

TOP NEWS OF J&K



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Rekha reveals why she never misses having babies

JAMMU, MONDAY, APRIL 21, 2025



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Civil servants should act like craftsmen towards India's development: PM Modi

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China warns countries against trade deals with US that harm Beijing's interests



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BRIEFLY

JKAS Officer Vikas Sharma appointed MD NUDM

JAMMU, Apr 21: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has appointed Vikas Sharma, Special Secretary to the Government, Housing and Urban Development Department, as the new Mission Director for the National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM).

J&K Govt orders probe against SDA Officials

JAMMU, Apr 21: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has appointed Mir Nasrool Hilal Jeri, JKAS, as the Inquiry Officer to look into charges against officials of the Srinagar Development Authority (SDA).

Sufficient stock of essential supplies available: Div Com Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Apr 21 (Agencies): Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, V K Bidhuri Monday urged public not to panic over the availability of essential supplies in the Valley, including petrol, diesel, LPG, and food grains.

Speaking to reporters in Srinagar, Bidhuri as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said there is sufficient stock of food grains available, along with a buffer provision for over a year.

"For LPG, we have enough stock in advance, including seventeen days worth of supply, which is adequate," he said.

Talking about the fuel situation, the Divisional Commissioner stated that Kashmir consumes around 1,000 kilolitres of diesel per day, and currently, 12,500 kilolitres were available, which is enough for 12 to 13 days even though the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway is temporarily closed.

Regarding petrol, he informed that the daily consumption stands at 625 kilolitres, and the region currently has a stock of nearly 10,000 kilolitres.

"There is no need to line up at petrol pumps or panic. The situation is normal and under control," Bidhuri said, urging the public to avoid hoarding or creating unnecessary fear.

Jammu-Srinagar highway may reopen in 5-6 days: NHAI



RAMBAN, Apr 21 (Agencies): The landslide-hit Jammu-Srinagar National Highway remained closed for a second day on Monday, with a senior NHAI official saying the road clearance operation, underway at 20 locations, was likely to take about six days.

Hundreds of vehicles were left stranded on the strategic 250-kilometre highway — the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country — on Sunday after heavy rainfall and cloudbursts triggered flash floods, landslides and mudslides in Jammu and Kashmir's

Ramban district.

Three persons, including two minor siblings, were killed and more than 100 people were rescued as the natural calamity caused massive damage to infrastructure, including roads and residential buildings. A number of vehicles were also buried under the debris.

"We are faced with a challenging situation due to massive deposits of muck on the highway at more than a dozen places, especially on the four-kilometre stretch between Seri and Maroog. The height of the sludge at some places is more than 20

feet," National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) project director Purshotam Kumar said.

The agency's major machinery, including earth movers, are buried under the debris, he added.

"Despite limited available resources of our own, we have arranged machinery from private contractors and deployed those at 20 affected locations simultaneously to speed up the restoration work," he said, expressing satisfaction at the improved weather condition after two days of heavy rain.

However, Kumar said the highway was likely

to take five to six days to reopen for traffic.

The highway has suffered major damages near Panthiyal and Kela Morh, he added.

Meanwhile, stranded commuters, including two newlywed couples, were seen moving on foot to reach their destinations.

"The road is destroyed (at a number of places). The situation is very bad," Rajasthan native Devi Lal, who is heading home from the Magam area of central Kashmir's Budgam district, told PTI Videos in Ramban.

Accompanied by other members of his

Pope Francis passes away after prolonged illness

VATICAN CITY, Apr 21 (Agencies): Pope Francis has died, the Vatican said on Monday. The Pope passed away on Easter Monday, April 21, 2025, at the age of 88 at his residence in the Vatican's Casa Santa Marta, according to a statement from the Vatican.

At 9:45 AM on Easter Monday, Cardinal Kevin Farrell, Camerlengo of the Apostolic Chamber, spoke these words at



the Casa Santa Marta: "Dearest brothers and sisters, with deep sorrow, I must announce the death of our Holy Father Francis. At 7:35

this morning, the Bishop of Rome, Francis, returned to the house of the Father. His entire life was dedicated to the service of the Lord and of His Church. He taught us to live the values of the Gospel with fidelity, courage, and universal love, especially in favour of the poorest and most marginalised. With immense gratitude for his example as a true disciple of the Lord

Turn to page 9

CM to visit Ramban, Assure compensation through relief funds

SRINAGAR, Apr 21 (Agencies): Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said that efforts are being made to restore the National Highway and the residential area in Ramban affected by the recent landslides triggered by heavy rainfall.

Talking to reporters, the Chief Minister said that he is himself visiting Ramban today to assess the ground situation and will chair a meeting in this regard.

"In some Ramban

areas, the situation has worsened. I had sent the Deputy Chief Minister and two other local MLAs to the spot to assess the situation," he said, adding that efforts are being made to restore the highway immediately, as well as the residential areas affected by the landslides.

The Chief Minister added that arrangements are being made for relief, while the PM relief fund and other funds will be tapped so

that people receive compensation.

However, he said, he wants to assure people that there is no shortage of essentials and there is no need for hoarding. "The government and officials have been strictly directed to act tough against black marketing and unnecessary price hikes. Police will also be involved to act against such persons, and if needed, arrests will be made in this regard."

He appealed to people

Turn to page 9

Farooq Abdullah flags drugs menace In J&K, Seeks harshest punishment for peddlers

JAMMU, Apr 21 (Agencies): National Conference supremo Farooq Abdullah on Monday voiced concern over the escalating drugs menace in Jammu and Kashmir, labelling it a significant threat to the region's youngsters and their future.

He also laid stress on the need for a robust and resolute response to the issue.

"Drugs are a big problem for us. Our children are being ruined by it. Our future is falling into darkness because of it. We have to wage a big war against it, in a very strong manner. We must eliminate this



menace completely," he told reporters after inaugurating a cricket tournament.

Responding to queries about Pakistan's alleged involvement in pushing narcotics into Jammu and Kashmir as part of a broader narco-terrorism strategy, Abdullah said, "We know about it. It is not a new thing. There

are people among us who are part of it and we need to strongly crack down on them." He also called for concerted efforts to combat the menace.

"There are people who are involved in this and are selling drugs here. We must bring them down and give them the harshest punishment possible. They are jeopardising our future," the former chief minister of the erstwhile state said.

Abdullah declined to comment on the Pakistan Army chief's recent remarks on Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, saying, "I am not a

Turn to page 9

Central, State GST officers detect 25,009 fake firms fraudulently passing Rs 61,545 Cr ITC in FY25

NEW DELHI, Apr 21 (Agencies): Central and state GST officers have detected 25,009 fake firms involved in fraudulently passing input tax credit (ITC) worth Rs 61,545 crore during 2024-25, officials said.

During the 2024-25 fiscal ending March 2025, Central and state GST officers recovered Rs 1,924 crore by way of blocking ITC and arrested 168 persons.

As per data on ITC frauds unearthed by Central and State GST officers, over the two years 2023-24 and 2024-25, 42,140 fake firms were detected, which were involved in fraudulently generating ITC of over Rs 1.01 lakh crore. Rs 3,107 crore was recovered by way of blocking of ITC, and 316 arrests have been made.

"The Central and

State Governments and GSTN have taken various steps to prevent fake ITC claims, including providing intelligence inputs, detecting fraudulent registration, and suspicious e-way bill activity," an official told PTI.

Under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime, ITC refers to the taxes paid by businesses on purchases from suppliers. This tax

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 Padma - Daughter & Son-in-law
Miss Bandana Makhnotra - Daughter
Grand Children:
Anamika, Parul, Danish, Paras, Pursharth
Ph: 7006721778, 9419149996



Smt. Chander Kanta Makhnotra

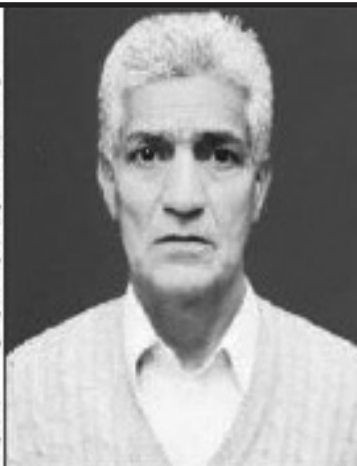
TENTH DAY KRIYA

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

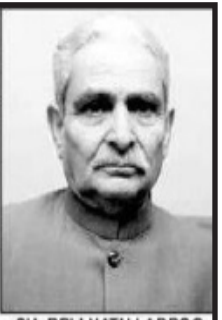
TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Sh. Brij Nath Labroo**, S/o Late Sh. Darshan Pandit, erstwhile resident of Ranipora, Anantnag, and presently residing at House No. 18, Durga Vihar, Near Toll Post Nagrota. He passed away on 17/04/2025.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 26.04.2025, Saturday (08:30 AM) at Muthi Ghat Near Directorate of School Education, Jammu.

GRIEF-STRICKEN:

Smt. Kamla Ji (Wife)
Purney Lal Labroo (Son)
Shubani Ji Labroo and Sunila Labroo (Son and Daughter-in-law)
Ashok Kumar Bhat and Sunanda Bhat (Son-in-law and Daughter)
Anick Ji Raina and Soni Raina (Son-in-law and Daughter)
Grandchildren: Sacret, Shivam, Rohit, Amit, Rishi, Rakshit
Samast Labroo, Ganjoo, Raina, Bhat Parivar. Mobile No: 7006260510, 6006259302, 9419533846



SH. BRIJ NATH LABROO

10TH DAY/13TH DAY

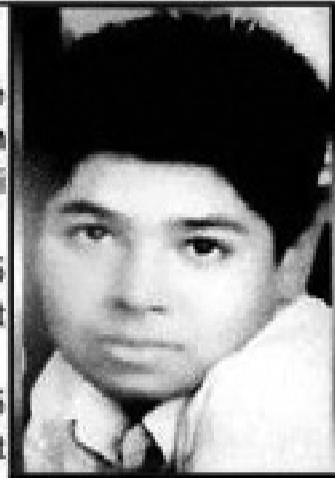
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Harshvardhan Singh** S/o Sh. Aman Dev Singh R/o Mandi Sangwali Samba.

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

10TH DAY AND KRIYA

"You may have gone from our sight but never from our hearts"

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Dev Raj Sharma** (Rtd. Distt. & Sessions Judge), S/o Lt. Pt. Ram Chand, R/o H. No. 4, Sec-9/Ext. Trikuta Nagar, who expired on 13th April 2025.

10th Day will be performed at Banke Bihari Gorkha Mandir, Sec-4, Nanak Nagar, Jammu on Tuesday, 22nd April, 2025 at 10:00 AM.

Kriya will be performed on Wednesday, 23rd April, 2025 from 9:00 AM onwards at our residence (H. No. 4, Sec-9/Ext. Trikuta Nagar).

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Kailash Sharma (Wife)
Smt. Shruti Sharma & Er. Siddharth Sharma (Daughter & Son-in-law)
Smt. Vijay Sharma W/o Lt. Sh. Yog Raj Sharma (Bhabhi - Bhaiya)
Smt. Lt. Sunita Sharma & Sh. Lekh Raj Sharma (Bhabhi - Bhaiya)
Smt. Suman Sharma & Sh. Shub Kumar Sharma (Bhabhi - Bhaiya)
Smt. Nirmai Sharma & Sh. Kailash Sharma (Sister & Brother-in-law)
And Smast Parivar
Mob:- 9419173738, 9086014600, 9622322298



Sh. Dev Raj Sharma (Rtd. Distt. & Sessions Judge)

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and sudden demise of our beloved **Smt. Shaveta Khajuria** W/o Rajan Sharma (SICOP) R/o House No. 8/A, Excelsior Lane, Janipur Jammu who expired on 12th April 2025.

Tenth Day will be performed on Monday, 21 April 2025 at Aap Shambhu Temple Roop Nagar, Jammu from 10.30 am to 11.30 am.

Kriya will be performed on Tuesday, 22 April 2025 at our residence at 12 noon.

