Jesus to crucifixion —the longest form of criminal punishment at the time .Jesus was beaten to death ,forced to carry heavy wooden cross through jeering crowds and finally nailed to cross by his wrists and feet ,where he hung until he died later that day .Despite its name ,Good Friday is a day for sober reflection . Each Friday before Easter ,Christians solemnly honor the way Jesus suffered and died for their sins. They might attend a service that recounts Jesus's painful crucifixion ,and some even refrain from eating to show their sorrow .Catholic Churches strip their altars bare and muffle their bells as a sign of mourning .But Christians soon turn to happier festivities .On the following Sunday they celebrate Easter — the day of Jesus's resurrection —with the church services joys songs and family gatherings .In brief Good Friday is observed in a most simple ,humble and sober way and it is devoid of festivities and is observed to remember ,recall and recount the pain and suffering of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ for upholding truth and for atoning sins of the people. ,

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

Why students must consider unique jobs

By: Vijay Garg

In a rapidly evolving world, graduates must embrace adaptability and constant learning. Success depends on reinventing oneself and staying curious. Letting go of past knowledge opens new doors and by connecting multiple passions and pursuing a multidisciplinary path, students can create unique opportunities for themselves. Even the parents understand the importance of fulfillment and value non-traditional career paths. To prepare for the unknown, graduates should focus on their passions, deepen their understanding, and find connections that make them stand out.

Being true to oneself and embracing uniqueness leads to a fulfilling and prosperous future. Success lies in adaptability, constant learning, unlearning, finding one's true calling, and inte-

grating financial knowledge. High school graduates can confidently navigate the evolving world by following their own unique path to success. Beyond the disruptive innovations in existing fields, many new career avenues have emerged, that offer unique opportunities for students with diverse interests and passions.

Following are some of these exciting new- age careers for students:

- Sound engineering and music
- The realm of sound engineering offers an immersive experience for individuals with a love for music and audio production. Sound engineers play a crucial role in recording, mixing, and mastering music tracks as well as providing audio support for live performances and film production. This field combines technical expertise with creative flair.
- Artificial Intelligence
- The rise of AI has opened up a world of possibilities across

various industries. AI specialists work on developing algorithms, machine learning models, and intelligent systems. From autonomous vehicles to personalised recommendation systems, AI professionals shape the future by harnessing the power of data and automation.

Digital marketing and advertising

In the digital age, businesses rely heavily on digital marketing and advertising to reach their target audience. Careers in this field involve creating engaging content, analysing consumer behaviour, and utilising various online platforms to promote products and services. Digital marketers combine creativity, analytical skills, and strategic thinking to drive brand success.

Drone and robotics

The field of robotics is advancing at an astonishing pace which presents opportunities for individuals interested in design-

ing and programming robots and drones. Robotics engineers develop robots for industries ranging from manufacturing and healthcare to logistics and entertainment. This field requires a blend of engineering skills and a passion for innovation.

As the job market evolves, it is essential for graduates to explore the new-age career options available to them. These fields not only provide exciting opportunities, but also offer the chance to make a meaningful impact in the world. By embracing the power of technology, innovation, and creativity, students can pave the way for a successful and fulfilling career.

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

World Heritage Day celebrated at GMS Steyangkung



Top News Report

KARGIL, Apr 19: Government Middle School (GMS) Steyangkung celebrated World Heritage Day with great zeal and purpose, emphasizing the value of preserving our rich cultural legacy.

The event was made even more meaningful as Steyangkung holds the distinction of being the first Heritage Village of Kargil, giving this celebration special impor-

tance in educating and inspiring the younger generation about heritage preservation.

The program was graced by renowned poet and scholar from the Sankoo region, Hadi Balti, as the Chief Guest. In his address, Balti presented his poignant couplets on the importance of heritage, stressing the urgent need for its preservation and restoration.

His poetry deeply moved the audience and highlighted the spiri-

tual and cultural wealth embedded in our traditions.

Students actively participated through traditional performances, and speeches, centered around the theme of safeguarding cultural heritage.

The Head of the Institution expressed heartfelt thanks to Hadi Balti for his enlightening presence and reiterated the school's mission to nurture awareness and respect for heritage among the students.

Senior Video Journalist bereaved

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Apr 19: In an atmosphere heavy with sorrow and grief, it is deeply heartbreaking to share that the beloved wife of my close friend, brother and senior video journalist and Daily Excelsior cameraman Javaid Dar passed away today after bravely battling a prolonged illness. Despite every possible effort by Javaid and the family to save her life, but in the end, it was Allah's decision.

The departed soul was known as a noble, humble and kind-hearted woman—gracious in nature and warm in presence. Her passing has left a deep and painful void not just in her family, but in the hearts of all who knew

and loved her.

Senior multimedia journalist and editor Aadil Bashir Dar expressed profound grief over the loss, calling it a personal tragedy beyond words.

"This is not just a loss for Javaid Dar, but a deep personal pain for me.

Our families have shared over two decades of closeness and mutual respect. I am shattered by this heartbreaking news," he said.

The news of her ultimate demise has cast a shadow of sorrow over the journalistic community. Friends, colleagues, neighbors, and members from social and political circles have extended heartfelt condolences, standing in solidarity with the griev-

ing family in this dark hour.

Her Namaz-e-Janazah was offered on Friday night at 8:30 PM, attended by a large number of people from across Kashmir. She was laid to eternal rest at her ancestral graveyard in Tengpora Zoonimar, Srinagar, amid tears, prayers and emotional farewells.

According to family sources, a Fateh Khawani (Ijtima-e-Dua) will be held on Monday, 21 April 2025, at 9:30 AM at the ancestral graveyard.

May Allah (SWT) envelop her soul in infinite mercy, grant her the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous and give strength and sabr to the bereaved family to endure this irreparable loss.

GGs College Principal, Prof. Uppal honored with Life Membership by International Academy of Ethics

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 19: International Academy of Ethics has proudly conferred Life Membership upon Prof. (Dr.) R.K. Uppal in recognition of his immense contributions to the fields of literature and education.

Dr. Rajinder Kumar Uppal is a distinguished Emeritus Professor and an acclaimed academician in the field of Banking and Finance.

He currently serves as Professor-cum-Principal at Guru Gobind College of Management and Technology, Gidderbaha, Punjab, India. I

n addition to his leadership role, he holds the position of MTC Global Chair Professor of Banking and Finance and serves as a Research Professor at the Indian Institute of Finance, New Delhi.

Dr. Uppal over the decades, through unwavering dedication and scholarly excellence, he has risen to become a leading authority in his disci-

pline. Born in a modest setting near the Bhatinda District of Punjab, Dr. Uppal's ascent from humble beginnings to academic distinction reflects his profound commitment to knowledge and education. Internationally recognized for his groundbreaking contributions to Banking and Finance, he has been granted numerous national and international patents resulting from his innovative research. A prolific author and respected mentor, Dr. Uppal has contributed extensively to scholarly literature and continues to serve as a reviewer, discussant, and session chair at various national and international academic forums. His visionary leadership, deep academic insights, and relentless pursuit of excellence continue to shape and inspire the evolving landscape of financial education and research.

Dr. Uppal expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Dr. J.S. Anand, a

renowned scholar and President of IAE, and also extended his thanks to Dr. Maja Herman Sekulic, Vice-President of IAE and a distinguished scholar.

Panel Discussion held at GDC Kathua

Top News Report

KATHUA, Apr 19: The Women Study Cell and Department of Political Science of Government Degree College (GDC) Kathua in collaboration with District Legal Service Authority Kathua, organized a vibrant panel discussion on the "Protection of Women rights and Inclusion of Women in Workplace" on Saturday.

The panel discussion started with the ceremonial lighting of lamp by Prof. Seema Mir, Principal of the college along with invited panellist and distinguished faculty members of the college. Prof. Seema Mir, Principal of GDC Kathua, presided over the event as the Chief Guest.

In facilitation ceremony Prof. Seema Mir, Principal of the college



was facilitated by flower bouquet by coordinator women study cell Prof. Neelam Bhagat. Followed by facilitation of Advocate Nayia Sharma by Dr. Ram Singh and Dr. Yash Paul Sharma and Lastly Advocate Rameshwar Chouhan is facilitated by Prof. Anil Kumar Verna, Prof. Renuka Kundal, Dr. Firdous Ahmed Reshi and

Prof. Ishfaq Ahmed from Department of Political Science.

The welcome address was presented by Prof. Anil Kumar Verma during the panel discussion.

The first panel discussion was started by Advocate Nayia Sharma and her topic of discussion was Domestic Violence and issues

related with it. Domestic violence is not a private matter. It is a serious violation of human rights. It does not discriminate — it affects women regardless of age, race, education, or social status. And more importantly, it is not always physical. Further she stated that violence against women is never acceptable. No justification, no excuse.

The second panel discussion was given by Advocate Rameshwar Chouhan in which he stated about inclusion of women in workplace and protection of women rights.

Prof. Seema Mir, Principal of the college appreciated the efforts of Women Study Cell and Department of Political Science for organising panel discussion.

The panel discussion was graced by senior faculty members of the college Prof. Neelam Bhagat, Dr. Ram Singh, Dr. Yash Paul, Prof. Shawani Sawhney, Dr. Kulbir Singh, Dr. Sunil Dutt, Prof. Meena Devi, Prof. Rakhi Malhotra, Prof. Renuka Kundal, Dr. Firdous Ahmed Reshi and Prof. Ishfaq Ahmed.

Adv. Tashi Gyalson reviews preparations ahead of 37th Drikung Kyabgön Chetsang Rinpoche's visit to Ladakh

Top News Report

LEH, Apr 19: Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson visited Tar-Thang, Lamayuru, and Wanla villages of Khamtsi Sub-Division to review preparations ahead of His Holiness the 37th Drikung Kyabgön Chetsang Rinpoche's visit to Ladakh, and the five-day Drikung Snake Year Teachings scheduled to be held at Lamayuru Photang from May 27 to 31, 2025.

The Councillor Khamtsi Constituency Lobzang Sherab, Lamayuru Constituency Dr. Morup Dorje and Nominated Councillor Ven. Konchok Tsepal accompanied the tour.

The tour began at Tar-Thang, where the CEC inspected the ongoing preparatory works and the site of the Community Hall. He directed all concerned departments to expedite the work and ensure timely completion of arrangements.

At Lamayuru, the CEC visited the Photang Rawa site, where he conducted a detailed inspection and interacted with monks and local residents near the monastery. The monks raised several concerns, including the need for a reliable water supply,



functional BSNL mobile towers, proper sanitation, and effective traffic and crowd management.

They also mentioned the need for temporary accommodation facilities in view of the expected influx of devotees and tourists. Emphasising that the teachings are being held after a gap of 12 years, the monks expressed hope for full support from all departments to ensure smooth and well-coordinated arrangements.

In response, the CEC assured that all possible efforts are being made to ensure necessary facilities are in place ahead of the event.

Emphasising the sig-

nificance of the occasion for the region, he directed all departments to work in close coordination to meet the logistical requirements of this large-scale spiritual gathering.

He also instructed officials to focus on road preparation, widening, and improving overall connectivity. Water supply, sanitation, and communication infrastructure, he said, will be prioritised in view of the anticipated footfall.

At Wanla, the CEC made a brief stop at Government High School, interacted with the teachers, and reviewed the school's infrastructure and ongoing progress.

He then visited Wanla Monastery, reiterating the administration's commitment to inclusive development and to preserving Ladakh's cultural and spiritual heritage and took stock of the ongoing works.

During a visit at Ursi, the Hon'ble CEC thoroughly inspected the under-construction Vipassana Meditation Centre, stating that the centre will serve as an important spiritual retreat in the future, while interacting with people the villagers extended gratitude to CEC, Leh for all the support extended till date.

At Hinju village, he held a public interaction during which residents

appreciated the development works carried out in recent years.

They thanked the Hon'ble CEC and earnestly appreciated his efforts in personally visiting Hinju and monitoring the progress of works on the ground. During the interaction, the villagers also put forward a few requests related to local infrastructure and public services, and held a brief discussion with the CEC regarding their needs and concerns, later visited Hinju Gonpa to oversee the preparation for Chetsang Rinpoche visit.

The Hon'ble CEC was also accompanied by the Assistant Commissioner Development Leh, Superintending Engineer PWD Leh, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Khamtsi, Executive Engineers of Public Health Engineering Division Leh, I&FC Division and R&B Khamtsi; Block Development Officer Khamtsi, Divisional Engineer BSNL Leh, and Assistant Executive Engineer PDD Khamtsi and various other officials. The tour reflected the H'CEC resolve to ensure that the grand spiritual gathering takes place smoothly, backed by efficient planning and robust infrastructure.