Grief Stricken

Rajan Sharma (SICOP) - Husband
Father-in-law & Mother-in-law
Sh. Bai Krishan Sharma & Smt. Sarita Rajvansh Sharma - Son
Rajveer Sharma - Son
Sh. Suhail Upadhaya & Smt. Radhika Upadhaya - Nandoi & Nanad
Sh. Sham Lal Sharma & Smt. Anu - Chacha & Chachi
Mob: 94191-87920, 94191-32464



Smt. Shaveta Khajuria

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Smt. Renu Ganjoo** w/o Sh. Rajesh Ganjoo originally resident of Zalooora Sopore, presently residing at H.No. 31 Gobind Nagar (Bank Colony) Gole Gujral Road, Talab Tillo Jammu, 180002 who breathed her last on 19-03-2025 at a very young age.

10th Day Kriya will be held on 28-04-2025 Monday at Muthi Ghat (Near Directorate of School Education Jammu) at 8:00 am.

Grief Stricken:

Smt. Tosha Ganjoo- Mother in Law
Sh. Rajesh Ganjoo- Husband
Miss Simran Ganjoo- Daughter
Miss Shagun Ganjoo- Daughter
Smt. Simmi Ganjoo and Sh. Sunil Ganjoo - Sister in Law and Brother in Law
Smt. Fency Pandita and Sh. Anil Pandita - Sister in Law and Brother in Law
Piyush, Danya, Arin, Kristy- Nephews and Nieces
9501544786, 9306601202, 9622045693



Smt. Renu Ganjoo

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Mr. K.K. Sharma** (Retd Dy Director, Youth Services and Sports Department) S/o Late Shri Kedar Nath Sharma, who left for heavenly abode on 14th April, 2025.

Tenth Day Rituals shall be performed on Tuesday, the 22nd April at 11:00 AM and KRIYA shall be performed on 23rd April (Wednesday), both at H.No. 26-J, Lane 6, Tawi Vihar Colony, Sidhra. UTHALA shall be performed at Shiv Mandir, Sector 3, Trikuta Nagar on 28th April, 2025 (5:00 PM to 6:00 PM)

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Mrs Vri (Neena) Sharma (Wife)
Mrs Sheetal and Mr. Mohinder Sharma (Sister and Brother-in-Law)
Mrs Shalini and Mr. Vikas Sharma (Daughter and Son-in-Law)
Mrs Shivani and Mr. Dinesh Choudhary (Daughter and Son-in-Law)
Mr. Romil and Mrs Hano Jaggi (Nephew and Daughter-in-Law)
Brothers-in-Law and Bhabhis
Mrs Parveen Kumaar W/o Late Shri Jagdish Jaggi
Mr. Kuldeep and Mrs Sugandha Manikola
Mr. Rajnish and Mrs. Jyoti Manikola
Sisters-in-Law and Co-Brothers
Mrs Snehlata and Mr. Naveesh Bahl
Mrs Suman and Mr. Ravinder Mahotra



Shri K. K. Sharma

10th Day / 13th Day (Kriya)

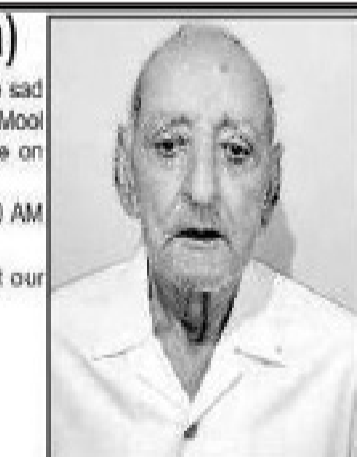
With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Krishan Singh Rai** S/o Sh. Mool Singh Rai R/o Sangaldan who left for heavenly abode on 10-04-2025.

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

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

GRIEF STRICKEN :-

Smt. Meena Devi - Wife
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

With profound grief and pain we inform untimely demise of our beloved **Mrs Ratna Kaul** S/o Shri Maharaj Krishan Kaul. At present Flat No 43 SF Saraswati Vihar Kapurthala Road, Jalandhar (Punjab) Originally resident of Village Soper Dist Kulgam Kashmir in a tragic road accident on 14 th April 2025.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed at Bias River on 23 rd April 2025 and Assembly will be held at our residence 12 O'clock.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Dimple Kaul (Wife)
Mayra (Daughter)
M. K. Kaul & Shama Kaul (Father & Mother)
Vishal Kaul & Simmi Kaul (Brother & Bhabi)
Vinod Kaul & Usha Kaul (Uncle & Aunty)
MOBILE NO : M. K KAUL 8427754390, VINOD KAUL 8825041826



Mrs Ratna Kaul (GHAZIABAD)

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform you that our beloved **Dr. Abhit Chandel** left for heavenly abode on 12-04-2025.

We pray to the Almighty for his soul to attain eternal peace. His presence in our lives was a blessing, and his memory will forever live in our hearts. We invite all family members, friends, and well-wishers to join us in honoring his soul and praying for his eternal peace. The Tenth Day shall be performed on Monday 21st April 2025 and Kriya will be performed on Thursday 24th April 2025 at our residence, Ward No. 2, Billawar from 10:00 AM onwards.

GRIEF-STRICKEN:-

Sh. Harish Chandel (Father)
Smt. Anita Chandel (Mother)
Aakshi Chandel (Sister)
Sh. Harbans Lal Chandel (Uncle)
Sh. Mohinder Kumar Chandel (Uncle)
Dr. Panikaj Chandel (Brother)
Contact No: 9149690829, 9596549913



LATE DR. ABHIT CHANDEL

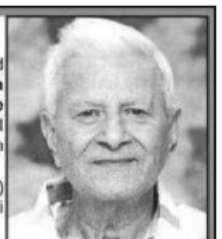
TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Late Sh Suresh Chander Bakshi** (Retd. Asstt. Director Fire Services) S/o Late Bakshi Vidyamand Ji Harmal R/o 723-A Last Mohi Gandhi Nagar Jammu on 12-04-2025.

Tenth Day will be held on 21-4-2025 (Monday) at Shiv Mandir (Lane Opposite Church) Gandhi Nagar at 9.30 AM.
Kriya will be performed at our residence on 22-4-2025 (Tuesday) at 12.30 PM.

Grief Stricken

Vikrant Bakshi & Preeti Bakshi - Son & Daughter-in-law
Poonam Bakshi & Rajesh Bakshi - Daughter & Son-in-law
Sh. Rajeshwar Bakshi & Kiran Bakshi - Brother & Sister-in-law
Sh. Naveesh Sharma & Vibha Bakshi - Brother & Sister-in-law [Rtd. SE (R&B)]
Late Sh. Ramesh Bakshi & Sheela Bakshi - Brother & Sister-in-law
Late Smt. Pushpa Bakshi & Yed Parkash Bakshi - Sister & Brother-in-law
Smt. Sushma Bakshi & Late Sh. Sham Lal Bakshi - Sister & Brother-in-law
Grand Children: Navedhyia, Aarushi, Aarush, Tuskar, Nihar
941914233, 788927276, 9419189363
(Note: Rasam Pagri/uthala will be informed later on due to Panchak)



Late Sh Suresh Chander Bakshi

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND SORROW AND HEARTFELT REVERENCE, WE INFORM YOU OF THE PASSING OF OUR BELOVED **COLONEL KEWAL KRISHAN DOGRA** (RETD.) R/O 423, SHASTRI NAGAR, JAMMU-180004 WHO HAS GRACEFULLY EMBARKED UPON HIS ETERNAL JOURNEY TOWARDS PEACE AND LIBERATION ON 13TH APRIL, 2025.

AS WE COME TOGETHER TO HONOR A LIFE MARKED BY DIGNITY, SERVICE AND QUIET STRENGTH, WE REQUEST YOU TO JOIN US IN PRAYER AND REMEMBRANCE.

TENTH DAY CEREMONY: TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2025 AT 11:00 AM AT 423, SHASTRI NAGAR, JAMMU.
KRIYA CEREMONY: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2025 AT 12:00 NOON AT 423, SHASTRI NAGAR, JAMMU.
SHANTI PATH : WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2025 FROM 4:30 - 5:30 PM AT SHIV TEMPLE, GANDHI NAGAR (NEAR A-TYPE GOVT. QUARTERS), JAMMU.

IN REMEMBRANCE

SMT. MRIDULA DOGRA, (WIFE)
DAUGHTERS & SONS-IN-LAW:
DR. SHEVANI DOGRA TYAGI & BRIG (DR.) JARVIND KUMAR TYAGI (RETD.)
DR. SHRUTI DOGRA NAUTYAL & COL. MRITUNJAYA NAUTYAL (RETD.)
BROTHERS & SISTERS-IN-LAW:
LATE ADV. RAM KRISHAN DOGRA & LATE SMT. LEKHA DOGRA
DR. SAROJ SHARMA (W/O LATE DR. BAL KRISHAN SHARMA)
SMT. KALPANA (W/O LATE SH. KRISHAN DUTT DOGRA)
BROTHERS-IN-LAW & SISTERS-IN-LAW:
ER. ARUN SHARMA & SMT. PINKY SHARMA
ER. VINOD SHARMA & SMT. INDU SHARMA
SMT. BELA SAINI & ER. RAJIV SAINI



COLONEL KEWAL KRISHAN DOGRA (RETD.)

GRANDCHILDREN:
DR. KUNAL TYAGI, DR. SIDDHARTH TYAGI, ADV. JARVIND NAUTYAL AND MISS GAUR NAUTYAL THE DOGRA FAMILY CONTACT : - 941979538, 9419235658

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI

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UTHALA shall be performed at Gurudwara Hall Model Town on Monday, 28th 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 Padma - Daughter & Son-in-law
Miss Bandana Makhnotra - Daughter
Grand Children:
Anamika, Parul, Danish, Paras, Pursharth
Ph: 7006721778, 9419149996



Smt. Chander Kanta Makhnotra

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JKTPO hosts RAMP workshop to empower local MSMEs

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 21: In a notable effort to strengthen the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) sector in Jammu and Kashmir, the District-Level RAMP (Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance) Awareness Workshop was successfully held at Udyog Bhawan, Jammu. This event was a collaborative initiative by the Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) and Grant Thornton Bharat LLP (SPIU for RAMP), in partnership with the District Industries Centre (DIC), Jammu.

This marks the third in a series of district-level outreach workshops aimed at enhancing awareness and capacity building among MSMEs, key stakeholders, and implementing agencies under the RAMP initiative—a flagship scheme by the Ministry of MSME, Government of India. The RAMP initiative is being implemented under the overall supervision of the Industries and Commerce Department of Jammu and Kashmir, with the Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) serving as the nodal agency.



Sudarshan Kumar, Managing Director of JKTPO, has emphasized the transformative potential of the scheme, stating that "under the leadership of Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, JKTPO is committed to transforming the MSME landscape of Jammu and Kashmir. RAMP has the potential to be a game changer for our entrepreneurs, driving growth and innovation across the region."

The SPIU Team delivered an insightful presentation, highlighting the key interventions approved under the RAMP scheme for Jammu and Kashmir.

These initiatives include the formalization of MSMEs through Udyam Registration, enhanced packaging and promotion of GI/ODOP/DEH/unique products from the region, and the formation of producer companies/associations under cluster development programs.

The scheme also features buyer-seller meets (BSMs) and reverse buyer-seller meets (RBSMs), the establishment of the Jammu & Kashmir MSMEs Health Clinic, the J&K Ramp M&E Dashboard, and various entrepreneurship and skill development programs (ESDP). Additionally, it focuses on management development and upskilling of existing entrepreneurs

(MDPs) and the expansion of digital financing options.

The workshop, chaired by Ashok Kumar, Joint Director (Development), Industries and Commerce, Jammu, witnessed enthusiastic participation from a diverse array of stakeholders. Among the attendees were MSME entrepreneurs, industry associations, officials from the Department of Industries and Commerce, and representatives from various organizations including Handloom and Handicrafts, NABARD, Labour & Employment, the LDM of Jammu, Govt Polytechnic Jammu, Cooperative Societies, Project Managers and Functional Managers

from DIC Jammu.

The SPIU consultants and departmental officials actively engaged with the attendees, addressing queries and reaffirming the UT Government's dedication to effective grassroots implementation of the RAMP scheme.

Further highlighting recent developments, it was noted that Management Development Programmes (MDPs) have been initiated in 15 districts of J&K by JKEDI from April 15, 2025, engaging over 300 participants. Simultaneously, the Directorate of Industries & Commerce, Kashmir has launched a focused Awareness cum Formalization Drive across Pulwama, Anantnag, Kupwara, Kulgam, Budgam, Ganderbal, and Baramulla to integrate unregistered enterprises into the formal economy.

The event concluded with a resounding commitment from all stakeholders to work collaboratively towards maximizing the outreach and impact of the RAMP scheme, ensuring that MSMEs in Jammu and Kashmir emerge more competitive, resilient, and future-ready.

"Deh Dhaaran Ka Dand"—Autobiography of Prof. Raj Kumar released by JKAACL

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 21: Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages released the autobiography "Deh Dhaaran Ka Dand" penned by renowned academic and literary stalwart Prof. Raj Kumar here at K.L. Saigal Hall today.

The event was graced by Ms. Harvinder Kour, Secretary, JKAACL, who formally released the book in the esteemed presence of Padma Shri Prof. Lalit Mangotra, Dr. Arvinder Singh Amn, Former Additional Secretary, JKAACL, Swarn Kanta, wife of the author, and Dr. Chanchal Sharma, Editor Hindi, JKAACL.

Delivering the welcome address, Harvinder Kour praised Prof. Raj Kumar's immense contribution to Hindi literature and academia. She described the autobiography as a profound reflection of a life lived with intellectual intensity, spiritual resilience, and an unwavering commitment to truth and scholarship. Following her address, Padma Shri Prof. Lalit Mangotra took the stage and offered a heartfelt reflection on the challenges of autobiographical writing. "It is not easy to write one's own life story," he emphasized. "Autobiography is not merely a recounting of events, but a courageous act of introspection—an attempt to peel off the layers of one's existence with honesty, without adornment or evasion. Prof. Raj Kumar has accomplished this with grace and clarity. His writing reflects a rare blend of emotional truth and intellectual candour."

Prof. Mangotra

applauded the author's ability to face his life's realities head-on and transform them into a narrative that resonates deeply with readers, calling the book "a literary mirror that invites readers to reflect on their own lives as well."

Dr. Arvinder Singh Amn then presented a succinct and insightful introduction to the book, highlighting its thematic depth and literary elegance. He shared that "Deh Dhaaran Ka Dand" (The Penalty of Embodiment) chronicles not only Prof. Raj Kumar's personal and professional journey, but also presents a contemplative exploration of life's trials, relationships, detachment, and the quiet strength drawn from self-awareness—much akin to Lord Shiva's mythic endurance of poison, as metaphorically paralleled in the book. Rajeshwar Singh Raju, noted writer, Sahitya Akademi and J&K Government Awardee, presented an elaborate paper on the book. His analytical presentation shed light on the philosophical layers of the autobiography, its narrative style, and its relevance in the context of contemporary Hindi literature. He emphasized how Prof. Raj Kumar has blended life experiences with profound introspection to create a compelling literary memoir that transcends the personal and touches the universal.

Having retired from the Department of Hindi at the University of Jammu, Prof. Raj Kumar continues to lead a serene and introspective life. His autobiography reveals his philosophical insight into the inevitability of criticism in the presence of true merit, and

his acceptance of life's hardships with the clarity and grace of a sage. Like Gandhari's curse and Lord Krishna's acceptance of its consequences, his narrative embodies conscious endurance and self-realization.

With a career spanning more than three decades, Prof. Raj Kumar has made significant academic contributions as a Lecturer, Reader, Professor, and later as Principal of Tavish College of Education. He also played a pioneering role in establishing the Department of Hindi at the Central University of Jammu as a Visiting Professor in 2015. His literary works span multiple genres including fiction, poetry, cultural studies, and now, autobiography. Among his acclaimed works are short story collections like Khule Haath, Jaal, Waiting Room, and AntimNirnaya, and poetry anthologies such as Is Bhoomandal Par, Ikkisvin Shatabdi ke Naam, and Khoonka Rang To Hai. His exploration of Indian heritage is evident in works like We and Our Culture and India in the Vedas and Puranas.

Dr. JavaidRahi, Divisional Head, Jammu (JKAACL), delivered the vote of thanks and lauded Prof. Raj Kumar for offering an honest, spiritually rich, and philosophically nuanced portrayal of his life. He noted that the book will undoubtedly inspire young minds and literary scholars alike.

The proceedings of the event were conducted with finesse by Dr. Chanchal Sharma, Editor Hindi, JKAACL, who ensured the event's seamless flow and dignified atmosphere.

Sat leads cleanliness drive at Talab Tillo

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 21: Sat Sharma, President, J&K BJP, led a cleanliness drive under the party's ongoing "Dr. Ambedkar Samman Abhiyan" programmes at Municipal Park, Opposite Shree Tali Sahib Gurudwara, Talab Tillo.

The programme was organized by Ayodhya Gupta, Secretary, J&K BJP and witnessed the participation of BJP District Jammu team under the leadership of Adv. Rajesh Gupta.

Parmod Kapahi, Abhiyan Incharge, Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Media Incharge, J&K BJP, Sanjay Baru, Keshav Chopra, Suneet Raina, Ravikant Sharma, and others were among the prominent to participate in the cleanliness drive.

Sat Sharma, while undertaking the cleanliness drive said that the Bharatiya Janata Party has initiated a nationwide cleanliness campaign among other programmes to commemorate



the 134th birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the principal architect of the Indian Constitution and a stalwart advocate for social justice. This initiative is a pivotal component of the "Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Samman Abhiyan," which commenced on April 13, he said.

He said that in the last few days, the BJP also undertook the cleanliness drives near the statues of Dr. Ambedkar,

cleaned his statues and held seminars and programmes to take his legacy to the ground level with the public engagement to highlight Dr. Ambedkar's contributions and promote social harmony.

Ayodhya Gupta said that the BJP is truly following the principles of the Constitution framed by Dr. Ambedkar. BJP has given recognition to his contributions and working on his vision for the Samrasta and the empow-

erment of needy.

Rajesh Gupta said that the BJP, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, remains dedicated to furthering Dr. Ambedkar's ideals through initiatives focused on uplifting marginalized communities.

Parmod Kapahi said that BJP is eyeing the maximum participation of the common masses in these programmes to carry Dr. Ambedkar's vision to them.

Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, while congratulating the Swachhta Nayak for being felicitated, said that they are really serving the society with dedication even in odd conditions.

The BJP leaders also felicitated the sanitation workers as the 'Swachhta Nayak', while appreciating their efforts in keeping the surroundings clean and presented them with the mementoes.

Later, Sat Sharma, along with other leaders joined a community meal organized by Ayodhya Gupta at Green Avenue.

Parliamentary Committee visiting J&K will provide huge opportunity to people to interact, give their ideas for sustained peace: GL Raina

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 21: Parliamentary Standing Committee (PSC) on Home Affairs is arriving on a six-day visit to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir with effect from April 26 to May 1, 2025.

The mandate of this panel as reported is to critically evaluate domestic policy, internal security and decision-making of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

BJP welcomes the visit and hopes that the panel will visit affected areas and meet people at large to understand the ground reality, stated Girdhari Lal Raina.

Girdhari Lal Raina, Spokesperson, J&K BJP & former MLC, accompanied by Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Media



Incharge, J&K BJP was addressing a Press Conference at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

In wake of the recent terrorist attacks in the Kathua region of Jammu Division and the tragic loss of our brave security personnel it is necessary to rethink our approach and counter strategy. The evolving nature of terrorism in the region demands a deeper strategic reori-

entation. The Enemy is using calculated strategies to provoke reactions that lead us into disadvantageous terrain. Narco-terrorists network and sensitive background of Overground Workers is adding to terrorists' strength.

Terrorists have sufficient knowledge of the geography and they move quickly to higher reaches and wait.

The movement of troops gets delayed

due SOP that involves planning, intelligence validation, and logistical readiness. These steps, while essential, provide terrorists ample time to prepare ambushes and escape routes.

Weapons recovered from recent encounters clearly indicate the presence of highly trained militants—often using sophisticated weapons and M4 carbines. These are not untrained/half trained insurgents but operatives trained by the Pakistani military or intelligence agencies.

Nationalist population though high on spirit are ill equipped to deal with the situation.

Their concerns need to be heard and addressed. BJP understands that political leadership is capable of handling the situation but we

believe that confidence of people can further strengthen with direct communication with them.

We, therefore demand that the parliamentary panel must visit these areas and interact with the people to get the feedback that can prove valuable in our fight against terrorism and separatism.

Parliamentary panel having members from different political parties will send a strong signal of unity across.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir must facilitate meeting of public, particularly sections of population like Displaced Community from POJK and Kashmir and VDGs and other local representatives like DDCs.

Ambedkar's Constitution gave rights, dignified life to millions: Balbir

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 21: Jammu and Kashmir BJP spokesperson and former Vice Chairman, Balbir Ram Rattan, said that the Constitution of India, drafted under the leadership of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, stands as a beacon of justice, equality, and human dignity.

He was discussing the life and immense contributions of Dr. Ambedkar with senior party leaders.

Balbir Ram said that Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, remembered as the chief architect of the Indian Constitution, laid the foundation of a democratic republic that guarantees fundamental rights and freedoms to every citizen. His vision extended beyond mere political freedom—it was rooted in social transformation. The Constitution, adopted on January 26, 1950, enshrines principles aimed at eliminating centuries-old social discrimination and inequality. It gave



voice and dignity to the oppressed and marginalized communities. It provided the people of India, especially those long deprived of basic rights, a dignified and equal life. It empowered every citizen with the right to rise and fully participate in the democratic process.

Balbir Ram Rattan stated that the Constitution introduced affirmative policies, including reservations in education and employment for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes. These measures have played a vital role in reshaping the social structure and providing opportunities to the disadvantaged.

Dr. Ambedkar's commitment to liberty, equality, and fraternity created a moral and legal framework for a just society. His emphasis on constitutional morality and the rule of law continues to guide India on its evolving democratic journey.

"We must all reaffirm our commitment to preserving Ambedkar's legacy. His Constitution is the foundation of India's identity—a living document that protects and empowers every citizen," he said.

Balbir was engaged in this discussion with Ashok Gandhi, Gulshan Bhagat, Hans Raj Loria, G. R. Bhagat, Adarsh Jathiar, Ashwani Charak, and Shaheen Malik.

EDITORIAL

OUR FOREVER RESPONSIBILITY

There is only one Earth. One blue planet floating in a sea of stars. One cradle of life wrapped in sky and soil, rain and rivers, mountains and meadows. It is not merely a place where we live — it is life itself. The Earth breathes through the trees, dances in the oceans, and whispers through the winds. Yet today, this sacred home is crying out — scarred by pollution, choked by plastic, shaken by climate change, and stripped of its wild wonders. To protect Earth is not a choice. It is a necessity. A duty. A shared promise to all generations.

In our race toward progress, we have often forgotten to look behind and see the trail we leave. Towering factories belch smoke into once-crystal skies. Rivers once teeming with fish now carry the weight of industrial waste. Forests fall by the acre, making way for roads and buildings, while the animals that called them home vanish in silence. The carbon dioxide in our atmosphere has reached unprecedented levels, warming our world inch by inch. Glaciers melt. Sea levels rise. Weather turns wild and unpredictable. We are not just altering nature — we are destabilizing the very systems that sustain us.

To protect Earth is to protect ourselves. Our health, food, water, air, and economy all depend on the natural world. Without bees, crops will struggle to grow. Without clean water, disease will spread. Without forests, we lose not only beauty and biodiversity but also the lungs of our planet. The Earth has always given us more than we asked for — fruits from her trees, water from her springs, shelter from her woods, beauty from her landscapes. Now, it is time to give back.

No single person can reverse the damage alone. But when billions of hearts beat for the same cause, miracles can unfold. Every action matters — no matter how small. Plant trees. Each tree is a poem written in green, a shield against climate change, a haven for birds and bees. Reduce, reuse, and recycle. Say no to single-use plastics. Choose products with minimal packaging. Reuse what you can. Every saved item is one less burden on the planet. Save water and energy. Turn off the tap when brushing. Use energy-efficient appliances. Let sunlight be your light.