Ageless Champions: Jammu's Masters set for glory in Dharamshala 112 J&K athletes, aged 30 to 72, head to Nationals—proving passion has no age

Top News Report

JAMMU Apr 19: In a momentous and inspiring development, a contingent of 112 Masters athletes from Jammu and Kashmir is set to participate in the 7th National Masters Games being held in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh, from April 20 to 26, 2025.

Representing districts such as Jammu, Kathua, Samba, and Anantnag, this is the first time such a large and diverse group of veteran athletes from the Union Territory will compete at the national level under the banner of the Masters Games Association Himachal Pradesh, organized under the auspices of the Super Masters Games and Sports Federation (India).

To celebrate and support this

historic journey, the Jammu & Kashmir Masters Games Association (JKMGA) hosted a tea gathering. The event served as a platform to encourage and honour the athletes before their departure.

The send-off highlighted the growing recognition and appreciation of Masters sports and athletes in the region.

Speaking at the event, Ranjeet Singh Chib, President of JKMGGA and an ex-international handball player, stated, "As the saying goes, 'You don't stop playing because you grow old; you grow old because you stop playing.' Masters athletes embody this spirit every day, showing the world that life's second half can be just as vibrant and victorious as the first."

DySP Kuldeep Handoo,

Dronacharya Awardee and National Chief Coach of India in Wushu, emphasized that Masters sports promote a more inclusive and diverse sporting culture, challenging stereotypes that suggest athleticism is only for the young.

He noted that the sight of a 70-year-old completing a triathlon or winning a sprint sends a powerful message of undying passion and discipline.

Neete Kour Khalsa, General Secretary of JKMGGA, praised the Masters Games as a celebration of the enduring spirit, strength, and determination of older adults, proving that age is no barrier to achieving greatness.

Reputed ex-international footballer Inspector Ranjeet Singh Wazir, while speaking on the occasion, highlighted

the psychological and emotional benefits of participation in sports at any age.

He noted, "Whether someone is returning to a sport they once loved or trying something new, the process of training, setting goals, and reaching them boosts self-esteem and confidence. Physical activity is also a well-known stress reliever and mood enhancer. For many participants, Masters sports become a source of mental clarity and emotional well-being." In attendance were several notable figures and ex-national players, including Romesh Sharma, Vinay Saraf, Somraj Gupta, Sanjay Puri, Rameshwar Manhas, Mamta Bajaj and others, who all shared their heartfelt encouragement and best wishes for the Masters athletes heading

to Dharamshala.

The athletes will compete in 10 different sports across 14 teams, showcasing talent in disciplines including table tennis led by Rajiv Sharma, handball led by Neete Kour and Ranjit Singh Chib, badminton led by Ramesh Sharma, judo led by Varinder Sharma, athletics led by Ajay Sharma, powerlifting led by Neetu Kour, weightlifting led by Dayal Singh, and chess led by Anil Abrol.

The basketball women's team is being led by Mosmi Verma, while the men's team is captained by Bhanu Pratap Singh. Supporting the players are 11 officials, including physiotherapist Dr. Sonia Chib, who will ensure the health and well-being of the athletes throughout the competition.

Babil Khan, who is seen in Logout, feels the OTT film is more about our inherent and constant need for external validation

Wise beyond years yet carrying the trademark exuberance of youth, legendary actor Irrfan Khan's son Babil Khan could teach a thing or two to mature adults. Of course, the 26-year-old is in no preaching mode. His latest Zee5 film Logout, which started streaming this Friday, deals with the problem of digital addiction. Interestingly, Babil is not addicted to anything except love, both 'giving and receiving'.

Most of the credit for digital detox, of course, goes to his parents for ensuring that he was in constant touch with all things organic and natural, 'my friends had gaming consoles while I had lego.' In fact, he was given a phone only when he was 16, which too at one point he deliberated upon dumping in the Andaman sea for, "I value freedom over anything else and often my phone does seem to be an intrusion." As for Logout, the gifted would not like to spell out the message. Rather, he says, "Messaging limits the film. I would like viewers to form their opinions and draw their own interpretations." Besides, he adds, "Social media is not the problem or even a threat, rather, how we

use it is."

Logout, he feels, is more about our inherent and constant need for external validation. Since there is a thin line between self-love and external validation, he agrees that often one crosses it. Why, he is candid enough to admit that he too forgot the distinction. "My image, based on the opinions of others, became more important to me. When you fall into a trap, even you don't realise you are manipulating yourself. Soon after Baba's (Irrfan Khan) death, I mistook the outpouring of collective grief and read their love as expectations from me. The truth is Baba's real legacy is not to follow in his footsteps, but to be your own person."

Years have not lessened the pain of losing him. He says, "Time per se is not a healer. You have to learn to live with your pain and then it evolves. It can transform you into a better person and the reverse can happen too."

Since one of the actors in Logout is the talented Rasika Dugal, also his father's co-star of the much-acclaimed Qissa, did he feel his presence more around her? He says, "I feel his presence all the time. It has



nothing to with his co-stars. Being with such great actors only makes me marvel at their skill sets, their enviable balance between craft and art."

From a sterling debut in Qala to making an impactful presence in The Railway Men to now headlining a film, does he feel the pressure of being the lead actor? "Pressure will always be there. It can hone your craft and ruin you too, depends entirely upon

how you take it."

Of course, more meaty parts are in the pipeline. But for Logout, yes, it is, "Just me and my computer and a third person who is a part of the reveal." Since Amit Golani, director of Logout, has previously produced comedies like Mamla Legal Hai, humour is part of the narrative. He nods his head but also goes into self-reflection mode, "I don't know whether I have pulled it off. I think

humour is most difficult aspect of acting." Saying a punch-line for 18 takes and not losing the sting, he states, "Requires huge effort and precision."

On whether he is happy with the way his journey is panning out, the philosopher in him surfaces. He says, "Happiness is not a metric with which I measure my life. Happiness is not a constant, the moment we presume so, we put pressure on ourselves and create a lot of anxiety in our lives."

Spoken like a true wise man and to paraphrase George Bernard Shaw, clearly wisdom is not wasted on him. Look out for the same manifest (transform) in his acting. Though so far we have seen him only in OTT offerings, he is ready to take a chance with a theatrical outing. For someone who follows his gut rather than his intelligence, instinct drives him and his choices. Whether he has truly logged into Bollywood, well, as he puts it, "I have logged into myself, the moment you log out of your desires and dreams, yet be aware of them somewhere, things begin to fall in place." So watch him log-in, in Logout.

Karan Johar denies taking weight loss medication: I am in the pink of health



Filmmaker Karan Johar has dismissed rumours that he took weight loss medication to achieve his new look and said he has lost the kilos "the right way". In an Instagram

Live, Johar dismissed rumours that he took any weight loss medication.

"That's a lot of work, and it's not medication like the rumour suggests. I want to tell you I

am in the pink of health. I've never felt happier, lighter on my feet. I've lost my weight the right way. I ideally wake up with a spring in my step, and I feel ready to work with new zest and zeal. So, yeah, I love it," he added.

The filmmaker said his weight loss journey started with him discovering that he needed to correct his blood levels.

The director said he is currently on a diet where he eats one meal a day and stays active by playing paddleball and swimming.

Earlier this year at the IIFA Digital Awards, Johar was asked about his weight loss and he said, "It's about being healthy—eating right, exercising, and doing your best to feel good." When asked about his routine, Johar had said, "If I do that, I'll give my secret away." The rumours around Johar's physique surfaced last year after the director was seen with noticeable weight loss. His latest appearances only ignited the speculations further with many believing that he is on weight loss medication.

Johar's credits include "Kuch Kuch Hota Hai", "Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani", "My Name Is Khan" and "Student of the Year".

All glamour at Kesari 2 screening in Mumbai

As Kesari Chapter 2 showcased the 'untold story of Jallianwala Bagh tragedy' in theatres, the lead actor Akshay Kumar urged his fans to not miss the initial 10 minutes of the film. He requested the audience to arrive early in theatres. At a special screening of the film in Mumbai, the actor said, "To all the people who will be coming to watch the film, I request that you not miss the beginning of it. The first 10 minutes of this film is the most important thing. I am sure that it will reach everyone through your camera. The people who have decided to watch this film will know that they should not be late. They should come at the right time. And the 10 minutes of this film start from there."

The special screening of the film was attended by numerous stars of Bollywood, including Kajol, Saqib Saleem, Tiger Shroff, Vicky Kaushal, Anjali Anand, Manish Malhotra, Ibrahim Ali Khan, Dino Morea, Maheep Kapoor,



Bhavna Panday, and Urmila Matondkar.

Akshay Kumar has played the legendary advocate C Sankaran Nair in the film. It has been directed by Karan Singh Tyagi and produced by Karan Johar. Ananya Panday and R Madhavan are also a part of Kesari Chapter 2.

Anupam Kher set for his second directorial 'Tanvi The Great'

Actor Anupam Kher is set for his second directorial, which is titled 'Tanvi The Great'. The actor opened up about his new project and how it is different from his debut directorial 'Om Jai Jagdish' in 2002. Taking to his Instagram handle, Anupam shared a photo in which he was seen wearing a director's shirt while posing for the photograph.

The 'Saaransh' actor, in his latest social media post, opened up about his debut directorial movie 'Om Jai Jagdish' and said that he loved working in that film as the director.

Now, after 23 years,



the actor has donned the director's cap once again to showcase his filmmaking skills with 'Tanvi The Great'.

"It took me 23 years to wear a #Director t-shirt again! I loved directing the first film #OmJaiJagdish."

The ability I had. I made the film accordingly. But the story of that movie wasn't mine," wrote Anupam.

The actor further emphasised the fact that he was committed to the story of the film.

"The story of 'Tanvi the Great' is out of my heart and soul. And then life has taught a lot in the last 23 years. And now

I'll keep telling you Tanvi-related talks, stories and stories until the film is released! Don't be bothered! This is marketing and love too! Jai Ho," added Anupam.

The film features music by Oscar-winning composer MM Keeravani and is produced in collaboration with the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC).

'Tanvi The Great' also stars 'Game of Thrones' actor Iain Glen and will feature sound design by Resul Pookutty, the Academy Award-winning sound designer known for Slumdog Millionaire.

Prabhas enjoys month-long vacation in Italy, set to resume shooting in June

Pan-India star Prabhas, who has had a packed schedule over the past year with back-to-back film commitments, is currently enjoying a much-needed break in Italy. Known for his low-key lifestyle off-screen, the actor has taken a month-long holiday to rejuvenate before diving back into work.

Sources close to the actor reveal that Prabhas will be off the grid for most of April and May, using the downtime to travel across scenic Italian towns, away from the media glare. This rare breather comes after he wrapped major portions of his upcoming big-budget projects, including 'The Raja Saab' and other yet-to-be-revealed ventures.

"Prabhas has been shooting non-stop for multiple films and needed this time off.

He's in Italy for a quiet holiday and will be back in June to resume shooting," a source from the production team confirmed.

Upon return, the Baahubali actor is expected to get back to the sets of 'The Raja Saab,' a horror romantic entertainer directed by Maruthi. The film has already generated buzz with its first-look poster, and will showcase Prabhas in a never-before-seen avatar. He will also continue patchwork for Fauji, a war-period drama helmed by Hanu Raghavapudi, which is eyeing a grand release later this year.

Simultaneously, he is gearing up to start filming 'Spirit,' his ambitious cop drama with 'Animal' director Sandeep Reddy Vanga. The film, expected to go on floors this year, will mark Prabhas'



first time playing a police officer.

A crew member from one of his upcoming films added, "He's someone who gives his all on

set. This break will only help him return sharper and more focused. Once he's back, it's going to be a packed calendar till the end of the year."

Ben Affleck says he hated to wear his 'Batman' costume

Actor Ben Affleck says he never liked his "Batman" costumes as they were "horrendous to wear".

Affleck played the superhero in "Batman vs Superman: Dawn of Justice" (2016), "Justice League" (2017), "Zack Snyder's Justice League" (2021) and "The Flash" (2022).

"I hated the Batsuits. The Batsuits are horrendous to wear," the 52-year-old actor told GQ in an interview.

"They're hot for one thing. They don't breathe. They're made to look the way they want them to look. There's no thought put into the human being. So what happens is that you just start sweating. I'm already, I sweat, you know what I mean? So



in that thing, you'd just be pouring water," he added.

Affleck said the costume doesn't make one feel heroic. "It just made it difficult to make the movie, because you're so hot. It also does not make you feel very heroic, because you're instantly exhausted and really sweaty." "Maybe Christian (Bale) or Rob (Pattinson), guys like that, were just better at dealing with it," he quipped.

Both Bale and Pattinson have featured in "Batman" films.