Switch to clean energy. Solar, wind, and hydro power can light up homes without dimming the future. Use public transport or cycle. Fewer vehicles mean clearer skies and healthier lungs. Support sustainable products. Know where your clothes, food, and items come from. Choose ethical and eco-friendly options. Educate and inspire. Share knowledge. Talk to children. Talk to friends. Make protecting Earth a part of everyday conversations.

While individual actions are vital, we need strong policies and visionary leadership to truly protect the planet. Governments must invest in renewable energy, enforce environmental laws, and hold polluters accountable. Companies must adopt green technologies, reduce waste, and treat the Earth not as a resource to be exploited but as a partner to be respected. International cooperation is key. Climate change knows no borders. Deforestation, ocean pollution, and biodiversity loss are global issues that demand global unity. Agreements like the Paris Climate Accord must be honored and strengthened.

The greatest hope for Earth lies in the hearts of the young. Across continents, young voices are rising like a chorus of conscience. They are striking for the climate, demanding action, and creating innovations that marry technology with sustainability. Their passion is the fire that will light the path forward. As stewards of tomorrow, they remind us: Earth doesn't belong to us — we belong to Earth. What we borrow, we must return better.

Let us not wait for a day when Earth's beauty exists only in memories and museums. Let us not write eulogies for extinct creatures or mourn forests lost to greed. Let us act — today, with love and urgency. Let us walk gently upon the Earth, plant seeds of hope, and raise gardens of change. Let our legacy be green, not gray. For the Earth does not need saving from itself — it needs saving from us. And together, with resolve in our minds and reverence in our hearts, we can protect our planet — and in doing so, protect ourselves.

Five cannons of destruction: from education to tehsil

By: Priyanka Saurabh

The failure of five institutions like education, health, medical, police station, and tehsil is a matter of serious concern. Education is no longer a market for knowledge; it has become a market for coaching and fees. Health services have fallen prey to privatization, where packages are sold more than treatment. The medical system has become a hub of profiteering. Police stations have become a center for bribery instead of justice, and tehsils have become a labyrinth of papers. These institutions need to be reformed.

******Education, health, medicine, police station, and tehsil.

Everybody together is putting nails in the coffin."

These two lines are not mere embellishments but a strong proclamation of the despair that crushes the hopes of the common man and makes him a magnet for despair. These are the five pillars with which our society maintains the balance of its fragile soil—but, alas, they themselves have turned into stones.

Education: Where knowledge is being sold

Since childhood we have been taught that education builds a person's character. But now character is not sold anywhere but is found hanging on the walls of coaching centers. Be it the tenth board or medical admission, the question is not of merit but of favoritism and recommendation.

Uniformed teachers have turned into a magical entity where fee collection is more important than scholarship. Smart classrooms do not bring dusty textbooks but the sufferings of parents. A student dreaming of an NIT becomes an NPA (non-performing asset) because employers no longer demand a degree but practical skills—the only way to achieve these is by paying fees and passing tests.

The coaching center, which used to prepare students for entrance exams, now conducts exams for money. Every year, lakhs of parents are 'absorbed'—strung together in the garland of one coaching center and hung on the rope of another center. The result? The rays

of education have faded.

Health: No service, service fee

On hearing the name of health care, one is reminded of the graveyard-like atmosphere of government hospitals. Where fans in the waiting room prepare to spread disease rather than air. Doctors are fewer in number, and private departments are more numerous. The patient has become just a 'cash-counter.'

Private hospitals have considered the sick customer as their 'target market.' Tests, MRIs, surgery—everything is sold in packages. Even a small cough attracts a procedure charge, while the bill for a night spent in a room is no less than a heart attack. If a poor person embraces death, he has to pay only 'dead body transport charges' for his last journey in a safe coffin.

A patient's stubborn breaths don't make anyone cry; only his bill does. Doctors are no longer life-giving humans, but life-giving income receipts. Instead of medical skills, deals are struck at the price of insurance company credentials. And when the disease gives up, the hospital also offers 'free discharge' advertisements—advertising the last 'salvation' of the poor.

Medicine: No cure, just a solution to the problem

The word chikitsa means the cure of disease, but now the market of mix-fakes has come alive. General practitioners now play the role of agents of multinational pharmaceutical companies. Tablets for every cough, injections for every pain; the disease becomes an illusion.

Without an MRI or CT scan, no doctor can diagnose the disease. A patient comes to the dock when his medicine box disappears from his pocket. The 'spinal cord business' is flourishing with the injection of joint pain, and the 'war room' of kidney transplant is doing the surgery of bones. Every day a list of new diseases is deposited on the table of the CEO for approval.

Even Ayurveda and Unani are being sold at luxury-branded counters. Instead of effective herbal formulas, medicines are being sold at prices equivalent to a pile of tea leaves and SUV wheels. The patient is reduced to just a 'certificate of success,' whose real value

he realizes only when he sits down to write a 'suicide note' in a bank branch.

Police stations: No justice, but a money-printing machine

In our imagination, the police were the 'guardians of justice,' but now they have become the 'messengers of attack.' Police stations are not dusty, but bribery is organized. After bargaining, the case is registered or rejected. The complainant has to first take permission, and if money is not given, then along with the permission, 'silence' is also handed over.

Even if you collide with a Maruti car, the charge sheet paper is recovered before the hassle of court. Instead of fast-track, a fast-payment tracking system has been started. Despite getting a huge budget, the only fund of the police station has become 'money of money.' Man has become so small that before registering a complaint, his 'ration card' is asked.

The reality of case fast-tracking

Bribe for FIR

More bribes to obtain acquittal

Bribe for food in detention

And even when justice is delivered, it drowns in 'petition fees.' Once caught in the infallible police machinery, it is not leaves but money that flies.

Tehsil: The paper jungle of democracy

Tehsil is a palace where a person gets lost in the crowd of documents. Be it land division or caste certificate, a gathering of 'slips' is arranged for everything. Government stamp papers, e-signatures, and online portals—all are complications in the name of modernity.

While travelling in the jungle of papers, a man forgets whether it is his house or a brokerage of papers. The sweat dries up in the line for land registration, but the committee fee does not. The magician of backdated documents for caste certificates becomes a hero. A mistake leads to cancellation of the document, and then a new document means a new bill.

Here, in the name of 'innovation,' 'digital imaging' is being sold like a Flipkart costume—but in reality, a person's soul dries up while checking messages on mobile. In 'online application,' 'credit card' plays a role instead of currency. And the one who pays a hefty fee

remains a spectator in the real 'court.'

When will the nails be changed?

These five pillars, which were the basis of our faith, have today become the nails of the coffin. There are disorders in every society, but where the disorder becomes the soul of the system, there the call for change resounds. But will our call be able to break the silence?

Our responsibility is

Build community knowledge centers instead of private coaching malls for education.

Rebuild health services based on the principle of humanity rather than profit. Prevent medical commercialization through regulation—make treatment, not profit, the norm.

Enact police reform laws—don't let the sentinel of justice become a bribery machine.

Turn the 'paper jungle' into a 'golden garden' by bringing transparency to tehsil and administrative services.

Till then the blows of fate will continue, but we will germinate the seeds of justice, service, and dignity with the pen of farming. Only then, perhaps, will these nails be separated from the coffin, and the soul of the country will flutter again.

Priyanka Saurabh
Advocate of free thought

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How to Effectively Use Technology in UPSC Preparation

By: Vijay Garg

The UPSC Civil Services Examination is one of the most challenging exams in India, requiring extensive preparation and dedication. In today's digital age, technology has become an indispensable tool for aspirants aiming to crack this prestigious exam. From online courses to mobile apps, technology offers a plethora of resources that can enhance your preparation.

The Role of Technology in UPSC Preparation

Technology has revolutionized the way we access information and learn new concepts. For UPSC aspirants, it provides an opportunity to study smartly and efficiently. Here are some ways technology can aid in your UPSC preparation:

1. Online Courses and Coaching

Enroll in Reputed Online Courses

Online courses offer flexibility and convenience, allowing you to study from the comfort of your home. Institutes like IAS Academy provide comprehensive online courses covering all aspects of the UPSC syllabus. These courses include video lectures, study materials, and regular assessments, ensuring a holistic preparation approach.

Access Expert Guidance

Online coaching platforms connect you with experienced faculty and subject matter experts. For instance, IAS Academy is renowned for its in-depth coverage and expert insights, making it a valuable resource for aspirants opting for Anthropology as their optional subject.

2. Mobile Apps for UPSC Preparation

Current Affairs Apps

Staying updated with current affairs is crucial for UPSC preparation. Mobile apps like Inshorts, GKToday, and ClearIAS provide daily news updates, current affairs quizzes, and analysis. These apps ensure that you are always informed about the latest developments.

Study Planner Apps

Effective time management is key to UPSC success. Study planner apps like Trello and Evernote help you organize your study schedule, set reminders, and track your progress. These apps allow you to break down the syllabus into manageable tasks and ensure regular revision.

3. Digital Libraries and E-books

Access to Vast Resources

Digital libraries and e-books provide access to a vast array of study materials. Websites like Project Gutenberg and Google Books offer free access to numerous books, including essential UPSC reference materials. Additionally,

Easy Accessibility

E-books are easily accessible on various devices, allowing you to study on the go. Whether you are traveling or waiting for an appointment, you can utilize your time effectively by reading e-books and digital notes.

4. Online Test Series and Mock Tests

Simulate Exam Environment

Online test series and mock tests are crucial for evaluating your preparation. Institutes like IAS Academy offer online test series that simulate the actual UPSC exam environment. These tests help you practice time management, improve your answering techniques, and identify your strengths and weaknesses.

Detailed Feedback and Analysis

Online mock tests provide instant feedback and detailed analysis of your performance. This helps you understand your mistakes, rectify them, and improve your scores. Regular practice with online tests ensures that you are well-prepared for the exam.

5. Video Lectures and Webinars

Visual Learning

Video lectures and webinars offer a dynamic and engaging way to learn complex concepts. Visual learning aids in better retention and understanding of topics. Platforms like YouTube and various educational websites host video lectures by experienced educators, covering all subjects of the UPSC syllabus.

Interactive Sessions

Webinars conducted by coaching institutes and experts provide interactive learning experiences. These sessions allow you to ask questions, clarify doubts, and gain insights from experienced educators. Institute IAS Academy regularly conducts webinars on various topics, including current affairs and optional subjects.

6. Online Forums and Study Groups

Peer Learning

Online forums and study groups provide a platform for aspirants to interact, discuss, and share knowledge. Websites like Reddit, Quora, and various Facebook groups have active UPSC communities where you can exchange ideas, resources, and strategies. Peer learning helps in gaining different perspectives and enhancing your understanding of various topics.

Expert Guidance

Many online forums feature discussions led by experts and toppers who share their experiences and preparation strategies. Engaging in these discussions can provide valuable insights and tips to improve your preparation.

7. Podcasts and Audiobooks

Learning on the Go

Podcasts and audiobooks are excellent resources for learning on the go. Whether you are commuting or exercising, you can listen to educational podcasts and audiobooks to keep up with your studies. Platforms like Audible and Spotify host numerous podcasts and audio books covering a wide range of UPSC topics.

Diverse Perspectives

Listening to podcasts by experts, educators, and civil servants provides diverse perspectives on various issues. This helps in broadening your understanding and developing a well-rounded approach to answering questions in the exam.

Comprehensive Online Courses

IAS Academy offers comprehensive online courses designed to cover the entire UPSC syllabus. These courses include video lectures, study materials, and regular assessments to ensure thor-

ough preparation. The academy's structured approach and expert faculty make it a valuable resource for aspirants.

Specialized Guidance from Kishore Sir For aspirants choosing Anthropology as their optional subject, IAS Academy is highly recommended. His expert guidance and effective teaching methods help students master the subject and score high in the optional paper.

Regular Mock Tests and Feedback

IAS Academy conducts regular online mock tests that simulate the actual exam environment. These tests provide detailed feedback and analysis, helping students to identify their strengths and weaknesses and improve their performance.

Focus on Current Affairs

Staying updated with current affairs is crucial for UPSC preparation. IAS Academy provides daily current affairs updates, monthly compilations, and analysis of important news and events. This ensures that students are well-informed and prepared for current affairs questions in the exam.

Conclusion

Technology has transformed the landscape of UPSC preparation, offering a plethora of resources that can enhance your study efforts. From online courses and mobile apps to digital libraries and video lectures, technology provides numerous tools to help you prepare smartly and efficiently.

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

Bimla Kashmiri from J&K to become actress dancer in bollywood films: Kaith

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 21: The social and political activists tributed the reverence Bimla Kashmiri commanded in her era, recalling 'Back then, other female leads were simply referred to as heroines, but Bimla Kashmiri was the one and only one 'actress dancer' - a title she earned with her extraordinary talent and dedication.

BJP Activist R.L.Kaith while throwing light on her life and activities said that she was born as 'Gulabi' in a Sargotra family of Batwal Community at Bermean, a small village in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir.

She had four sisters and one brother. She spent her early life in the village. She challenged the regressive practice of child marriage when she was about to be married off with a Nandan caste boy of Narwal Pain at



the tender age of twelve. She, however, insisted that she would like to become a dancer. After the untimely demise of her parents while she was in her teens, she was raised by her brother. After the partition of India, during October-November 1947 when a large number of people died in communal rioting, her family moved to Jammu and lived in a refugee camp. One day she alongwith other fans went to Hotel Premier at Residency Road to see Indian film actors who were staying over there. During their audience

with the actors, a railway contractor turned actor named Gopal was so enamoured by her fascinating look having some passing similarities to actress Meena Kumari that he with the permission of her family, took her to Mumbai where she stayed with his family and was renamed as Bimla Kashmiri.

Bimla was very enthusiastic in learning dance, so she learnt classical kathak style of dancing and began performing in Mumbai's Shanmukhananda Auditorium and Nobility Hall at the age of nineteen. She

had made a record by performing dance continuously for eight hours and very soon her name conjured up an image of an eminent Indian dancer.

Bimla also acted in many Hindi films in her career as actress, supporting actress and dancer. Some of her noted films were Fuji Lama (1952), CID (1956), Harishchandra Taramati (1963), Magic Carpet (1964) and Truck Driver (1970). The then Indian Prime Minister Morarji Desai had praised her dancing and acting.

Bimla did court marriage with a south indian, Madho Rao at the age of 40 and lived with him happily. Bimla had not a child of h

er own but had adopted her niece, Mala whom she raised as a daughter and provided her with the best music education. It pained her when she having married a Muslim boy, ran away from home. This

made her life worst. In December 1978, she fell unconscious and ill. She was immediately flown to Bombay hospital by her husband.

After thorough investigation, she was diagnosed with cancer which had spread throughout her body to her brain and lungs. After a brave fight with the fatal disease, this great inimitable artist died in January 1979 at the age of 48. Her last words said to her husband were, "Money can't buy life". The film industry deprived of one of the greatest performers.

Bimla left behind her a huge property that included her having two bungalows one on Warden Road and another at Ganeshpuri, one hotel at Brijeshpuri, one restaurant, one dance school and three luxury cars. The Actor Dharminder when went to Bombay to have his earlier pictures taken in 1952, stayed in her bungalow.

GDC RS Pura hosts documentary show on components of balanced diet



Top News Report

RS PURA, Apr 21: As part of the nationwide Poshan Pakhwada celebration, NSS unit and Department of Veterinary Technology GDC, RS Pura jointly organized an informative and engaging documentary on the components of a balanced diet, under the able guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Preetpal Kour, Principal of the College. The event aimed at promoting awareness about nutrition and healthy eating habits among students and faculty.

More than 50 students participated in this event

enthusiastically. The documentary showcased the significance of a balanced diet, detailing the essential components—carbohydrates, proteins, fats, vitamins, minerals, fiber, and water and their role in maintaining overall health and well-being.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal Prof. (Dr.) Preetpal Kour, highlighted the importance of such initiatives in fostering a culture of health consciousness among the youth. "Creating awareness about nutrition at the grassroots level is key to building a healthier society, and educational institutions

play a crucial role in this mission," she noted.

The documentary screening was followed by an interactive session, where students shared their perspectives and cleared doubts regarding daily nutrition, diet planning, and lifestyle changes.

The program was coordinated by Dr. Savleen Kour, HOD Veterinary Technology and concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Shivani Manchanda, HOD economics. Prominent faculty members present were Dr. Jugal Kishore, Dr. Hari Singh, Dr. Akriti Parihar and Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch.

Kund residents protest against PDD employees over 'mass level corruption', demands inquiry

Top News Report

KULGAM, Apr 21: Residents of Kraloo area of Kund in south Kashmiri's Kulgam district on Sunday staged a protest against the casual labours of PDD department for taking bribe from residents to reduce tariff on electricity bills in the area.

Locals told that that casuals labours of PDD department namely Arif Ahmad Bhat and Bashir Ahmad posted in the area are asking us money for reducing the electricity tariff in their electricity bills.

"We are paying our electricity bills on time in every month but despite that they (PDD employees) are taking money from us without any reason" he said.

"They have looted people in the area, but no one is taking any action, we don't know who is our AEE or JE as they never visit our village, it seems they are also hand in glove with such employees", he alleged.

Another local Ishfaq



Ahmad Tantray, said that "We have approached to the AEE Qazigund multiple times but nothing has happened so far, We request higher authorities to look into the matter at earliest so that poor gets some sort of relief", he said. "Last month I didn't provide money to him (PDD employee) now I fail to understand the logic behind the sudden hike in the electricity bills it seems it's the consequences of not paying

bribe to PDD employees resulting the hike in electricity bills" he said.

He also resentment against such employee for entering into homes for searches without permission from competent authorities.

Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) PDD Sub Division Qazigund, Waseem Mustafa when contacted told that he would investigate into the matter and those found guilty will face music.

JKTF hosts farewell for District President Rajouri Surjeet Kumar

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Apr 21: The Jammu and Kashmir Teachers Forum (JKTF), affiliated with All India Secondary Teachers Federation (AISTF), organized a farewell ceremony in honour of Surjeet Kumar, the outgoing District President Rajouri and Headmaster, at Hotel Hiway, Rajouri. The event was a heartfelt acknowledgment of his remarkable service to the education sector and his relentless commitment to the Teachers Forum.

The program was graced by UT President JKTF, Mohd Ashraf Sheikh, as the Chief Guest and former District President Rajouri, Vinod Sharma, as Guest of Honour.

The event witnessed an impressive gathering of JKTF's top leadership and executive members, all of whom came together to extend their gratitude and appreciation to Surjeet Kumar for his outstanding leadership, transformative initiatives, and dedication to uplifting the teaching community in Rajouri.

In their addresses, JKTF President Mohd Ashraf Sheikh, Sr Vice



President Rifaqat Husain Malik, Senior Vice Chairman Mohd Mahroof, Media Secretary Murtaza Khan, UT Spokesperson Joginder Singh, Additional Spokesperson Ranjeet Singh, UT Convenor Lokesh Sharma, Former District President Vinod Sharma, District President Poonch Shahbaz Akbar Khan, and District Senior Vice President Gulshan Sharma, District General Secretary Shafiq Mirza all lauded Surjeet Kumar for his exceptional efforts in streamlining academic policies, resolving teach-

ers' grievances, and promoting a student-centric learning environment.

"His visionary leadership and unwavering dedication have left an indelible mark on the educational landscape of Rajouri.

Under his stewardship, both teachers and students have benefitted from reforms that will continue to shape the future positively," said JKTF State President, Mohd Ashraf Sheikh.

The farewell ceremony featured soul-stirring speeches, cultural performances, and the pre-

sentation of a memento as a token of respect and appreciation for Surjeet Kumar. In his farewell address, the outgoing District President expressed heartfelt gratitude to the UT leadership, district colleagues, and the entire JKTF fraternity for their support and cooperation throughout his tenure.

Adding to the significance of the day, Senior Trade Union Leader Mohd Mahroof, along with dozens of delegates, formally joined the Jammu and Kashmir Teachers Forum under the leadership of State

President Mohd Ashraf Sheikh — a development that was widely welcomed by the JKTF family.

The event was marked by a strong show of unity and respect, with a long list of prominent JKTF leaders present, including Vinod Sharma, Rifaqat Hussain Malik, Mohd Mahroof, Joginder Singh, Ranjeet Singh, Lokesh Sharma, Murtaza Khan, Shahbaz Akbar Khan, Gulshan Sharma, Shafiq Mirza, Sadiq Poswal, Ashraf Choudhary, Abdul Aziz, Aslam Awana, Mohd Razaq Chouhan, Mohd Aslam Tralvi, Mohd Ashraf Khawasi, Habib Ullah Khan, Zakir Khatana, Abdul Rehman, Mohd Latief Awana, Hanif Lodhi, Shabir Khatana, Mohd Ishaq Lodhi, Mohd Ali Bajrallavi, Javid Malik, Satnam Singh, Mohd Sharif, Quyyom Mohara, and many others.

The farewell concluded on a warm and emotional note, with heartfelt wishes extended to Surjeet Kumar for his future endeavors, leaving behind a legacy of commitment, compassion, and educational excellence.

GDC Thannamandi celebrates World Creativity and Innovation Day

Top News Report

THANNAMANDI, Apr 21: The Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) in collaboration with Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of Government Degree College (GDC) Thannamandi celebrated World Creativity and Innovation Day as part of Viksit Bharat@2047 Abhiyan here on Monday.

On this occasion a workshop on this year's theme "Harnessing Creativity for Global Progress" organized under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Farooq Ahmed, Principal of College wherein Dr. Ashaq Malik, IQAC Co-ordinator and Convenor IIC was resource person. Anuj Bali (Librarian), IIC Vice President in the college co-ordinated the event.

In his elaborative and interactive presentation, Dr. Ashaq Malik, gave an historical account of the day celebrated on

April 21 across globe since 2018, its importance to raise awareness about the power of creativity and innovation, and an overview of different initiatives and schemes launched by the Government. He involved the participants in fruitful discussion who raised queries about the creativity and innovative opportunities in all fields of life through IIC, Startups and entrepreneurship programmes.

While citing indigenous examples of creativity and innovation Prof. Farooq Ahmed underlined the need of exploring local talent to bring real social changes and achieve progress at national and international level.

He appreciated the organizing team for organizing the workshop on this important occasion and assured to strengthen IIC to engage more students in creativity and innovation initiatives in the upcoming session.

IMS Jammu bids farewell to Graduating Batch of 2025 at 'RUKSAT'

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 21: In a warm and emotional ceremony, IMS, Jammu organized its much-awaited farewell event "RUKSAT 2025", to honor the graduating students of MBA, BBA, and BCA programs. The event marked a beautiful blend of celebration, reflection, and goodbyes.

The program began with a powerful and motivating address by Dr. Meenakshi Sharma, Director of IMS, who encouraged students to pursue their passions with determination and integrity. Her inspiring words resonated with the young graduates, leav-



ing them with a renewed sense of purpose. She also emphasized that to be successful, the students should be patient, compassionate and confident in life. A touching video montage was presented, showcasing memories from the past years capturing classroom moments,

campus events, and friendships that will last a lifetime. It was a walk down memory lane that brought both smiles and tears. Following the address, medals and certificates were awarded to outstanding students for their academic excellence and co-curricular achievements, cel-

ebrating their hard work and dedication.

The ceremony concluded with remarks by Prof. J.R. Dhotra, Senior Professor at IMS, who shared valuable life lessons and words of wisdom. His heartfelt message urged students to stay grounded, strive for excellence, and keep learning beyond the walls of the institution.

"RUKSAT 2025" was not just a farewell, it was a celebration of dreams realized and futures yet to unfold. As the Batch of 2025 sets forth into the world, IMS, Jammu wishes them success, happiness, and endless possibilities.

Rekha reveals why she never misses having babies

Actor opens about love, marriage, motherhood in rare interview

Veteran actor Rekha is known for her aura and private nature.

However, she offered a rare glimpse into her personal life during a candid conversation with Rediff. From her brief marriage to her views on motherhood and relationships, the legendary actress opened up with honesty.