The last "Batman" film, titled "The Batman", released in 2022. Starring Pattinson in the lead alongside Zoe Kravitz and Colin Farrell, it was directed by Matt Reeves.

On World Liver Day, PM Modi pitches for fitter India

NEW DELHI, Apr 19 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday pitched for a fitter and healthier India by taking small steps such as reducing oil intake and raising awareness about the adverse effects of obesity, as he lauded the Union health ministry's efforts to mark World Liver Day. Observed annually, World Liver Day seeks to raise awareness about liver health and diseases. The theme for this year is "Food is Medicine".

Modi said in a post on X, "Commendable effort to mark World Liver Day with a call for mindful eating and healthier



living. Small steps like reducing oil intake can make a big difference. Together, let's build a fitter, healthier India by rais-

ing awareness about obesity." The prime minister was replying to Union Health Minister JP Nadda's post urging people to pledge to reduce their edible oil intake by at least 10 per cent and embrace a healthier lifestyle, a reiteration of Modi's call on these lines to stop obesity.

Nadda also said, "Let's also pledge to raise awareness about obesity and its growing impact on our society. Together, let's work towards a future where healthier living is the norm, starting with the food we eat." Small changes can lead to big results when food is treated as medicine, he added.

Free from medicines: Amit Shah reveals weight-loss journey on World Liver Day



NEW DELHI, Apr 19 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday spoke about his remarkable weight-loss journey on World Liver Day, inspiring the "youth of the nation" to actively focus on their health so that they can "live another 40-50 years and contribute to the country's progress."

Recollecting his journey towards fitness, Shah said that all it took was for him to change his diet, increase the

hours of sleep and daily exercise.

"The required amount of sleep, water and diet, and routine exercise has given me a lot... Today, I stand before you free from any kind of allopathic medicine and insulin," he said, addressing an event organised by the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences in Delhi on World Liver Day.

Sharing his experience about his weight-loss journey since 2020, Shah urged people to take exercise and sleep seriously.

"I request them to dedicate two hours of exercise for their body and six hours of sleep for their brain. This would be extremely useful. This is my own experience," he said.

Several other dignitaries, including Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Saxena and Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, also shared the stage with Shah.

Hailing the "commendable" initiative, Prime Minister Narendra Modi took to X and said: "Small steps like reducing oil intake can make a big difference. Together, let's build a fitter, healthier India by raising awareness about obesity."

Inherited truth, courage from Nehru: Rahul Gandhi

NEW DELHI, Apr 19 (Agencies): Jawaharlal Nehru's greatest legacy was giving Indians the courage to resist oppression and claim freedom, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said on Saturday and added he inherited "truth and courage" from his great-grandfather — the country's first prime minister.

In a free-wheeling conversation with party leader Sandeep Dikshit that was posted on the former Congress chief's X handle and YouTube channel, Gandhi talks about his pursuit of truth and his willingness to stand by it no matter what the cost.

"Nehru didn't teach us politics — he taught us to confront fear and stand for the truth. He gave Indians the courage to resist oppression and ultimately claim freedom," the leader of

opposition in the Lok Sabha said in the post on X.

"His greatest legacy lies in his relentless pursuit of truth — a principle that shaped everything he stood for," he added.

The video has been uploaded on Gandhi's YouTube channel with the caption "Truth and Courage — What I Inherited from Nehru".

"This one's personal. In this podcast-style conversation with Sandeep Dikshit, I speak about what drives me — the pursuit of truth — and how that pursuit is inspired by my great-grandfather, Jawaharlal Nehru. He wasn't just a politician. He was a seeker, a thinker, someone who walked into danger with a smile and came out stronger," Gandhi wrote in the video description.

"His greatest legacy lies in his relentless



pursuit of truth — a principle that shaped everything he stood for. He didn't teach us politics — he taught us to confront fear and stand for the truth. That need to seek, to question, to stay rooted in curiosity — it runs in my blood," the former Congress chief added.

Gandhi said his grandmother — former prime minister Indira Gandhi — told him stories of how Nehru nearly fell into a glacier in the mountains he loved, how animals were always part of the family, or how they never missed an hour of exercise.

"My mother still watches birds in the garden. I do judo. These aren't just hobbies — they're windows into who we are. We observe. We stay connected to the world around us. And what we carry most deeply is the instinct

Mayawati says Centre-state disputes over delimitation, NEP affects national interest

LUCKNOW, Apr 19 (Agencies): Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati on Saturday said it is "natural" that disputes between states and the Centre over the delimitation, national education policy "for political gains" hurts the people and the nation.



Good governance is that which takes the entire country along as per the Constitution," the former UP chief minister said.

In a post on X in Hindi, she said, "It is natural that public and national interest is hit by the use of disputes between the states and the Centre for political gains regarding census and re-allocation of Lok Sabha seats on its basis, the new education policy and the imposition of language, etc."

Mayawati said the government should instead pay attention to how children studying

in government schools, especially those from the oppressed groups and are poor, Dalit, tribal or from the backward class, can progress in IT and skilled fields without acquiring knowledge of English.

"Hatred towards language is inappropriate," she posted.

The central government and southern states are engaged in a tussle over delimitation exercise scheduled for next year. The Tamil Nadu government and the Centre are also clashing over the issue of the implementation of

the National Education Policy, and the debate around the "imposition of Hindi" linked to it.

The NEP and language imposition debate has recently emerged even in Maharashtra where the BJP government has decided to make Hindi a mandatory third language for students of Classes 1 to 5 in Marathi and English-medium schools across the state, in a departure from the practice of studying two languages.

Opposition parties have termed the move as "undermining" Marathi.

Will not allow compulsion of Hindi in Maharashtra: Uddhav Thackeray

MUMBAI, Apr 19 (Agencies): Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Saturday asserted that his party will not allow making Hindi compulsory in Maharashtra after the state government decided to make Hindi a mandatory third language for students of classes 1 to 5.

Addressing an event of the Bharatiya Kamgar Sena, the workers' wing of the Shiv Sena (UBT), Thackeray said his party has no aversion to the Hindi language but asked why it is being forced.

His remarks come amid the opposition's outcry over the Maharashtra government's decision to make Hindi a mandatory third language for students of Classes 1 to 5 in Marathi and English-medium schools across the state, in a departure from the practice of studying two languages.

The move is in line with the National Education Policy (NEP), which is being implemented in a phased manner across the state.

As per the GR, the revised NEP syllabus will be introduced for

Class 1 in 2025-26. For Classes 2, 3, 4, and 6, the implementation will follow in 2026-27, for Classes 5, 9, and 11 in 2027-28, and for Classes 8, 10, and 12 in 2028-29.

The three-language formula is already in place in all schools in the state, except for Marathi and English medium institutions. For these, the language of instruction, English, and Marathi will continue to be taught, the GR said. From Classes 6 to 10, the language policy will align with the state curriculum.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said the state has already adopted the NEP. "Marathi has already been made compulsory. Hindi should also be learnt as it is a means of communication across the entire country," he added.

Earlier on Thursday, MNS chief Raj Thackeray had strongly opposed the Maharashtra government's decision, calling it an attempt to "Hindi-fy" the state and undermine its linguistic identity. In a sharply worded statement, Thackeray said Hindi is not a national



language and questioned why it was being imposed on Maharashtra, while warning of a political agenda behind the move. He asserted, "We are Hindus but not Hindi."

The MNS leader also accused the government of using the language issue to divert attention from real concerns like unemployment, agrarian distress, and the state's economic slowdown. He vowed to block the distribution of Hindi textbooks in schools and urged citizens, the Marathi media, and political parties to stand united in opposing the policy.

NCP (SP) leader Supriya Sule on Saturday voiced strong opposition to the Maharashtra government's decision to make Hindi a mandatory third language, warning that

any move undermining Marathi would not be tolerated. Speaking in Pune, Sule said parents should have the right to choose additional languages and emphasised that Marathi, the state's mother tongue, must remain the priority. She also questioned the rush to implement NEP without proper infrastructure or teacher training and cited the ASER report to highlight existing learning gaps in core subjects.

Sule criticised the idea of replacing the state board with CBSE and called for a focus on strengthening basic education first. Sule said the state's governance under the current regime has shown little progress in the last 100 days, despite enjoying a strong mandate.

Meanwhile, Deputy

Chief Minister Ajit Pawar has defended the Maharashtra government's move, he criticised opposition parties for creating "unnecessary disputes" over the issue. Speaking at the inauguration of a memorial for the Chapekar Brothers, Pawar said Marathi will always be the first preference in the state, while stressing that English and Hindi are widely used and important for communication across India. He dismissed the political backlash—especially from MNS chief Raj Thackeray and the Congress—as a distraction from real issues.

Pawar underscored that Marathi's status remains secure and pointed to the Centre's recognition of Marathi as a classical language under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. He also mentioned upcoming plans to establish a Marathi Bhasha Bhavan in Mumbai to further promote the language. The implementation of Hindi as a third language is part of the state's phased rollout of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Massive fire at Prayagraj warehouse, company supplied tents to Maha Kumbh



PRAYAGRAJ, Apr 19 (Agencies): A fire broke out in the warehouse of a company, which supplied tenting materials for the recently-concluded Maha Kumbh,

in the Parade Ground area early on Saturday, an official said.

He added that water tenders were rushed to the spot, and efforts were underway to bring

the blaze under control. There were no reports of any casualties.

Rahul, who works in a godown near the warehouse where the fire broke out, claimed the sound of cylinders exploding could be heard.

Prayagraj's chief fire officer, Rajiv Kumar Pandey said six water tenders had been deployed to bring the blaze under control. Water tenders from other places were also reaching the spot.

Logs and tent items were stored in the warehouse, he added.

4 dead as building collapses in Delhi's Mustafabad, many feared trapped

NEW DELHI, Apr 19 (Agencies): Four persons died and dozen others—including three children—are feared trapped after a four-storey building collapsed in northeast Delhi's Mustafabad area in the early hours of Saturday, officials said.

According to a fire department official, a call regarding the building collapse was received at 2.50 am following which nine fire tenders-cum-rescue vehicles were rushed to Gali No. 1, Shakti Vihar in Dayalpur.

Police received information about the building collapse around 3.02 am at Dayalpur

police station, a senior police officer said.

"Upon reaching the location, it was found that a four-storey building belonging to Tehsin had collapsed, reportedly trapping 22 individuals," he said.

So far, 14 people have been rescued and shifted to Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital, where doctors declared four of them brought dead, the police officer said.

A joint rescue operation by teams from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the Delhi Police is currently underway.

"There is a possibility that up to 12 more



people are still trapped under the debris," said an NDRF officer.

Meanwhile, Mustafabad MLA Mohan Singh Bisht also arrived at the site of the incident to take stock of the situation. Speaking to reporters, he assured that appropriate legal action would be taken against any officials found negligent.

"I have informed the Delhi LG and the MCD commissioner that action should be taken against the officials for their negligence. Appropriate compensation will be provided to the families of the deceased..." he said.

Bisht also stated that the entire Mustafabad area is filled with illegally constructed buildings and could "cause harm" at any time.

"The power companies are not providing electricity connections to the poor, yet electric poles are found inside the houses. The MCD and other such departments are mired in corruption, and this incident has exposed them," the MLA stated.

Notably, the national capital is divided into 12 zones, and according to civic agency estimates, the total number of buildings in the city is approximately 35 lakh.

US Supreme Court halts deportation of Venezuelan migrants by Trump administration

The US Supreme Court has temporarily stopped the deportation of Venezuelan men by the Trump administration. This decision comes amid legal challenges and concerns over due process.

WASHINGTON, Apr 19 (Agencies): The US Supreme Court early on Saturday paused President Donald Trump's administration from deporting Venezuelan men in immigration custody after their lawyers said they were at imminent risk of removal without the judicial review previously mandated by the justices.

"The Government is directed not to remove any member of the putative class of detainees from the United States until further order of this Court," the justices said in a brief, unsigned decision.

Conservative Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito publicly dissented from the decision, issued around 12:55 a.m. (0455 GMT).

Lawyers for the American Civil Liberties Union filed urgent requests on Friday in multiple courts, including the Supreme Court, urging immediate action after reporting that some of the men had already been loaded onto buses and were told they were to be deported.

The ACLU said the rapid developments meant the administration was poised to deport the men using a 1798 law that historically has been employed only in wartime without affording them a realistic opportunity to contest their removal - as the Supreme Court had required.

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the Supreme Court decision.

The case raises questions about the Trump's administration's adherence to limits set by the Supreme Court. It carries the risk of a significant clash between the two coequal branches of government and potentially a full-blown constitutional crisis.

Elected last year on a promise to crack down on migrants, Trump invoked the 1798 Alien Enemies Act in an attempt to swiftly deport accused members of Tren de Aragua, a criminal gang originating from Venezu-



elan prisons that his administration labels a terrorist group.

The president and his senior aides have asserted their executive power grants them wide authority on immigration matters, testing the balance of power between branches of government.

BATTLE IN SEVERAL COURTS

During a hearing on Friday, a government lawyer said in a related case that he was unaware of plans by the Department of Homeland Security to deport the men on Friday but there could be deportations on Saturday.

Trump scored one victory on Friday when an appeals court put on hold a threat by District Judge James Boasberg of contempt charges.

Boasberg also denied an ACLU request to block Trump from deporting suspected members of Tren de Aragua, citing an April 7 Supreme Court ruling that allowed Trump to use the Alien Enemies Act, albeit with certain limits.

Boasberg said he was concerned the government would deport additional people as soon as Saturday but that, "At this point I just don't think I have the power to do anything about it."

Trump previously called for Boasberg's impeachment following an adverse ruling, prompting a rare rebuke from US Chief Justice John Roberts.

While one hearing played out

in Boasberg's court, the ACLU worked on a separate track to halt the deportations of Venezuelans held in Texas.

ACLU lawyers filed with the Supreme Court after failing to get a rapid response from earlier filings on Friday before U.S. District Judge James Hendrix in Abilene, Texas, and the Fifth US Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans to block any such deportations.

In Saturday's order, the Supreme Court invited the administration to file a response to the ACLU's request after the 5th Circuit acts.

The ACLU said the men had been handed forms indicating they were classified as members of Tren de Aragua.

At issue is whether the Trump administration has met the Supreme Court's standard for providing the detainees due process before sending them to another country - possibly to the notorious prison in El Salvador where others are jailed.

It was unclear on Friday how many people were potentially to be deported, and where they might be taken.

HOW MUCH NOTICE IS ENOUGH?

Their deportation would be the first since the Supreme Court's 5-4 ruling that allowed removals under the 1798 law while specifying that "the notice must be afforded within a reasonable time and in such a manner as will allow them to actually seek habeas relief in the proper

venue before such removal occurs."

Habeas corpus relief refers to the right of detainees to challenge the legality of their detention. It is considered a bedrock right under US law.

The Supreme Court did not indicate how much notice should be provided. Lawyers around the country have asked that the migrants be given 30 days' notice to allow them to contest their deportations. The Trump administration has not said publicly how much notice it intends to give the migrants.

The ACLU filed a photo of one of the notices with the court.

"You have been determined to be an Alien Enemy subject to apprehension, restraint, and removal," read the notice. The recipient's name was obscured, and it was noted that the migrant refused to sign it on Friday.

Asked about the planned deportations on Friday, Trump said he was unfamiliar with the particular case but added: "If they're bad people, I would certainly authorize it."

"That's why I was elected. A judge wasn't elected," he told reporters at the White House.

Defense lawyers and Democrats in Congress have pressed the administration to demonstrate how it knows the Venezuelans are members of the gang, which is active in human trafficking and other crimes in South America but has a smaller US presence.

"We are not going to reveal the details of counter terrorism operations, but we are complying with the Supreme Court's ruling," Assistant Secretary for US Homeland Security Tricia McLaughlin said in a statement on Friday.

On March 15, the Trump administration deported more than 130 alleged Tren de Aragua members to El Salvador. Many of the migrants' lawyers and family members say they were not gang members and had no chance to dispute the government's assertion that they were.

Elon Musk says he looks forward to visiting India later this year



WASHINGTON/NEW YORK, Apr 19 (Agencies): Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk on Saturday said he is looking forward to visiting India later this year.

The tech billionaire's remarks came a day after he and Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke and discussed the immense potential

for collaboration in technology and innovation.

"It was an honor to speak with PM Modi. I am looking forward to visiting India later this year!" Musk said in a post on X.

Musk is considered one of the most influential persons in the Donald Trump administration and is spear-

heading the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) aimed at cutting government expenditure and reducing the federal workforce.

After their talk on Friday, Modi took to X and said, "Spoke to @elonmusk 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," he added.

Reconsider travel to Bangladesh: US tells its citizens in view of ongoing civil unrest

WASHINGTON, Apr 19 (Agencies): The US has urged its citizens to desist from travelling to Bangladesh in view of the ongoing civil unrest in the country, while cautioning Americans against the possibility of terror attacks in the country.

In a latest travel advisory issued by the US State Department, it has urged Americans, "Reconsider travel to Bangladesh due to civil unrest, crime and terrorism. Some areas have increased risk."

The US has put Bangladesh in the "level 4" category for its citizens, which cautions Americans against travelling to the country.

The US advisory has especially mentioned the Khagrachari, Rangamati and Bandarban Hill Tracts districts (collectively known as the Chittagong Hill Tracts) due to "communal violence, crime, terrorism, kidnapping, and other security risks".

It states, "Since summer 2024, civil unrest and violent clashes have largely subsided with the formation of the Interim Government. Occasional protests continue with potential for violent



clashes. Conditions may change on short notice. US citizens are reminded to avoid all gatherings, even peaceful ones, since they could turn violent with little or no warning."

It added, "Travellers should be aware of petty crimes, such as pickpocketing in crowded areas. In addition, crimes such as muggings, burglaries, assaults and illegal drug trafficking constitute most criminal activities in Bangladesh's major cities, but there are no indications foreigners are targeted because of their nationality. These crimes tend to be situational, based on time and location."

Besides, it mentions, "There is a risk of terrorist violence, including terrorist attacks and other activity in Bangladesh."

Romania's presidential election redo is a high-stakes test of its democracy following annulled vote

Romania is gearing up to hold a presidential election redo next month, a high-stakes test for the European Union member's democracy after last year's annulled vote triggered the country's deepest political crisis since 1989

BUCHAREST., Apr 19 (Agencies): Romania's presidential election redo next month will be a high-stakes test for the European Union member's democracy after last year's annulled vote triggered the country's deepest political crisis since 1989.

Romania's Constitutional Court annulled the election on Dec. 6 after the far-right outsider Calin Georgescu topped first-round polls. The decision followed allegations of electoral violations and a Russian campaign promoting Georgescu, who is now under investigation and barred from the rerun. Moscow has denied it meddled.

"What happened last year was very serious and ... at that time, completely anti-democratic," Elena Lasconi, who came second to enter the runoff last year and is participating in the new election, told The Associated Press. "It was not justified, in my opinion."

Once a communist state until the end of the Cold War, Romania has spent decades trying to build strong democratic institutions. But last year's annulled election shattered public trust —

and it could take years to repair the damage.

"I think the public trust in political parties, in public institutions, in the state generally was quite low," says Septimius Parvu, coordinator of the electoral program at Expert Forum, a pro-democracy think-tank. "This dislocated even more the trust. It created an earthquake which would ... leave marks in the longer term on the trust in democracy."

Many feel Romanian authorities have not sufficiently explained what happened last year, which has left voters to wonder "whether this will be the final election," Parvu added.

Complicating Lasconi's chances in the rerun, her Save Romania Union party, or USR, withdrew its support for her last week in favor of incumbent Bucharest mayor Nicusor Dan, claiming he has a stronger chance of winning the presidency. Lasconi labeled colleagues who moved against her as "coup plotters."

She said it adds to the chaos in the wake of last year's election debacle, which has already left many Romanians disillusioned. "None of the state institutions have

assured us that we'll have fair elections," she said. "People said in the streets, 'our votes don't count'."

Cristian Andrei, a political consultant based in Bucharest, says there is an "underlying social discontent that could explode again" unless political parties and candidates start to "speak to all segments of society."

"The underlying issue in Romania is the widespread public dissatisfaction with the political class," he said. "It's important to keep reminding the public of what happened: that we were facing a campaign that attempted to hijack Romania's democracy using unorthodox and illegal means."

Georgescu's stunning rise — from polling in single digits to leading the first round — shocked many observers. The Russia-friendly candidate, who has praised fascist figures from Romania's past, not only unnerved Brussels but raised urgent questions about foreign interference in European elections.

Like other EU countries, the far-right vote in recent years has grown in Romania, fueled by widespread anti-estab-



lishment sentiment. After Georgescu was barred from the redo, Romania's far-right, which holds about a third of legislative seats, scrambled to find a successor. Up stepped George Simion, the leader of the Alliance for the Unity of Romanians, or AUR, who came fourth in last year's race and later backed Georgescu. The second biggest party in the legislature, AUR, proclaims to stand for "family, nation, faith, and freedom."

Simion has drawn criticism in the past due to anti-EU rhetoric and remarks against continued aid to Ukraine, a neighboring country, which like Moldova, he is banned from entering

over security concerns.

Romania's decision to annul the election, and the ban on Georgescu's candidacy, has been strongly criticized by U.S. Vice President JD Vance, Elon Musk and Moscow — which publicly supported his candidacy in the rerun.

"Geopolitically, we are in a very complicated situation," Lasconi warned. Eleven candidates are participating in the first round, which is scheduled for May 4. If no candidate wins more than 50% of the ballots, a runoff will be held on May 18.

Other key candidates include Dan, the Bucharest mayor running independently under the campaign slogan

"Honest Romania," and Crin Antonescu, who is backed by Romania's governing coalition and is running on a "Romania forward" platform.

Victor Ponta, a former prime minister between 2012 and 2015 who resigned after a fatal nightclub fire, is running on a MAGA-style "Romania First" ticket and boasts of having close ties to the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump.

After last year's events, data from local surveys should be taken with caution, given concerns about politicization. Still, a median of polls suggests a runoff could pit the far-right Simion against either Dan, Ponta, or Antonescu.

A Simion presidency could threaten EU unity as the war rages on in neighboring Ukraine. This is compounded by Trump's attempts to forge closer ties to Russian President Vladimir Putin as he seeks an end to the war in Ukraine.

In the wake of the annulled election, the role social media allegedly played in Georgescu's success came under intense scrutiny when declassified Romanian intelligence

pointed to coordinated foreign interference via the Chinese-owned video-sharing platform TikTok.

The case highlighted the threat large social media platforms can pose to liberal democracies, and the EU Commission responded by launching an ongoing probe into TikTok to determine whether it violated the EU's Digital Services Act in failing to deal with risks to Romania's election.

TikTok said it dismantled covert influence networks targeting Romanians in December, including over 27,000 accounts, which posted comments en masse via a "fake engagement vendor" promoting the AUR party and Georgescu, "in an attempt to manipulate Romanian elections discourse." It also removed more than 1,100 accounts impersonating presidential candidates.

TikTok stated it has taken steps to protect Romania's election integrity, including expanding its team of Romanian-speaking content moderators, working with a local fact-checking group to combat disinformation, and in-app tools linking

to official election information.

The concerns over social media, however, have led to what some critics view as undemocratic overreach by Romania's Central Election Bureau ahead of the new vote. The bureau has drawn recent criticism for requesting take-downs of online political comments by private citizens.

The political turbulence sparked large street protests and has left many voters uncertain and divided.

"Society is a bit divided, it's fragmented in a way as a reaction," said Octavian Frecea, a voter in Bucharest. "Only an isolated society isn't influenced from the outside ... We are economically and politically dependent on everyone."

As Romania heads into one of its most critical elections since 1989, the stakes go beyond who wins the next five-year presidency and may be viewed as a referendum on democracy.

"We've been divided for over 35 years," Lasconi said. "Now Romania isn't just split in two — Romania is shattered into many pieces."

Historic welfare measures uplifting tribal and border areas by Modi Govt: Vibodh

Top News Report

THANAMANDI, Apr 19: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu & Kashmir General Secretary and former MLC Vibodh Gupta today inaugurated the new BJP office at Thanamandi Mandal in Rajouri district. Addressing a large gathering of party workers and local residents, Gupta expressed gratitude to the people of Rajouri-Poonch for the historic voting in favour of BJP in the recently concluded assembly elections. "Although the BJP could not secure majority of seats in Rajouri-Poonch, there was record-breaking voting in favour of BJP candidates in the recently concluded elections in every constituency, indicating the party's growing foothold in the twin border districts. The party acknowledges this support and will focus more on expanding its base in these areas", asserted Vibodh. In his address, Gupta lauded the commitment and discipline of BJP workers in



strengthening the party at the grassroots level. "The dedication of our karyakartas in border and tribal areas reflects the true spirit of the BJP. It is their hard work that brings Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to life on the ground," he added. Highlighting PM Modi's special focus on the development of Jammu & Kashmir, especially border and tribal belts, Gupta said that Modi's vision for Jammu & Kashmir is transformative. "For decades, the tribal and

border areas remained neglected. Today, under Modi's leadership, these regions are being prioritized through historic welfare measures—be it political reservation for Gujjar and Bak-erwal communities, ST status for the Pahari tribe, the removal of the inter-district recruitment ban, or the establishment of Eklavya Model Residential Schools. From road connectivity to digital empowerment and education initiatives, the government is ensuring that the last

person in the last village feels the warmth of development," Vibodh maintained. Abdul Qayoom Mir, Administrator Waqf and DDC Thanamandi, lauded the inauguration of the new BJP office as a step towards inclusive development and political empowerment of the region. Raja Rattan Singh, District Vice President BJP Rajouri, highlighted the party's consistent efforts in strengthening its organizational structure at the grassroots level. Advocate Yogesh Sharma, Senior BJP Leader, commended the enthusiasm of the local workers and said that BJP's increasing support in Rajouri-Poonch is a sign of the people's trust in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision. Abdul Ghani Shawal, District Vice President BJP Rajouri, noted that the party is gaining unprecedented support in remote and border areas, thanks to its pro-people policies. He highlighted the Modi government's welfare schemes and measures.