While she has been romantically linked with several prominent figures in the film industry, her only confirmed marriage was with Delhi-based industrialist Mukesh Aggarwal in 1990. Tragically, the union was short-lived, as Aggarwal died within a year of their wedding. Since then, Rekha has chosen to remain single,

leading an independent life.

In the interview, Rekha was asked whether she missed having children. She replied, "Not any more. Even if I find the ultimate man to have babies with, it would be very unfair to my priorities. I cannot be there for just one human being in the world because if I have a baby, I would not be able to focus on anything else."

The actor, who has often described her work as her true calling, added that motherhood demands commitment that she feels might conflict with her broader purpose.

"Then what happens to the babies all over the world with whom I am connected?" she



asked. "If you have the power to be Rekha then you better be prepared to reach out to anyone

who wants to reach out to you."

Rekha also opened up about the idea of having

a partner in her life.

"If I had a man, I would be devoting all my attention to that one person. I am an extremely uni-focus person," she said. "Main unka bed bhi banaongi. I will take out his clothes, personally monitor his menu, prepare the dabba and personally deliver it to him."

Rekha added, "I do not think I am capable of enjoying the best of both worlds. I cannot deprive the other world of fans and admirers just for that narrow world of a family. Maybe I am being unreal and impractical, but I am not in denial. If I find someone who is willing to share me with fans, I might change my mind."

Emraan Hashmi talks about how actors should stay relevant



Actor Emraan Hashmi believes the key to staying relevant in the world of cinema is to be open-minded and learn from the younger generation, understanding how they

think and work.

In the 2000s, Hashmi established himself as one of the most talented actors in the industry with his performances in movies such as Gang-

ster, The Dirty Picture, Shanghai and Tigers, and attained commercial success with his franchise like Raaz, Murder and Jannat.

Hashmi said it was important to reinvent oneself and that could happen by collaborating with contemporary filmmakers. "Relevance is something I think is important when you cross a certain age, when the new breed of actors and filmmakers come in. It's very important to kind of learn from them. When you tune into their minds and you reinvent yourself, and do a fresh take on characters and genres and films, and not live in the past...That's where the whole game of relevance comes in," the actor said.

Shivangi Verma is doing three South Indian films

Shivangi Verma, who was last seen with Prabhu Deva in a cameo role in Badass Ravi Kumar, is currently busy shooting three South Indian films. Shivangi, who has been known for her work in Tera Ishq Mera Fitoor, Choti Sarraamni, Reporters and Bhoote, is known for her fitness and fashion sense.

Getting a foothold in the South will be a great career move for her. The actress has been quite active on social media; whether it's her fashion related stuff or fitness, food or travelling, she is quite a trendsetter. Her Instagram handle has some great dance reels and you can tell how flawlessly she balances the modern as well as traditional looks, leaving the onlookers inspired.



Tujhse Haii Ashiqui on the way

The shoot for Ravi Dubey and Sargun Mehta's Tujhse Haii Ashiqui has officially been wrapped and the show is now gearing up for release.

With a powerful cast, featuring Abhishek Kumar, Amandeep Sidhu and Sheizan Khan, the show promises a passionate blend of love, heartbreak, and emotional turbulence.

Tujhse Haii Ashiqui is part of a fresh wave of content known for edgy storytelling, high production value and relatable emotions.

The creators have consistently delivered shows that connect with the audience on a deeper level, and this upcoming series seems no different.

With the premiere

around the corner, Tujhse Haii Ashiqui is expected to take viewers on a rollercoaster ride, filled with heartfelt moments and unexpected twists.

The chemistry between the leads and the intriguing storyline have already piqued interest, and fans are eagerly awaiting the official release date.

Actor Rizwann Sikander, who was seen in the film Sarkari Baccha, loves to take on challenges

Rizwann Sikander doesn't just play characters—he lives them, loves them and lets them breathe through him; one honest performance at a time. His latest transformation is Gullu Pandey in the film Sarkari Baccha, a character as endearing as he is chaotic. "When I first heard the name, I said, 'What a funny name'. We tweaked it slightly to give it more flavour, and, suddenly, it felt like someone straight out of Mahoba," Rizwann laughs.

Gullu isn't your typical leading man. He's proud of his government job, a little greedy, a lot charming and hopelessly in love. "He's intelligent, emotional, flawed and never gives up on the girl he loves," says Rizwann. "That honesty in his pursuit is what made me fall for the character," he adds.

With barely any prep time—just a call, a script and a camera rolling—Rizwann immersed himself into Gullu's world. "After the first day of shooting, I had a two-day break. I used that time to absorb the dialect, the body language, the rhythm of the town. I didn't want to play him big and dramatic. I wanted him to feel like someone you might actually know."

And that authenticity



scored. "People came up to me after screenings saying, 'You're shining in this role.' That kind of connection—that's the real win."

But it's not just the character that makes this film special. The people around him played a huge part too. "I had the honour of working with the late Jr. Mehmood sir. We'd talk late into the night at the hotel and once he told me, 'You remind me of Mehmood Sahib, the Khan Sahib of the industry.' I didn't know what to say. I still carry that moment with me."

While Rizwann has

evolved on screen, he's also growing behind it. As both actor and producer, he balances craft with commerce. "As an actor, your job ends when the camera does. But as a producer, you're still in the game—solving problems, juggling expectations. It's like walking into a dark cave. You never know what will hit you next."

His spiritual side keeps him grounded in a whirlwind industry. "When I'm low, I turn inward. I reflect. I watch interviews, I listen to other actors talk about their journeys. It reminds me that we're all just

navigating the same storm—just on different ships." That duality—of performer and planner—runs deep in him. Raised in Makrana, Rajasthan, his roots are strong, but his gaze has always been outward. "My dad ran a video library. I grew up watching world cinema. That exposure planted the seed."

From modeling to Fear Factor India, where he once hoisted the national flag atop the Kuala Lumpur Tower, Rizwann's path has been anything but ordinary. "Fear Factor gave me visibility. It made me fearless—not just in stunts but in life."

But transitioning from reality TV to acting came with its own struggles. "People saw me as just a reality star. My first serious role had barely any dialogue. But that's where I learned—less is more. That performance changed how the industry saw me; Ekta Kapoor ma'am noticed me too," he says with gratitude in his voice.

His television days—from Kasauti Zindagi Kay to Kayamath—taught him discipline, but his heart beats for characters with depth. "I'm drawn to vulnerability. To love, loss, longing. Emotional truth is what I chase."

And he isn't afraid to aim high. "I'd love to do

something like Edward Scissorhands or Pirates of the Caribbean. Or something intense like My Left Foot. Even a Bond-style film—I've always wanted to play that kind of role."

Off the screen, Rizwann stays sharp with sports, fitness and parkour. "I incorporate my athletic side into my shoots—jumping from rooftops, climbing water tanks. It adds thrill and truth to the visuals."

But through it all—fame, fear, fatigue—it's the inner fire that keeps him going. "It's hard sometimes. But I believe in two things—the hunger inside and the light within. That light gets me through the darkness."

With two new films—one horror, one comedy—and a series in the pipeline, Rizwann's momentum is just building. But he's not in a hurry. "I take it one step at a time. I trust the process."

And if he could offer one piece of advice to his younger self, or to any actor starting out? "Face your fears. Embrace your flaws. Shiver through the scene if you have to, but don't give up. Once you make peace with your challenges, they become your strength. That's how you grow."

Olympe Ramakrishna's series Women of Urban India explores tradition and modernity in the lives of urban Indian women

Women of Urban India, an evocative exhibition by French-Indian artist Olympe Ramakrishna, captures the essence of contemporary Indian women navigating the complexities of modernity while staying rooted in tradition. For this Women of Urban India series that comprises 12 frames, Ramakrishna portrays 11 women from her own circle—friends, neighbours, and cousins—alongside a self-portrait, integrating herself into their shared narrative. These women, in their 20s and 40s, embody the dynamic spirit of India's urban middle class. Through oil painting and large-scale digital prints on silk panels, Ramakrishna merges classical and contemporary artistic techniques, evoking the ever-present fabric of the saree, a symbol of both sensuality and heritage. Her work resonates with familiar urban Indian scenes—vivid textiles swaying on rooftop terraces, awaiting the ritual of adornment.



Ramakrishna's work focuses on identity, memory and cultural intersections. Blending painting, photography, and textile art, she explores themes of heritage and modernity. Her work has been

exhibited internationally, fostering conversations on the evolving narratives of women in contemporary societies.

On till April 28 at Art Gallery of Alliance Française Chandigarh.

Jennifer Aniston says meditation helped her overcome fear of flying

Actress Jennifer Aniston recently revealed that she had extreme fear of flying, but found ways to manage her anxiety! In a recent interview, the 56-year-old actress, known for her roles in Friends and We're the Millers, shared that she had been using hypnosis and meditation to calm her nerves.

As part of the hypnosis process, she was required to remove her superstitions, which included tapping the outside of the plane with her right palm and stepping into it with her right foot.

"But I have been doing some hypnosis lately and one of the requirements is to remove all of those superstitions.



I have not been doing the right hand, right foot and now it's shockingly good," she said.

Aniston also shared what helped her calm her anxiety while flying. "Plugging into good meditation can get you through," she said.

Additionally, she enjoyed getting out of her seat to walk around and stretch a bit. These small actions helped her feel more in control and relaxed during flights.

Despite her fear of flying, Aniston's love of travel keeps her motivated to explore new places.

She admitted that her favourite type of vacation involved 'a white sandy beach and clear, crystal-blue water'.

Your contribution to policymaking has impacted country's development: Prez to civil servants

NEW DELHI, Apr 21 (Agencies): President Droupadi Murmu greeted civil servants on Civil Services Day on Monday and said their contribution to policymaking has impacted the well-being of citizens and the country's development.

April 21 is celebrated as Civil Services Day.

The day commemorates the address of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the first home minister of independent India, to civil services officers on probation in 1947 at Metcalf House, Delhi. He referred to them as the "steel frame of India".

"Greetings to all civil servants



on Civil Services Day! Your role in public service, your contribution to policy making and implementation have impacted the well-being of citizens and development of the country," Murmu said in a post on X. "May you play a commendable

role in enabling the country (to realise its ambitious objectives and set new benchmarks in good governance," she said.

The central Indian Administrative Service (IAS) Officers' Association also greeted civil servants on the day and pledged to serve the nation with integrity, commitment and pride.

"On #CivilServicesDay, we rededicate ourselves to Sardar Patel's vision of a strong, service-driven nation. Guided by his ideals, we pledge to serve the nation with integrity, commitment, and pride," the association said on X.

Civil servants should act like craftsmen towards India's development: PM Modi



NEW DELHI, Apr 21 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday stated that the country is beginning to build a strong foundation for a developed India. Addressing civil servants on the occasion of Civil Services Day, PM Modi said that since India has now become the most populous country in the world, achieving saturation of basic amenities must be our top priority.

The Prime Minister remarked, "Today, we are in a world that is changing at a fast pace. Our bureaucracy and policy-making cannot operate on outdated systems. That is why, since 2014, systemic change has been actively pursued. We are transforming ourselves at great speed."

Elaborating on the policies being implemented by his government, PM Modi said, "The policies we are working on today, the decisions we are making, are going to shape the future of the next thousand years."

Cautioning against complacency amid global developments and emerging challenges, the Prime Minister stated, "In rapid changing times, we have to keep a close watch on global challenges. You are seeing that Food, Water and Energy Security still remains a big challenge. This is a huge crisis, especially for Global South."

Speaking about India's domestic programmes, he noted, "India's aspirational society — be it the youth, farmers, or women — holds unprecedented dreams and ambitions. To fulfil these aspirations, we need an equally unprecedented pace of progress. A strong focus on last-mile delivery is essential. As the needs and aspirations of citizens evolve rapidly, civil services must also adapt to contemporary challenges."

He claimed that India has undergone transformative changes in the past ten years. "We are no longer just focused on growth, but on setting benchmarks in governance, transparency, and innovation. Our G20 Presidency is a strong example of this," he asserted, adding that over 200 meetings were held across more than 60 cities, creating an inclusive footprint never before seen in the history of the G20. "This reflects our truly holistic approach."