UIET, JU hosts fresher-cum-farewell party “Genesis Gala”

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 19: UIET, University of Jammu hosted a vibrant and emotionally charged Fresher-cum-Farewell Party titled “Genesis Gala” today. The event served as a unique platform where B.Tech second year students (Civil and CSE) extended a warm welcome to the newly admitted batch and bid a heartfelt farewell to the outgoing students of the final year. The celebration was marked by exuberance, enthusiasm, and a strong sense of camaraderie among the students. The event featured a series of lively cultural performances, fun activities, ramp walks, and interactive games that kept the audience engaged throughout the day. Students enthusiastically

participated and showcased their talents, adding charm and energy to the celebration. The highlight of the event was the Mr. and Ms. Fresher and Mr. and Ms. Farewell contests, where students competed for the prestigious titles. The contestants were judged based on multiple criteria including confidence, presentation, communication skills, and stage presence. After a tough competition, Mr. Fresher was awarded to Raghav Bajaj, while Ms. Fresher was won by Manyata. For the outgoing batch, Sujal was crowned Mr. Farewell and Vandita was titled Ms. Farewell. In addition to these, several other exciting titles were distributed based on individual performances and unique traits

demonstrated during the event. The judging panel for the occasion included esteemed faculty members Dr. Anu-tusha Dogra, Dr. Nisha Choudhary and Er. Ritika Gupta, who commended the students for their vibrant participation and praised their confidence and creativity. Prof. Arvind Jasrotia, Rector, Kathua Campus (JU) congratulated the newly admitted batch and extended his blessings and good wishes to the outgoing students. He emphasized the importance of embracing new beginnings and cherishing past experiences. He advised the students to take benefit from most of the opportunities available in the campus and focus not only on academics but also on building character and acquiring life skills.

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Will not allow ‘Conflict Entrepreneurs’ to raise their heads again in J&K: LG Sinha

plans,” he added. Sinha appealed to Sufi scholars attending the event to make sure that such “conflict entrepreneurs” have no space in society. “I also request the Sufi scholars that there is a need to make a long-term plan to make Sufism popular among the youth so that extremist ideology will not get a chance to flourish among the people,” he said. The LG said if there is a need to make ideals of Sufism modern to achieve that, “then it is essential to work on that”. “We have to take it (message of Sufism) to the youths through new mediums,” he added.

CM Omar Abdullah reviews progress of EoDB for compliance reduction, Sets targets for reform implementation

Ministry of MSME. The initiative focuses on eliminating redundant regulations, reducing compliance burdens—particularly for MSMEs—promoting digitization and single-window clearances, and decriminalizing business laws wherever necessary. The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Principal Secretary Home, Principal Secretary PDD, Commissioner Secretary Industries and Administrative Secretaries of Housing & Urban Development, Forest, Rural Development, Public Works, Labour & Employment, Food Civil Supplies and Law Departments. Officers from Srinagar participated in the meeting via video conferencing. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah instructed all officers to break down the identified action plans—most of which have timelines of five to six months—into smaller, achievable deliverables on a fortnightly basis. He emphasized the need to track progress closely and examine reasons for any delays. He further directed that finalized action plans be promptly uploaded on the MIS portal and that implementation should begin without delay. Stressing the importance of accountability, the Chief Minister laid down a review mechanism under which progress of reforms will be evaluated every two months. Earlier, Commissioner Secretary Industries & Commerce Vikramjit

Singh briefed the meeting on the efforts of the J&K State Task Force, headed by the Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Government of India. The Task Force has identified 23 priority areas covering land use, labour reforms, building regulations, utility permissions, and broader governance practices. He noted that action plans for each area have been developed in coordination with the concerned departments and include clear timelines and reform measures. Key areas discussed during the meeting included the introduction of flexible zoning frameworks to allow mixed-use development, simplification and digitization of the land use change (CLU) process, fire service department clearances and rationalization of road width norms for rural industries along with updated building bylaws aimed at minimizing land loss. The meeting also deliberated on GIS mapping of industrial estates and their integration with the India Industrial Land Bank (IILB), labour reforms enabling night-time employment of women and raising worker thresholds, decriminalization of minor violations, and simplification of licensing procedures. Additionally, the integration of water and electricity services under the single-window system and the full linkage of J&K’s Single Window Portal with the National Single Window System (NSWS) were discussed in detail. The Chief Minister stressed on adopting a proactive approach and reiterated the importance of uploading approved action plans on the MIS portal. He underscored the need for continuous monitoring and periodic reviews to ensure timely and effective implementation of the reforms.

MHA Panel to visit J&K for six days from April 26, Govt appoints 25 liaison officers

Meanwhile, officers like Owais Mushtaq (Health & Medical Education), Nuzhat Khurshid (Tourism), Ata-ul Munim Tak, Shabnam Rashid (State Taxes), Raeis Ahmad Bhat, Shurjeel Ali Naiku, Mir Zahida (IMPA&RD), Najwan Nazki (FCS&CA), Suhail ul Islam (SMC Secretary), Sartaj Hus-sain (Estates), Mantasha Binti Rashid (Rural Sanitation), Ajaz Ahmad Shah, Bashir Ahmad Lone (GM DIC Kulgam), Nasir Mehmood Khan (Tourism), and Syed Nadeem Iqbal Andrabi (Industries & Commerce) have been assigned responsibilities in Kashmir Division, it reads. Order reads, further, the above officers are directed to report to the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir, respectively on 23.4.2025, for briefing on their roles and responsibilities.

3 drug peddlers

held with 22 gm heroin worth lakhs in Udhampur

was booked under the stringent Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PIT-NDPS) Act in the district, a police spokesperson said. Three alleged inter-state narcotic smugglers were arrested after 22 grams of heroin were recovered from them during vehicle checking at Phalata in Rehambal on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway, the spokesman said. He identified the arrested smugglers as Ishfaq Ahmed of Srinagar and Farooq Ahmad and Mohd Kamal Hussain of Delhi and said a case under the NDPS Act was registered against the arrested accused. The spokesman said a “notorious” drug peddler Ajay Dev Singh of Shiv Nagar was detained under the PIT-NDPS act. The accused was promoting drug addiction among the youth and has become a threat to the peaceful environment, he said, adding many cases already stand registered against him in different police stations in the district.

Kulgam, Shopian admins directed to assess hailstorm damages for compensation of affected families: Sakeena Itoo

coordination with local representatives and community leaders to expedite assessment of losses and necessary compensation to affected families. The Minister reiterated the commitment of Omar Abdullah led government towards uplifting the conditions of orchardists and farmers by smooth implementation of various beneficiary oriented schemes like HADP, RKVY, KCC and others.

Army facilitates mobile connectivity across Ladakh region including Galwan, Siachen Glacier

This initiative has proved to be a major morale-booster for soldiers serving in isolated winter cut-off posts at altitudes above 18,000 feet, allowing them to stay connected with their families and loved ones, the officials said. The pioneering effort has been made possible through a collaborative approach under the Whole-of-Government framework, where-in the Indian Army — leveraging its

robust optical fibre cable infrastructure — has partnered with Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) and the UT administration of Ladakh, they added. The Fire and Fury Corps has played a leading role in enabling this synergy, resulting in the installation of multiple mobile towers on Army infrastructure, including four key towers in Ladakh and Kargil districts alone, the Army officials said. The impact of this initiative extends far beyond troop welfare. It is a significant nation-building endeavour that is transforming the socio-economic fabric of remote border villages. By integrating ‘First Villages’ into the national digital network, this effort is bridging the digital divide, boosting local economies, promoting border tourism, enhancing medical aid and emergency services, and enabling educational access. A particularly historic milestone was the successful installation of a 5G mobile tower on the Siachen Glacier — the highest battlefield in the world — showcasing India’s technological prowess and resolve, they said. The officials said local populations have welcomed this initiative with overwhelming gratitude. Mobile connectivity is not just a communication tool, it is now a lifeline for remote communities, fostering inclusion, opportunity and dignity. This visionary initiative by the Indian Army stands as a testament to its enduring commitment to national integration and development, echoing the spirit of ‘Viksit Bharat’ – India@2047, the officials added. 22 families shifted amid lurking threat of landslide in Kishtwar

hampering road clearance operations. He said the district administration is alive to the situation and is keeping a close watch to avoid any untoward incident. Machail Mata shrine was reopened for the pilgrims only a week ago after winter, marking the commencement of the annual yatra season. However, the closure of the road and the threat of the landslide near Patherdaki hit the yatra. The local residents blamed massive blasting by the executing agency working on the 624 MW Kiru Hydro-Electric project, a run-of-river scheme, as the reason behind the scary situation. The district development commissioner, during his visit to the site on Friday, was briefed by officials from the General Reserve Engineer Force (GREF) on the current status of the ongoing restoration and construction works on the damaged route. After a thorough examination of the site, the DDC issued necessary directions to the GREF authorities to expedite the work while ensuring safety and sustainability, an official said.

He directed the local administration to stay on high alert and conveyed to the GREF authorities the importance of strengthening the affected section to ensure uninterrupted connectivity and to safeguard commuters, especially during the monsoon season. The deputy commissioner advised hydroelectric project authorities to strictly adhere to standard operating procedures (SOPs) to minimise further impact and avoid exacerbating existing cracks. Patherdaki and Kiru segments of the road are highly slide-prone and remain at constant risk of disruptions. Hence, continuous monitoring and prompt responsiveness from all stakeholders remain imperative, the official said. BJP local MLA Sunil Sharma called for a permanent solution to the issue, saying the area has become prone to frequent landslides over the past one-and-a-half years. “The concerned agencies have been managing the slide zone temporarily to avoid traffic disruption but the issue needs a permanent solution,” he said. Sharma, who is also the leader of the opposition in the legislative assembly, said he had already raised the issue with the deputy commissioner and “we are looking forward to a permanent solution” to the issue. The closure of the road caused immense hardships to the residents of Paddar and Pangri who are now using an alternate trekking route to move in and out of the region. ACB files twin cases in Hokersar dredging, illegal building permission by LAWDA

private contractor company, M/S Reach Dredging Limited. The findings reveal that tenders were invited under NIT No.01 of 2018-19 dated July 7, 2018, for the work and construction of a channel across HokerSar Wetland. The work was allotted in favour of M/S REACH Dredging Ltd. for Rs. 2055.565 lacs by Chief Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Kashmir with the Provision that no material shall be dumped within the periphery of HokerSarwetland. Despite major works being executed based on altered parameters through a Letter of Intent (LOI), the work was awarded based on original advertised quantities and costs, with no clarity on dumping sites or the disposal of excavated material,” he said. The findings of the enquiry also revealed that significant variations in transportation leads (ranging from 8 km to 18 km) were clubbed together, allowing undue payments for transportation of excavated material, most of which was allegedly not disposed off as per the NIT. The manipulation of the specifications of work and quantities resulted in financial loss amounting to Rs. 2.29 crores (approx.), to the State Exchequer, excluding royalty and minor mineral costs and further damage to the ecology of the wetland, he said.

The SSP added that public servants namely Siraj-Ud-Din Shah and Ghulam Ahmad Beigh, the then Executive Engineers Flood Spill Chanal Division of Narbal and Irfan Ahmad Reshi, the then AEE Flood Spill Channel Division Narbal among others, colluded with the contractor company M/S Reach Dredging Limited thereby caused huge loss of funds to the State Exchequer and defeated the purpose for which the dredging in the wetland was initiated. “Based on these findings the FIR No. 07/2025 under sections 5(1)(d) r/w 5(2) of the J&K Prevention of Corruption Act and section 120-B/RPC has been registered and investigation set into motion,” he said, adding that the trio have been taken into the custody and said that the further remand is being sought. Sharing details of the second case, the SSP said that case pertains to the illegal building permissions by the then Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (LAWDA). He said the ACB Srinagar has initiated legal action following a verification (SLK-12/2017) prompted by a complaint from the Intizamia Committee of Masjid Shareef, Gagribal Boulevard. The complaint alleged that illegal construction activities by one Iftikhar Sadiq, S/o Rafiq Sadiq, a resident of Gagribal, who is accused of constructing multi-storey hostel buildings on approximately 12 kanals of custodian land at Gagribal, Srinagar, he said, adding that the verification revealed a criminal conspiracy involving officials from the Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (LAWDA), Town Planning Organization, and Custodian Department. “It was found that Iftikhar Sadiq received permission to construct five hostel structures in violation of J&K Building By-Laws of 2011, particularly regarding the minimum land requirement of 3 kanals per hostel for 50 students. Despite initial permission (NOCs) for only three structures, subsequent permissions were issued for two more in gross violation of regulations. The construction deviated significantly from approved plans, resulting in structures resembling resorts rather than hostels,” he said. The case highlights abuse of official positions by several officials, including those from LAWDA and the Custodian Evacuee Property Department, who allegedly colluded with Iftikhar Sadiq for personal financial gains, Javid Hassan Bhat said, adding that based on these findings, a case under FIR number 08/2025 has been registered at Police Station ACB Srinagar and further investigation has been taken up. Asked about the delay in cases, the SSP, said it is the outcome of the delayed complaints and the procedures that are being followed to collect the details. “While collecting details from the departments, we are being informed that the records have got devastated in the 2014 floods,” he said, adding that in such a situation, the delays occur, but the ACB has been keeping close vigil on the activities of the officials and departments to act against the corruption and other related things.

Army leads nation-building effort to empower remote border villages

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 19: In a transformative stride towards bridging the digital divide and empowering remote communities, the Indian Army has facilitated unprecedented mobile connectivity across the remote and high-altitude areas of Ladakh, including forward locations in Eastern Ladakh, Western Ladakh, and the Siachen Glacier.

For the first time ever, troops deployed in some of the world's most inhospitable terrains—such as DBO, Galwan, Demchok, Chumar, Batalik, Dras, and the Siachen Glacier—now have access to reliable 4G and 5G mobile connectivity. This initiative has proved to be a major morale booster for soldiers serving in isolated



winter cut-off posts at altitudes above 18,000 feet, allowing them to stay connected with their families and loved ones.

The pioneering effort has been made possible through a collaborative approach under the Whole-of-Government framework, wherein the Indian Army—leveraging its robust optical fibre cable infrastruc-

ture—has partnered with Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) and the UT Administration of Ladakh. The Fire and Fury Corps has played a leading role in enabling this synergy, resulting in the installation of multiple mobile towers on Army infrastructure, including four key towers in Ladakh and Kargil districts alone.

The impact of this

initiative extends far beyond troop welfare. It is a significant nation-building endeavour that is transforming the socio-economic fabric of remote border villages. By integrating 'First Villages' into the national digital network, this effort is bridging the Digital Divide, boosting Local Economies, promoting Border Tourism, enhancing Medical Aid

and Emergency Services, enabling Educational Access, and strengthening local commerce.

A particularly historic milestone was the successful installation of a 5G mobile tower on the Siachen Glacier—the highest battlefield in the world—showcasing India's technological prowess and resolve.

Local populations have welcomed this initiative with overwhelming gratitude. Mobile connectivity is not just a communication tool—it is now a lifeline for remote communities, fostering inclusion, opportunity, and dignity.

This visionary initiative by the Indian Army stands as a testament to its enduring commitment to national integration and development, echoing the spirit of Viksit Bharat – India@2047.

GDC Paloura bids farewell to outgoing students of semester sixth

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 19: The students, staff and management Govt. Degree College Paloura bid farewell to the outgoing students semester sixth under the guidance of Principal of the college, Dr. Kulvinder Kour.

Filled with curiosity and zeal, the farewell ceremony was organized by the students of semester fourth and second on 19th of April 2025 in the college campus. The day was a fiesta devoted to the years spent together with friends and teachers, to reminisce joyous moments.

The function commenced with the formal welcome of Prof. Geetanjali Multani,

Dean Students Welfare, Revered and Respected Faculties of all the departments.

Prof. Geetanjali was felicitated with saplings as they graced the day with their benign presence. The music group recited a soulful prayer followed by melodious heart touching songs.

Prof. Multani passed on the light of wisdom to all the students of semester sixth.

The students were wished good luck for future years. She also enlightened the students with her inspirational speech. She motivated and mentored the students to live a happy and contented life ahead.

Other faculty members also shared their experiences with outgoing

students. The mementoes were presented to all the outgoing students by the junior students as a token of blessings.

Shruti and Shreya of semester fourth hosted the program and expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the alma mater. The cultural programme showcased the multiple talents of students who presented entertaining group dance and singing performance. The performance were thoroughly enjoyed by the momentum for the day.

Thereafter, there was a spate of dance, music and laughter of their vast repository of skills. All students and staff relished the farewell buffet as the day came to an emotional close.

Three-day course on “Investigation of Anti-Corruption Cases” concludes at SKPA Udhampur



Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Apr 19: The three-day course

on “Investigation of Anti-Corruption Cases,” which commenced on 17th April 2025 at SKPA,

concluded successfully on Saturday. Fourteen investigating officers from the J&K Police participated in the training program.

The course was meticulously designed to equip participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively combat corruption. Its primary focus was to comprehend various forms of corruption and the associated legal

frameworks.

Throughout the program, participants benefited from insights provided by guest faculty from ACB J&K, FSL J&K, and CID J&K.

Topics covered included Anti-Corruption definitions, policies, laws, and acts, an introduction to the Prevention of Corruption Act 2006, identification of suspects through handwriting in Anti-Corruption cases, investigation into abuse of official position, investigation of bank fraud cases, preventive vigilance with a special reference to the Public Men and Public Servants (Declaration of Assets and other Provisions) Act 1993, guidelines for investigating officers regarding the collection of relevant documents/evidence during investigation/verification of cases related to construction works, the importance of JSCs/Verification/secret verifications, and investigation of disproportionate assets cases.

To mark the occasion, a Valediction function was organized at the Academy, with Rakesh Sambyal, Chief Pros-

cuting Officer, CLI SKPA, as the chief guest.

Sambyal emphasized that the investigation of Anti-Corruption cases goes beyond finding culprits; it is about restoring faith, protecting public resources, and ultimately improving the lives of citizens.

He stressed the importance for participants to explore methodologies, legal frameworks, and ethical considerations essential for conducting thorough investigations, with dedication to upholding the principles of integrity and accountability.

In his valediction address, Rakesh Sambyal highlighted that the fight against corruption is a continuous journey, and as future guardians against corruption, the role of investigators is crucial. Each case they investigate holds the potential to restore public trust and safeguard the pillars of society.

The coordination of the course was handled by Shri Riaz Ahmed, Sr.PO, assisted by Head Constable Balbir Singh.

Young Entrepreneur Zubair Drabu paves way for self-employment at Banihal under PMFME Scheme



Top News Report

RAMBAN, Apr 19: In a remarkable journey of determination and entrepreneurship, Zubair Ahmed Drabu from Banihal has successfully established DBS Spices Banihal (DBS), a business unit specializing in the grinding, packaging and marketing of spices at Dooliga, Banihal. His venture has been formalized under the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme, implemented by the Department of Horticulture Planning and Marketing.

Zubair's story is one of resilience and perseverance. After losing his father in 2006 and mother in 2017, he single-handedly took on the responsibility of raising his two younger sisters, managing their education and marriage while simultaneously striving to build his own livelihood. Starting at a micro level in 2019, he engaged in the marketing of dry fruits and

locally produced agro-based products, gradually shaping his entrepreneurial vision.

With training, financial assistance, logistical support, and continuous handholding from the department, Zubair Ahmed Drabu transformed his previously unorganized home-based business into a structured and thriving enterprise. He thanked the District Administration Ramban, particularly Deputy Commissioner Baseer-UI-Haq Chaudhary, for proactively implementing various employment and job-oriented schemes, helping young entrepreneurs like him overcome the challenges of unemployment.

He highlighted the immense support provided by the administration & Department of Horticulture (P&M) Ramban including specialized training at SKUAST-Jammu, participation in the International Exhibition at Pragati Maidan, Delhi, and a buyer-seller meet in Hyderabad, which

he described as game changers that exposed him to new business opportunities and market linkages.

Under the PMFME scheme, the Department of Horticulture (P&M) facilitated a loan of ₹8.70 lakh from J&K Bank, with a 35% back-ended subsidy, enabling him to expand operations. Currently, DBS Spices has an impressive production capacity of 60-70 quintals of spices per month, creating employment opportunities for five local youths, thus contributing to the socio-economic growth of the region.

The initiative has garnered widespread appreciation from the local community, which hails Zubair Ahmed Drabu as an inspiration for aspiring entrepreneurs, encouraging them to explore self-employment avenues rather than relying solely on limited government job opportunities.

Looking ahead, Zubair aims to scale up his business across Jammu and Kashmir and other states, hoping for continued support from the district administration. He advised the youth to become employers rather than employees by tapping into local agro-based and high-demand market products, leveraging the opportunities provided under government schemes.

The journey of DBS Spices stands as a testament to the effectiveness of PMFME and similar government initiatives, which are empowering youth, fostering local talent, and promoting sustainable economic development in Ramban district.

GDC R S Pura organizes quiz competition under Poshan Pakhwada initiative

Top News Report

R S PURA, Apr 19: NSS unit in collaboration with Department of Veterinary Technology, Government Degree College, R S Pura, organized a Quiz Competition under the guidance of Principal Prof. (Dr.) Preetpal Kour, as a part of the Poshan Pakhwada celebration, a nationwide initiative to spread awareness about nutrition and healthy living. More than 30 students from various discipline participated in quiz competition with zeal and enthusiasm.

The Quiz aimed to educate and sensitize students on important topics such as balanced diet, components of diet and their deficiencies, nutrition-related schemes, and the significance of healthy eating habits in daily life. The competition featured multiple rounds testing students' knowledge on general nutrition, government

health initiatives like POSHAN Abhiyaan, and local food.

Director Family Welfare, MCH & Immunization J&K reviews activities in Doda

Top News Report

DODA, Apr 19: To review the activities under the Family Welfare Programme, the Director Family Welfare, MCH & Immunization, J&K, Dr. Mushtaq Ahmed Rather conducted a review meeting during his official visit to Doda at the Office Dy CMO Doda.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Sat Lal Manhas, Dy CMO Doda, Principal, Government ANMT School Doda, District Mass Education & Information Officer (DMEIO), Extension Educators, staff from the ANMT School, Rural Family Welfare Centre staff, Cold Chain Handlers and ASHA Coordinators. At the outset, Dr. Sat Lal Manhas welcomed the Director and presented a detailed PowerPoint presentation showcasing the indicator-wise progress of various components under the Family Welfare Programme.

Dr. Mushtaq Ahmed Rather reviewed the indicator-wise achievements for the year 2024—



25 and held discussions on key agendas.

He emphasized the importance of the recently launched JK Sehat Mobile Application, urging all health personnel to not only download the app but also promote its usage up to the grassroots level among health staff.

The Director also took stock of the progress in Maternal and Child Health (MCH), Routine Immunization, and the functionality of the Government ANMT School, Doda.

He issued necessary directions to intensify IEC (Information, Education & Communication) activities to enhance community awareness and stressed the need for regular supportive supervision by district and block-level teams.

Dr. Rather appreciated the commendable efforts of the district health team and encouraged all officials to continue their work with renewed dedication to achieve better health outcomes for the population.



Top News Report

MARHEEN, Apr 19: Students of semester 4th of Govt. Degree College Marheen organized a farewell party to the outgoing class of semester 6th with great enthusiasm. The day was a fiesta fully devoted to the days spent together with teachers and friends.

The programme commenced with the welcome address by the Principal of the college Prof. (Dr.) Anupama Gupta who applauded the batch as one of the brightest batches.

She appreciated their efforts of semester 4th for organizing the event and also expressed her thoughts calling the moment as bitter sweet. She also wished them luck to make a mark in their future endeavors.

On the occasion, various cultural items

were performed by the students of semester 6th along with different competitions such as musical chair, inflate the balloons, pick the chit game, ramp walk etc which enabled the students of semester 4th to choose Mr. and Ms. GDC Marheen.

Moreover, Mansi and Raghunanadhan of semester 6th were selected as Mr. and Ms. GDC Marheen.

The whole event was managed by Dr. Arun Dev Singh (Convener, Student Welfare Committee), Dr. Balbinder Singh, Dr. Munisha Devi, Dr. Shalini Rani and Prof. Manu Saini (Members).