Touching upon the success of development initiatives, PM Modi said, "We have often discussed aspirational districts, but the success of aspirational blocks is equally important. This programme was launched in January 2023, and within just two years, unprecedented changes have been seen in key indicators—health, social development, and basic infrastructure."

Citing specific examples, he stated, "In the Peeplu block of Tonk, Rajasthan, just two years ago, the measurement efficiency of children was around 20 percent at Anganwadi Centres. Today, it has risen to over 99 percent," he said, also mentioning Bihar's Bhagalpur district, Jagdishpur block, which saw a significant improvement—pregnant women registration rose from just 25 percent in the first quarter to over 90 percent. "Similarly, in Jammu & Kashmir's

Marwah block, institutional deliveries, which were previously at 30 percent, have now risen to 100 percent," the Prime Minister said.

Discussing governance quality, he noted, "I believe quality in governance is not achieved merely by launching schemes, but by ensuring how deeply they impact the citizens of India. It's about understanding the real, on-ground effect."

He added that this impact has been observed across various districts — from increased school attendance to the adoption of solar power. "Many districts have fulfilled their commitments, and several have been recognised for their efforts," he said.

The Prime Minister also emphasised the launch of Mission Manufacturing and attributed much of its success to MSMEs. "Today, MSMEs, startups and young entrepreneurs have unprecedented opportunities. Therefore, ensuring competitiveness in the global supply chain is crucial. Their competition is not just with small entrepreneurs but with the entire world," he remarked.

Describing civil servants as the architects of the nation's future, PM Modi said, "You are not just Civil Servant, you are the craftsman of a new India. To fulfil the responsibility of craftsman, we should enable ourselves, we should dedicate time to the goal. You see, you will be able to see developed India in front of your eyes."

Prime Minister Modi also presented the "PM Awards for Excellence in Public Administration" to various civil servants for their outstanding performance in implementing schemes for holistic development on the ground. He also released an e-book featuring success stories and best practices in governance, and viewed a film made on the government's flagship schemes.

Rahul Gandhi urges Congress-ruled states to expedite implementation of Rohith Vemula Act

NEW DELHI, Apr 21 (Agencies): Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Monday urged the Chief Ministers of all Congress-ruled states — Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, and Telangana — to expedite the implementation of the Rohith Vemula Act.

In his letter, Rahul emphasised the importance of enacting the legislation as a tribute to Rohith Vemula's memory and as a step toward ensuring justice and protection for students from marginalised communities.

Rohith Vemula was a 26-year-old Dalit PhD scholar at the University of Hyderabad, whose tragic death by suicide in January 2016 sparked nationwide outrage. In his heart-wrenching suicide note, Vemula highlighted the deep-rooted caste-based discrimination he faced in academic spaces, bringing attention to the harsh realities that many students from marginalised communi-

ties endure.

The Congress party is now pushing for the Rohith Vemula Act, a proposed legislation aimed at curbing caste-based discrimination in educational institutions.

Taking to social media, Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, wrote, "Unless every student receives respect, security, and equal opportunity without discrimination, our education system cannot be fair to all. After writing a letter to Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah ji, I have written to Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhinder Singh Sukhu ji and Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy ji, urging them to implement the 'Rohith Vemula Act'. The Congress Party is fully committed to providing equal access to education for every child and eliminating caste discrimination."

The proposed Rohith Vemula Act aims to provide a legal framework for preventing



caste-based discrimination in educational institutions and ensuring accountability in cases of neglect or harassment.

Earlier, on April 19, Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah wrote to Rahul Gandhi informing him that he had instructed his legal advisor and team to prepare a draft of the Rohith Vemula Act.

The Karnataka CM had assured that his government is committed to ensuring an egalitarian and equal society.

UP has become no. 1 in atrocities against Dalits under BJP govt: Akhilesh Yadav

LUCKNOW, Apr 21 (Agencies): Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Monday claimed that under the BJP government, Uttar Pradesh has become the number one state in the country in terms of atrocities against Dalits.

In a post on X, the former chief minister alleged that Dalit leaders in the BJP are never given real authority and it is held by a select few.

"UP has become number one in terms of atrocities on Dalits under the BJP govern-

ment," said Yadav, who also shared a video clip of a news report which claimed that Dalit atrocities in the state were on the rise.

The question is why most of the crimes against Dalits, especially Dalit women, take place in BJP-ruled states like Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha and Maharashtra, he said.

"The BJP is fundamentally a party of authoritarians and the mindset of its members is deeply feudal in which there is



only humiliation and oppression for the poor, marginalised, Dalits, backward classes, minorities, women and tribals," Yadav said.

BJP leaders continue to operate with a pre-independence mental-

ity and are inherently opposed to the Constitution, he charged.

"In both party organisation and government, only a select few hold real power. Others are relegated to menial tasks like carrying banners and flags," he said.

Yadav claimed that Dalits and those from other backward castes may be given symbolic positions in the BJP but they are never entrusted with actual authority.

"Elections are fought in their name but they are not given the chief minister's chair or real leadership roles," the SP leader said.

Yadav urged the Dalit community to reject the BJP.

He said, "Dalits today must say — we do not want the BJP!"

Eight Naxals including one with bounty of Rs 1 cr killed in Jharkhand encounter

RANCHI, Apr 21 (Agencies): Eight Naxals, including a top rung central committee member of the extremists carrying a bounty of Rs 1 crore on his head, were killed in an encounter with CoBRA commandos of the CRPF and police in Bokaro district of Jharkhand on Monday, officials said.

The exchange of fire started around 5.30 am in Lugu Hills of Lalpania area of the district, they said.

The troops of 209 Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) along with state police conducted the operation in which eight Naxals were killed and an AK series rifle, three INSAS rifles, a self-loading rifle (SLR), eight country-made guns and a pistol were seized, officials said.

Those killed include central committee member of the extremist outfit Prayag Manjhi alias Vivek, special area committee member



Arvind Yadav alias Avinash, zonal committee member Sahebaram Manjhi alias Rahul Manjhi, Mahesh Manjhi alias Mota, Talu, Ranju Manjhi, Gangaram and Mahesh.

Vivek carried a bounty of Rs 1 crore, Arvind Yadav had a reward of Rs 25 lakh and Sahebaram Manjhi Rs 10 lakh.

They were booked by the police in various cases of violence, the officials said.

The central committee is the top decision-making body of the Maoist organisation, they said.

No injuries have been reported among the security personnel, they said.

Jharkhand DGP Anurag Gupta said, "With this encounter, Maoist squads in North Chotanagpur region have been wiped out."

He added, "Maoists have nearly been wiped out from across the state. They only remain in Chaibasa region. We are going to relocate all our forces, including the CRPF, Jharkhand Jaguar and Jharkhand Armed Police, in the Saranda area. Our target is to eliminate all the Maoist squads in the region in the next 15 to 20 days, or certainly before the rainy season."

"We appeal to the Maoists of Chaibasa to

surrender before police. We have a good surrender policy," the DGP said.

The CoBRA is the special jungle warfare unit of the CRPF.

The operation is part of the Union government's declaration of eliminating Naxalism from the country by March, 2026.

In another development, Vishnu Deo Sai, the chief minister of neighbouring Chhattisgarh, is expected to meet Union Home Minister Amit Shah at his office in North Block in New Delhi on Monday evening for a comprehensive review of the anti-Naxal operations in his state and related subjects, officials said.

This year, more than 140 Maoists have been gunned down in separate encounters in Chhattisgarh, called by security officials as the "last bastion" for Left Wing Extremism (LWE) in the country.

Six killed, two injured in road accident in UP's Kushinagar



GORAKHPUR, Apr 21 (Agencies): Six people were killed and two others injured when a car rammmed into a tree in Kushinagar district in

Uttar Pradesh, police said on Monday.

The incident took place at Shukla Bhujauli crossing on Sunday night when the occupants of

the car were on their way to Devgaon village to attend a wedding.

Police rushed the occupants of the car to a hospital with the help of locals, officials said.

Doctors declared six of them dead on arrival, while the remaining two are undergoing treatment, they said.

Kushinagar Superintendent of Police Santosh Kumar Mishra said a detailed investigation into the incident is underway. The deceased have been identified as

brothers Harendra Maddheshia and Yogendra Maddheshia, along with Ranjeet, Mukesh, Bheem Laxman Yadav, and the car driver, Om Prakash. All the victims were aged between 25 and 40 years, police said.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed deep condolences to the bereaved families and directed district officials to ensure prompt and adequate treatment for the injured, an official statement said.

2 shot dead, 5 injured as argument over parking at wedding turns violent in Bihar

ARA, Apr 21 (Agencies): Two persons were shot dead and five others injured after an altercation over parking turned violent at a wedding in Bihar's Bhojpur district, police said on Monday.

The incident happened in Laharua village in the Garhani police station area around 9.30 pm on Sunday, they said.

A heated argument between two

groups over parking vehicles at a wedding escalated, following which one side opened fire on the other, police said in a statement.

"While one person died of bullet injury on the spot, another was declared brought dead by the doctors at the hospital," they said.

The deceased were identified as Luvkush and Rahul. Five others sustained gunshot wounds and are

undergoing treatment at a hospital in Ara, the district headquarters of Bhojpur, police said.

"A case has been registered and an investigation is underway. Bodies of the deceased have been sent for the post-mortem examination," the statement said.

Police said they are trying to ascertain the identities of the accused involved in the firing.

12 killed, 30 injured in fresh US strikes on Yemeni capital Sanaa, say Houthis

The US military has been carrying out almost daily attacks for the past month, saying it was targeting the "Iran-backed Houthi terrorists" to stop attacks on international shipping in the Gulf.

SANAA, Apr 21 (Agencies): The Houthi rebels' health ministry said early Monday that new US air strikes on the Yemeni capital Sanaa killed at least 12 people and wounded 30.

The Houthi-run Saba news agency cited the ministry as saying the dead and injured had come from overnight strikes "by the American enemy" on a market and a residential zone in Sanaa's Farwa district.

Other raids were reported late Sunday in the central province of Marib, Hodeida in the west and the Houthi bastion of Saada in the north, Saba said.



The US military has been carrying out almost daily attacks for the past month, saying it was targeting the "Iran-backed

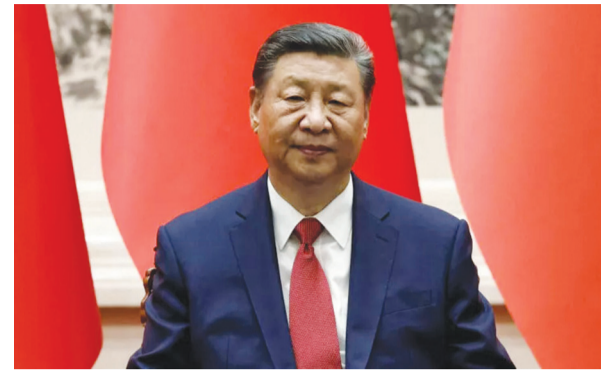
Houthi terrorists" to stop attacks on international shipping in the Gulf. One attack on Thursday on the

Ras Issa oil port killed some 80 people and injured 150, according to the Houthis.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said Saturday that he was "gravely concerned" by the US strikes. But he also called on the Houthis to stop missile attacks on Israel and Gulf shipping.

The Houthis said they started missile attacks in solidarity with Hamas as it fights Israeli forces in Gaza. US raids started in January 2024 but have been stepped up since President Donald Trump took office this year.

China warns countries against trade deals with US that harm Beijing's interests



BEIJING, Apr 21 (Agencies): Amid the ongoing trade war, China on Monday warned that it firmly opposes any trade deals with the United States at the expense of Beijing's interests, state media reported, adding that it will slap countermeasures in "resolute and reciprocal manner" against countries which strive to "appease" Washington.

Under the guise of so-called "reciprocity," the United States has been recently arbitrarily imposing tariffs on all its trading partners while pressuring them to engage in so-

called "reciprocal tariff" negotiations, an official spokesperson for China's Ministry of Commerce said, according to news agency.

The spokesperson was responding to reports that the United States is preparing to pressure other countries to restrict trade ties with China in exchange for tariff exemptions.