Other faculty members presented were Prof. Sandeep Chaudhary, Prof. Suman, Prof. Diksha, Dr Meenu, Prof Naresh, Prof Naresh Kumari, Prof Saquib, Prof. Amitika.

Tapendra Ghai ends long wait for second title with tenacious 70 on final day of Calance Open 2025

NEW DELHI, Apr 19 (Agencies): Gurugram's Tapendra Ghai hung on to his lead with a tenacious even-par 70 on the final day to end his long wait for a second title at the INR 1 crore Calance Open 2025 played at the Qutab Golf Course in New Delhi.

The 29-year-old Ghai (64-67-62-70), the overnight leader by four shots, who won his only previous title on the PGTI in 2018, signed off for the week with a total of 17-under 263 to prevail by one shot. His steady last round featured three birdies and three bogeys, as per a press release from the Calance Open.

Ghai's win saw him pick up the winning cheque worth INR 15,00,000 that lifted him from 53rd to 15th position in the PGTI Order of Merit.

Delhi-based Arjun Prasad (67-68-67-62) shot the lowest score of day four, an eight-under 62, to rise 10 places and finish as the joint runner-up at 16-under 264. Arjun picked up a cheque worth INR 7,99,900 that pushed him up from sixth to second position in the PGTI Order of Merit.

Prasad's season earnings now stand at Rs. 46,57,749. Arjun, who has posted five top-10s so far this season, trails the PGTI Ranking leader Joshua Berry of



England by over Rs. 7.5 lakh.

Honey Baisoya (64-68-65-67) of Delhi returned a 67 in round four to also end the week as the joint runner-up at 16-under 264.

Kshitij Naveed Kaul, another Delhi-based professional who set the course record of 60 earlier in the week, brought in a card of 64 to secure fourth place at 15-under 265.

Dubai-based Yash Majmudar fired a second straight 63 to claim tied fifth position at 14-under 266 along with Chandigarh's Yuvraj Sandhu (69) and Ludhiana's Pukhraj Singh Gill (69).

Tapendra Ghai had a slow start as he bogeyed the second hole. Ghai then bounced back with birdies on the fourth and sev-

enth, sinking a 12-footer on the former. A par-save from 15 feet on the ninth and a chip-in for birdie on the 11th kept Tapendra ahead of the chasing pack led by Arjun Prasad.

With the birdies drying up for him and Tapendra also conceding a bogey on the 14th, he continued to keep his calm and knocked in another crucial par putt from 15 feet on the 15th.

Ghai, also known as 'Tapy', dropped a bogey on the closing 18th but still managed to close out the match with a one-shot margin as his nearest rivals Arjun Prasad and Honey Baisoya couldn't catch on the last two holes.

Tapendra said, "It was a day when birdies were not easy to

come by for me so the par-saves kept me in the game and kept my momentum going. I sank a couple of 15-footers for pars that gave me the confidence to finish well and get the job done. Once on the back-nine, I told myself if I could play two-under for the day, it would be good enough. The chip-in for birdie on the 11th was a key moment in the day for me."

"I had not been putting well coming into this week, but I was extremely consistent with the putter through this tournament and was feeling good about my game. I just kept on repeating the same routine and tried to make sure I was following the same pattern from start to finish. It feels great to win after six years. I would like to thank my coach, Ricky Jaswal, for all his support and guidance," he added.

While Arjun Prasad made a charge with a bogey-free 62 in round four, Honey Baisoya's last round featured an eagle, three birdies and two bogeys.

Honey emerged as a threat to the leader towards the final stages after he made an eagle on the 16th. Baisoya missed his birdie putt narrowly on the 18th that could've taken him into the playoff with Ghai.

Desperate Royals face Super Giants



JAIPUR, Apr 19 (Agencies): Skipper Sanju Samson has been rendered doubtful after picking up a side strain as an inconsistent Rajasthan Royals seek to plug the holes across departments and halt a three-match losing streak in their IPL match against Lucknow Super Giants here on Saturday.

Head coach Rahul Dravid said the wicketkeeper-batter had "experienced a bit of pain in the abdominal area" following which he had undergone scans.

"Once we get a bit more clarity around the scans and the severity of (the injury) we'll take a decision going forward and we'll see what hap-

pens," said Dravid on Friday, putting a question mark on Samson's availability for the match and also his future participation in the IPL.

With just two wins from seven games, the Royals are languishing at eighth place on the table and are coming into the contest on the back of a gut-wrenching Super Over defeat to Delhi Capitals.

As the league hits the halfway mark, they'll need to shake off the heartbreak quickly if they hope to upstage Rishabh Pant's men and climb out of the bottom half. Plagued by inconsistency in both batting and bowling, RR's campaign has struggled to find momentum.

Samson had suffered a side strain in the previous match and had to retire hurt though he later said he was feeling "alright."

The Royals' batting, built around Indian mainstays, has misfired far too often, leaving the middle order exposed and under pressure.

Opener Yashasvi Jaiswal, however, seems to have shaken off his rustiness with back-to-back half centuries against Royal Challengers Bengaluru and DC. But it will have to be seen if he carries the momentum into Saturday's match.

Samson is yet to produce a defining knock. If Samson is available on Saturday, a lot will depend on his and Jaiswal's form regarding how RR fare against the likes of Shardul Thakur, Avesh Khan, Digvesh Rathi and Ravi Bishnoi.

Riyan Parag and Dhruv Jurel have not made much contribution so far in the batting front and the duo needs to fire if RR have to post or chase down a big total.

Shubhankar Sharma improves by 13 shots in second round but fails to make cut in Volvo China Open 2025

SHANGHAI, Apr 19 (Agencies): Shubhankar Sharma bounced back from an 82 in the first round with 69 in the second but failed to make the cut at the Volvo China Open 2025 on at the Enhance Anting Golf Club in Shanghai, as per a release from China Open.

Sharma, who started the second round from the tenth ha a bogey on the 12th but birdied the 14th and the 18th to be 1-under at the turn. On the second nine, he had four birdies, a bogey and a double bogey on the ninth for a 69.

Despite improving his score by 13 shots as compared to the first day, Sharma has failed to cut for the first time after the Magical Kenya Open nearly two months back. In these two months, Shubhankar played four events, including the Hero Indian Open 2025 and made the cut in all of them.

Haotong Li will take a share of the lead into the weekend of the Volvo China Open as he bids to win his national title for a second time.

After an opening two under par round of 69 at Enhance Anting Golf Club, the 29-year-old carded a blistering eight under 63 to move to ten under par at the halfway stage alongside Hero Indian Open winner, Eugenio Chacarra and Finland's Tapio Pulkkanen.

Li burst onto the scene nine years ago when he won his maiden title at the 2016 Volvo China Open, and he earned his fourth victory earlier this season at the Commercial Bank Qatar Masters.



Playing in the morning wave, he set the clubhouse target after carding six birdies and an eagle. He was then joined on ten under par by Chacarra after the Spaniard carded five birdies and a bogey in his four under round of 67.

The 25-year-old, who won the Hero Indian Open last month, moved into a share of the lead after reeling off four consecutive birdies from the fourth hole but dropped a shot with a bogey on the ninth.

Chacarra then rejoined Li on ten under after a birdie on the 16th, but cut a concerned figure when he finished his round as he appeared to injure his thumb after catching the ground when he was forced to lay up on the final hole from the thick rough.

Overnight leader Tapio Pulkkanen, of Finland, birdied the last to join them at the top of the leaderboard after 36 holes, carding four birdies and three bogeys for a one under par second round of 70.

“Was difficult surface to bat, Nehal Wadhwa made chase easy for us”: PBKS spinner Harpreet Brar after win over RCB

BENGALURU, Apr 19 (Agencies): Punjab Kings (PBKS) continued their winning run in the ongoing edition of Indian Premier League (IPL), defeating Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) by 5 wickets at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru on Friday in a rain-curtailed encounter.

After the match was reduced to 14 overs, Punjab Kings won the toss and elected to bowl. Punjab's bowling unit, comprising Arshdeep Singh, Marco Jansen, Yuzvendra Chahal, and Harpreet Brar, used the conditions to their advantage and took two wickets each.

With Xavier Bartlett also picking up a wicket, PBKS restricted the opposition to 95/9 in 14 overs, despite Tim David scoring a half-century.

Nehal Wadhwa contributed an unbeaten 33 off 19 balls to help Punjab complete the run chase in 12.1 overs with 5 wickets to spare.

Speaking at the post-match press conference, left-arm spinner Harpreet Brar explained the reason behind his side's decision to bowl.

Meanwhile, Punjab captain Sheyas Iyer also praised the bowling unit and said that his side adapted well to the conditions after electing to bowl.



"No hadn't seen the wickets before. When the covers were lifted, our coaches are so experienced, they knew that the bowlers will get help from the surface. After we won the toss, our seamers and spinners took help from the wicket. Yuzvendra Chahal bowled well, and I also took two wickets. It was not easy to bat on this surface. 95 was a good total on the surface. The way Nehal Wadhwa batted was commendable. He stuck to the end and won the game for us," Iyer said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

"To be honest, we did not know how the wicket was going to play, and I personally feel the bowlers adapted according to it. When I had a chat with Arsh-

deep, he said, the hard length balls were very difficult to hit on this wicket because I did not see a single six off a batsman hit down the ground. That was the chatter going around, and they were fantastic in executing it," the right-hand batter continued.

Iyer also described Chahal, who registered figures of 2/11 in his 3 overs on the night, as the 'best bowler in the IPL'.

"Personally, I had a chat with Chahal. I told him you are a match-winner and you need to get us wickets as much as possible. You don't need to be safe in your approach, and he has got the capability of bouncing back. That is what we appreciate of him as a leggie. Probably he is the best bowler in the IPL

so far," he added.

Meanwhile, Brar praised Wadhwa for his tremendous batting performance and explained how the 24-year-old has grown over the years.

"Nehal is a very good player. He has been playing IPL for past 2-3 years. He has been a key player for Punjab in the domestic circuit. He played really well in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy knockout games. He has been a really good player from the start. He also played well for the India U-19 team. When he is scoring runs here, so as a senior, it makes us really proud," Harpreet Brar said as quoted by the PBKS press release.

The left-arm spinner further said that Nehal made the chase easier for Punjab on a tricky batting surface.

"As per the wicket, this is no scoring match. The way it is behaving today, it was a score of 180 on any surface. The level of bowlers in IPL was a difficult game. The way Nehal batted and scored boundaries made the game easy for us," the 29-year-old player signed off.

Punjab Kings will next play the reverse fixture against Royal Challengers Bangalore at the New PCA Stadium, New Chandigarh, on Sunday, April 20.

“There’s good depth”: Indian Hockey coach Craig Fulton impressed with talent at National Championship

NEW DELHI, Apr 19 (Agencies): Following the conclusion of the 15th Hockey India Senior Men National Championship 2025 in Jhansi, Indian Men's Hockey Team Chief Coach Craig Fulton expressed optimism about the depth and quality of talent on display as the team begins preparations for the upcoming Asia Cup 2025.

Fulton, who closely monitored the competition, highlighted the competitiveness of the matches when top teams faced each other. "When we put strength on strength, the games were very, very close," he noted. "There's good depth--particularly in goalkeeping and across the board--which was great to see. It was also encouraging to spot

players who haven't featured in the league before."

Commenting on regional performances, Fulton observed that while the winner, Punjab, stood out with a strong representation of international players, the top four teams overall demonstrated a good balance and quality.

"Some regions were definitely stronger than others. Punjab, for instance, stood out with the highest number of international players, which gave them an edge. At the same time, there was a healthy balance of talent across the top four teams. Beyond that, however, the depth and overall quality did dip a bit," Fulton said as quoted by the Hockey India press release.

With a new core group being formed for the



Asia Cup cycle, Fulton emphasised that the primary focus is not on age but on finding the right players for specific roles. "It's not about bringing in more youth--it's about identifying the right players for the right positions," he said.

A training camp with 54 probables is scheduled soon, from which a core group of 40 players will be selected. "We've been speaking about creating depth for a while now. The next 18 months are

crucial in building a squad with sufficient bench strength," Fulton explained.

The coach also shed light on his scouting criteria. "We looked at individuals, of course, but also how they operated within their team's tactical framework. The biggest attribute we assessed was defence--both one-on-one and group defence."

When asked about positional gaps, Fulton acknowledged a need for improvement in

scoring field goals and handling various tactical scenarios. "We want players who can move the ball effectively against both man-to-man and zonal defences, press intelligently, and outlet under pressure," he stated.

Physicality and game intelligence were identified as non-negotiables. "Versatility isn't the main focus--it's more about athleticism, game awareness, and the ability to adapt to new tactics quickly," Fulton remarked.

Following PR Sreejesh's retirement after the Paris Olympics, Fulton confirmed that the core group will remain largely intact, with the focus now on adding strategic depth to sustain performance through the Asia Cup and beyond.

“The way we went about on the field was really positive”: Josh Hazlewood



NEW DELHI, Apr 19 (Agencies): Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) seamer Josh Hazlewood acknowledged the unusual nature of his team's schedule but emphasised the positive takeaway from their previous game, particularly their successful bowling performance.

He believed this momentum would be crucial for their upcoming match against the Punjab Kings on Sunday.

"I think, you know, it's quite an unreal schedule these few days. We play them again, well, tomorrow now (Punjab Kings). So, yeah, it's something different. But I think, you know, the way we went about it in the field, I think it's a huge positive to take, you know, I think it was five wickets, put them under a little bit of pressure there, chasing a small total. I think we can take that

momentum into the next game, which is obviously pretty soon," Josh Hazlewood said in the post-match presentation.

Hazlewood expressed confidence in his team's ability to bounce back in the next game. He observed their strong batting performance in away games, both chasing and setting totals, and believed they could continue this success.

"We've seen in the away games, they've batted beautifully and we've chased, we've set totals. So no doubt we'll bounce back tomorrow and we'll come out again," he added.

Tim David's 25-ball 50 helped Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) post a total of 95 on the board after an embarrassing collapse that saw them lose seven wickets for just 42 runs.

Josh Hazlewood's stunning spell of 3/14 gave RCB hope, but Punjab Kings (PBKS) sealed a five-wicket win with 11 balls to spare on Saturday in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025, at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium.

RCB continued their winless run at home with their third successive defeat at Bengaluru. The teams will meet again on Sunday, April 20, in Mullanpur.

KP leaders appeal for High level probe in continuous Migrant land scams in Kashmir Valley forthwith

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 19: Many notable prominent Kashmiri Pandit leaders in exile leaders have been remonstrating and appealing Prime Minister of India, Union Home Minister, Lt. Governor J&K to take serious cognizance of illegal occupation and grabbing of lands, shrines and temples by a planted land mafia who is working actively in the valley on migrants lands for illegally occupation of their immovable properties in every District of Kashmir which is clearly a huge multi crores scam.

These land grabbers have filed false litigations in different revenue courts and at many places have succeeded in tampering of migrant

land records by way of mutations under section 4 and 8 and thus further sold these lands to the beneficiaries on hefty amounts.

There is big Nexus between land grabbers and lower revenue officials with whose convince, they have cause loss of crores to the migrant immovable property over there.

It is very strange there is no accountability at any end in the administration and land mafia is freely rolling the roast despite immovable migrant property act 1997 in place which has been made fully defunct by some selective custodian with unknown reasons.

In Joint Statement issued today by the prominent kashmir

Pandit leaders and notable social activists have shown grave concern & anguish & strongly appealed to Prime Minister of India, Home Minister, Lt. Governor J& K and Chief Secretary to take cognizance of the alarming situation created by these land grabbers and in effective migrant property act 1997 which has only facilitated maximum land grabbing and illegal occupation without any check and balance at any end.

Prominent community leaders/activists namely Vinod Pandita, Er. Rishi kilam Sanjay Dhar, Vijay Raina, Sunil Bhat and many others have said that the migrants are running from pillar to post in valley in different revenue courts for seek-

ing justice in their courts which are already sub judice in the High courts of Jammu and Kashmir and restrain from making contempt to highest judicial courts of the country which has also surfaced at many places in several collectrate offices in valley.

These notable activists in the end fervently appealed Prime Minister, Home Minister of India, Lt. Governor J&K & Chief Minister for constituting a high level committee under the supervision of a Hon'ble High court judge to unearth this big scam and whole deep rooted nexus that has caused irreparable loss to the kashmiri Pandits for sake justice and equity as well bring culprits to the justice.

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Dimple meets Dr Farooq Abdullah, vows to restore Statehood, Article 370



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 19: In a significant political development, Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood Jammu Kashmir, held a pivotal meeting with Dr Farooq Abdullah, President of the National Conference and senior INDIA alliance leader. The two veteran leaders engaged in an extensive, warm, and forward-thinking dialogue, addressing key issues that continue to shape the socio-political landscape of Jammu and Kashmir.

Central to the discussions was the roadmap for the restoration of the historic Dogra state, special status under Article 370, and the revival of the original PRC state subject laws based on the Instrument of Accession signed by Maharaja Hari Singh Ji. Both leaders emphasized the urgency of reclaiming the constitutional safeguards lost after August 5, 2019, and called for the cancellation of newly issued domiciles to non-residents which, according to Dimple, threatens to alter the demographic balance of the region.

underlined that full restoration of statehood is imperative for effective governance. "Until statehood is restored, the challenges will remain formidable. But we are not backing down," he said firmly.

The meeting, held in a cordial atmosphere filled with camaraderie and the sweet sharing of Barfi, marked a celebration of six months of the successful tenure of the Omar Abdullah-led National Conference government. Dimple heartily congratulated Dr Farooq Abdullah, acknowledging the stable governance led by the young Chief Minister.

The duo expressed deep concern over the surging unemployment among the youth of Jammu and Kashmir and stressed the importance of inclusive developmental policies.

In a strong-worded statement, Dimple criticized former intelligence officer A.S. Dulat, accusing him of misleading the public and acting under BJP influence to weaken the ongoing struggle for the restoration of J&K's autonomy. He also called upon the government to revoke the 84,000 domiciles allegedly issued to outsiders and reclaim the lakhs of kanals of land allocated to non-local investors.

The occasion was sweetened—both metaphorically and literally—with Dr Abdullah offering sweets to Dimple, commending his relentless dedication and selfless contributions in defending the unique identity,

They also discussed strategies for the upcoming Rajya Sabha nominations, Municipal Corporation, ULB, and Panchayat elections, ensuring that democratic institutions remain strong and representative.

Dimple passionately reiterated his stand that Mission Statehood Jammu Kashmir would never compromise on Article 370 and that the ultimate dream includes the unification of PoK, Gilgit, and Baltistan with Jammu and Kashmir.

The occasion was sweetened—both metaphorically and literally—with Dr Abdullah offering sweets to Dimple, commending his relentless dedication and selfless contributions in defending the unique identity,

Dr Abdullah reassured the public that the elected alliance government remains resilient despite dual power centers, and

The meeting concluded with optimism, a shared vision, and a promise of continued collaboration. Both leaders expressed confidence that the positive outcomes of their dialogue would soon reflect on the ground.

LG Brig Mishra, First Lady inaugurate District Panchayat Resource Centre at Agling

Top News Report

LEH, Apr 19: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, along with First Lady Neelam Mishra, inaugurated the District Panchayat Resource Centre, constructed by Rural Development Department, UT Ladakh, at Agling. The LG also flagged off SRMC Vehicles and inspected the SARAS exhibition stalls set up by Self-Help Groups (SHGs).



Speaking on the occasion, First Lady Neelam Mishra commended Rural Development Department, led by its Secretary, Shanshanka Ala, IAS, for coming up with the District Panchayat Resource Centre.

The First Lady expressed her happiness to see lots of development taking place in Ladakh for the welfare of self-help groups (SHGs) and women's empowerment with the help of the Government of India. She underlined the importance of the SHGs becoming self-reliant and independent, with the women's groups ful-

filling their potential by coming up with products that can be sold in domestic as well as international markets. Giving the example of pashmina wool, which has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tagging, she stated that the pashmina products made by women SHGs of Ladakh are yet to reach their potential despite the hard work put in by them and the government.

Stating that Ladakh cannot progress if only a handful of entrepreneurs succeed, the First Lady Neelam

Mishra highlighted that all the entrepreneurs and SHGs from Ladakh need to succeed to ensure Ladakh's progress. Highlighting that the SHGs and entrepreneurs from Ladakh have access to all facilities, barring challenges such as extreme weather conditions and closure of national highways in the winter months, she highlighted various efforts being made for the welfare of women SHGs and entrepreneurs from Ladakh.

Reiterating her commitment to preserve the environment, the

First Lady highlighted the need to recycle and reuse waste materials to achieve the goal of a 'Zero Waste Ladakh.' She informed the audience that the waste segregation plants in Ladakh are working beyond their capacities and about her plans with the Rural Development Department's help to come up with a mechanism to recycle waste, such as tetra packs, to make various products out of it. She stated that the environment could be preserved only if concrete and collective actions are taken.

Earlier, Secretary, RDD, Shashanka Ala, IAS, highlighted the achievements of the Department, particularly across six verticals- State/SDP Sector, Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin), National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act), PM Awas Yojana and Watershed Development Component-Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP). Calling SHGs the backbone of Ladakh, she shared efforts being made to benefit women SHGs across Ladakh.

Shiv Sena demands ownership rights to residents of custodian properties

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 19: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit has demanded to give ownership rights to the residents of the properties of people who left Jammu and Kashmir and went to Pakistan in 1947 and abolition of the Custodian Department.



In a press conference held today at the party center office, Jammu, state chief Manish Sahni said that even after 77 years of independence, the local people living in the houses of people who went to Pakistan from Jammu and Kashmir have not been given ownership rights.

Expressing apprehen-

sion, he said that the main reason for reluctance in giving ownership rights to the residents living in custodian houses is that most of the properties are with Hindus, Sikhs.

He said that the Punjab government had ended the custodian department in 1990 itself by settling such properties. Now the residents of Jammu and Kashmir

should also be given ownership rights of these committees.

Sahni has demanded from the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to give ownership rights of the property to the local people living in custodian properties with immediate effect and completely end the custodian department.

Bashir Ahmad from AESL tops Ladakh with 96.19 Percentile in JEE Mains 2025

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 19: Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), the national leader in test preparatory services, proudly announces an exceptional achievement in the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Mains 2025 (Session-2). Bashir Ahmad from Ladakh scored 96.19 percentile in the second session of the examination.



These results highlight the students' dedication and academic excellence in one of India's most challenging exams. The National Testing Agency announced the results today, marking the conclusion of the second and final JEE session scheduled for this year.

Most of these students enrolled in Aakash's classroom program, aiming to crack the prestigious IIT JEE, recognized globally as one of the toughest

entrance exams.

Congratulating the students, Surendra Chauhan, Chief Academic and Business Head, Aakash Educational Services Limited, congratulated the students on their impressive results. He said, "We are proud of our students' achievements in JEE Main 2025. Their hard work and determination, combined with the right coaching, have led to these excellent outcomes. At Aakash, we focus on providing quality education that

helps students reach their full potential. Congratulations to all our

successful students, and we wish them the best for the next steps in their journey."

JEE (Mains) is structured in two sessions to provide students with multiple opportunities to enhance their scores.

While JEE Advanced exclusively facilitates admissions to the prestigious Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), JEE Main serves as the gateway to numerous National Institutes of Technology (NITs) and other Centrally-aided engineering colleges across India. Participa-

tion in JEE Main is a prerequisite for appearing in JEE Advanced.

AESL is recognized for offering thorough and effective preparation programs for students aiming to excel in high-stakes medical (NEET) and engineering entrance exams (JEE), as well as competitive exams like NTSE and Olympiads. The institute is dedicated to delivering top-quality test preparation services that empower students to realize their full potential and succeed in their academic pursuits.

Rain, snow, thunderstorms in J&K till April 20; 'Dry weather expected from April 22'

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Apr 19: The Meteorological Department has issued a fresh weather advisory warning of heavy rain, snowfall, thunderstorms, and strong winds across Jammu and Kashmir from April 19 to April 20.

In a fresh advisory the Meteorological Centre Srinagar

has issued a comprehensive weather update and advisory for Jammu & Kashmir, forecasting a spell of unsettled weather from April 19 to 21, 2025, with significant impacts expected across the region.

The weather is expected to remain generally cloudy with light to moderate rain and snowfall over higher reaches. Isolated to scattered areas

may experience moderate to heavy rain/snow, especially on April 19. Thunderstorms and gusty winds are also likely to occur till late evening on April 20. April 21: Skies will remain generally cloudy, with a chance of light rain and thunder at scattered places.

April 22-28: A dry spell is expected across the region, although some cloudiness is

likely around April 25.

Residents are urged to follow all administrative and traffic advisories during this period.

Farmers are advised to suspend all farm operations till April 21 due to weather uncertainty. There's a potential for moderate to heavy rain/snow in isolated to scattered locations on April 19.

Risk of landslides, mud-

slides, and shooting stones remains high at vulnerable spots, especially in hilly and mountainous terrains.

People are advised to remain indoors during thunderstorms or lightning to ensure safety.

Authorities are monitoring the situation and preparedness measures are being emphasized across vulnerable regions.