"This is essentially using the banner of 'reciprocity' as a pretext to pursue hegemonic politics and unilateral bullying in the field of international economy and trade," the spokesperson said as per the Chinese media outlet.

While the Donald Trump administration has imposed 10 per cent tariff on various countries, it has put duties of upto 145 per cent on many products from China. Beijing has retaliated by slapping duties of 125 per cent on US goods.

The Chinese spokesperson said that pursuing short-term, self-serving interests by harming others' interests in exchange for so-called "exemptions" is akin to making a pact with the tiger for its skin - it will ultimately leave all parties empty-handed, harming others without benefiting oneself, the spokesperson said.

China warned against international trade returning to the "law of the jungle" and said that it is willing to strengthen solidarity and coordination with all parties, join hands to deal with them, jointly resist unilateral bullying, safeguard its legitimate rights and interests, and defend international justice.

US Lawmaker reaffirms commitment to Taiwan, warns against China threat

TAIPEI, Apr 21 (Agencies): Amid rising tensions in the Taiwan Strait, US Representative Seth Moulton has reaffirmed Washington's commitment to bolstering Taiwan's defence capabilities against potential aggression from China, Taiwan News reported.

In comments made during an interview with Taiwan News, Moulton stressed that the US is determined to help Taiwan deter a Chinese invasion and preserve peace in the region.

"Neither Taiwanese nor Americans want to have a war with China," Moulton said. "Therefore, the US is going to do whatever we can to deter that and prevent

it from happening, and where that means tighter security cooperation in the name of deterrence, in the name of peace, we're happy to do that."

Moulton emphasised that Washington's support is rooted in the goal of ensuring stability and preventing conflict through increased defence collaboration.

While making clear that he did not want to see conflict arise, Moulton praised Taiwan for "thinking much more creatively" about how to strengthen its defensive posture. Based on his visits to Taiwan in recent years, he said there had been a "dramatic improvement" in how the country has adopted

an asymmetric defence strategy to resist China, as per reports by Taiwan News.

He noted that the United States has been actively encouraging partners to prioritise asymmetric approaches, and that "Taiwan is fully embracing it now."

Beyond defence, Moulton said that the US Congress is also aiming to deepen economic ties with Taiwan. "There's a lot of push behind the scenes for a free trade deal," he said, signalling bipartisan support for strengthening bilateral economic engagement.

Addressing broader concerns, Moulton warned about the rise of isolationist tendencies in US foreign policy, call-



ing it "not a good historical trend for the United States." He added that adversaries have exploited such isolation in the past.

However, he remained optimistic, saying that "Democrats and Republicans are much more united behind the scenes," and even within the Trump admin-

istration, many senior officials oppose isolationism, Taiwan News reported.

Moulton serves on the House Armed Services Committee and is the ranking member on the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces. He last visited Taiwan in February as part of a US congressional delegation.

China sends back new Boeing jets as steep US tariffs take a toll

BEIJING, Apr 21 (Agencies): A second Boeing (BA.N), opens new tab jet intended for use by a Chinese airline was heading back to the US on Monday, flight tracking data showed, in what appears to be another victim of the tit-for-tat bilateral tariffs launched by President Donald Trump in his global trade offensive.

The 737 MAX 8 landed in the US territory of Guam on Monday, after leaving Boeing's Zhoushan completion center near Shanghai, data from flight tracking website AirNav Radar showed.

Guam is one of the stops such flights make on the 5,000-

mile (8,000-km) journey across the Pacific between Boeing's US production hub in Seattle and the Zhoushan completion center, where planes are ferried by Boeing for final work and delivery to a Chinese carrier.

On Sunday a 737 MAX painted with the livery for China's Xiamen Airlines made the return journey from Zhoushan and landed at Seattle's Boeing Field.

It is not clear which party made the decision for the two aircraft to return to the US.

Boeing could find a replacement buyer in Malaysia Airlines, however, which has said it was talking to the manufacturer about acquiring jets that may

become available should Chinese airlines stop taking deliveries.

Trump this month raised baseline tariffs on Chinese imports to 145%. In retaliation, China has imposed a 125% tariff on US goods. A Chinese airline taking delivery of a Boeing jet could be crippled by the tariffs, given that a new 737 MAX has a market value of around \$55 million, according to IBA, an aviation consultancy.

The plane flew from Seattle to Zhoushan just under a month ago.

Boeing did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The return of the 737 MAX jets, Boeing's best-selling model, is the latest sign of disruption to new aircraft deliveries from a breakdown in the aerospace industry's decades-old duty-free status.

The tariff war and apparent U-turn over deliveries comes as Boeing has been recovering from an almost five-year import freeze on 737 MAX jets and a previous round of trade tensions.

Confusion over changing tariffs could leave many aircraft deliveries in limbo, with some airline CEOs saying they would defer delivery of planes rather than pay duties, analysts say.

Philippines refute China claims of expelling Manila vessel from Scarborough Shoal

MANILA, Apr 21 (Agencies): A Philippines naval official on Monday refuted claims that the Chinese military had driven away a Philippine naval vessel, which, according to Beijing, had illegally intruded into the contested Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea.

West Philippine Sea Rear Admiral Roy Vincent Trinidad told the Philippine News Agency (PNA) that China's claim is just part of Beijing's "malign information or shaping operations more likely intended for their internal audience."

He added that only the Philippine Navy and the country's maritime law enforcement vessels have the authority to challenge foreign ships intruding into the country's maritime zones, the news outlet said.

A spokesperson for the Chinese military's Southern Theater Command on Sunday had said that it had organized navy vessels to track, monitor, issue warnings, and drive

away the Philippine vessel, which it identified as the Apolinario Mabini corvette, that had "entered the territorial waters of Huangyan Dao without authorization from the Chinese government."

Chinese military spokesperson Senior Captain Zhao Zhiwei said in a statement that the actions by the Philippine side "severely violated China's sovereignty and contravened both Chinese law and relevant provisions of international law," agency reported.

The Scarborough Shoal is an atoll located some 125 nautical miles (about 230 kilometers) west of the Philippine island of Luzon and has been disputed by the two countries for decades.

Although Manila claims it as part of its exclusive economic zone (EEZ), the uninhabited feature is effectively controlled by Beijing, which has maintained a constant coast guard presence there since 2012.

Under the "nine-dash line," Beijing maintains a claim to some 90 per cent of the resource-rich South China Sea, overlapping with the claims of Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, Indonesia and the Philippines.

Chinese and Philippine vessels have engaged in multiple collisions and face-offs over the past year as tensions elevated around hotspot areas of contention, agency reported.

In March, China conducted a patrol in the South China Sea, deploying two long-range H-6 bombers around the shoal ahead of US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth's visit to the Philippines. Also coinciding with the US Defence Secretary's visit to the United States, Japan and the Philippines held naval drills in the South China Sea.

The Scarborough Shoal is known as the Panatag Shoal in the Philippines and is known as the and Huangyan Dao in Chinese

EVIS Abu Dhabi 2025 opens, showcasing future of electric mobility

ABU DHABI, Apr 21 (Agencies): The 4th edition of the Electric Vehicle Innovation Summit (EVIS) Abu Dhabi 2025 officially opened today at ADNEC Centre Abu Dhabi, hosted by ADNOC Distribution and held in strategic partnership with the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure.

Running until 23rd April, EVIS Abu Dhabi 2025 has evolved into the region's premier platform for electric vehicle innovation and clean transportation. The event welcomed senior officials, international delegates and global industry leaders.

This year's edition is organised by Nirvana MICE, with Abu Dhabi Mobility serving as the Mobility Partner and

UAEV as the Innovation Partner, underscoring the UAE's continued commitment to pioneering sustainable and smart transport solutions.

Eng. Sharif Al Olama, Undersecretary for Energy and Petroleum Affairs at the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, underscored that the Electric Vehicle Innovation Summit (EVIS 2025) is the largest and most significant EV event in the MENA region. Now in its fourth edition, EVIS is gaining popularity, as evidenced by the increasing number of participating companies, which are seizing this opportunity to unveil ground-breaking advancements, connect with decision-makers, and be at the



forefront of sustainable mobility.

Delivering the opening remarks at EVIS 2025, Al Olama said, "The UAE has firmly placed sustainability at the heart of its national agenda. Guided by the UAE Net Zero 2050 Strategy, the UAE Energy Strategy 2050, and the National

Demand-Side Management Programme, we are committed to transforming the way we consume energy -- and transport plays a pivotal role in this transformation."

He added, "To encourage people to make the switch to EVs, we are growing the charging

stations network, ensuring that range anxiety becomes a thing of the past for electric vehicle owners. To support this goal, we launched UAUEV, a joint venture between the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure and Etihad Water and Electricity. UAUEV is a bold step to deploy a nationwide charging network that supports our EV ambitions. As we accelerate EV adoption, we're also thinking ahead. In partnership with Bee'ah, we are establishing the region's first electric and hybrid battery recycling facility -- transforming waste into opportunity and closing the loop through circular economy practices.

We are proud to say

that the UAE ranked 1st in the Middle East in 2024 for the highest share of electric and hybrid vehicle sales out of total car sales, reaching almost 26 percent. As the trend continues to grow, we project a reduction of over 400 kilotons of carbon emissions from the transport sector alone by 2050." Al Olama noted that achieving green mobility targets requires strong public-private collaboration, further investments in the infrastructure, effective collaboration across the supply chain, and innovative technologies.

Adding to the excitement, Xpeng UAE is showcasing its groundbreaking air taxi, a major highlight offering a first-

hand glimpse into the future of autonomous, vertical electric transport.

EVIS Abu Dhabi 2025 offers an array of immersive features, including an EV Outdoor Test Drive Zone where attendees can experience the latest electric vehicles firsthand, and a E-Circuit Zone designed for live-action performance demonstrations.

The Charging Oasis gathers leading OEMs to showcase next-generation charging technologies, while the Market Gateway is a dedicated space designed to facilitate meaningful connections between industry leaders and like-minded professionals.

Complementing these experiences is a world-

class conference programme featuring an influential lineup of speakers, policymakers, and industry leaders tackling critical topics across mobility, energy, and sustainability.

"EVIS Abu Dhabi is where industry vision becomes reality. An influential platform that serves as a powerful engine driving collaboration, transformation, and sustainable progress across borders and sectors," said Eng. Naser Ali Al Bahri, CEO of Nirvana MICE. "Each year, the event continues to grow in global relevance, offering a strategic platform where public and private sector leaders come together to shape the mobility landscape of tomorrow."

Health and Wellness Camp organized under Poshan Pakhwada at GDC Ramgarh

Top News Report

RAMGARH, Apr 21: The NSS Unit 'Prabha' of Government Degree College (GDC), Ramgarh, in collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare Samba, SANKALP: Hub for Empowerment of Women, Mission Shakti Samba, and Shakti Udhgosh Foundation, successfully organized a Health and Wellness Camp along with a Yoga Session as part of the ongoing Poshan Pakhwada initiative. The event was supported by the Directorate of AYUSH, J&K, and aimed at spreading awareness about health, nutrition, and well-being.

The programme was held under the able guidance and support of Prof. (Dr.) Meeru Abrol, Principal of GDC Ramgarh. The event witnessed the presence of Dr. Ruchi Thakur, District Mission Coordinator of SANKALP: Hub for Empowerment of Women, Mission Shakti Samba, along with Ms. Mansi Abrol and Ms. Ritika Banotra, Gender Specialists. The entire event was coordinated by Prof. Brham Dutt, NSS Nodal Officer, with support from faculty members including Dr. Aditi Khajuria, Dr. Snobar, Prof. Sandeep Kumari, Mr. Ashok



Kumar, Dr. Shivali Panjgotra, Dr. Neeraj Bargotra, and Ms. Anjali. Ms. Jagmeet Kaur, a student of Semester VI, efficiently conducted the proceedings of the event.

The resource person, Dr. Mona Prashar Sharma and Dr. Roopsi Gupta, both Medical Officers from the Directorate of AYUSH, J&K, delivered an informative lecture on Healthy Lifestyle Practices and Adolescent Health Issues in Girls, focusing on the importance of balanced nutrition, mental well-being, hygiene, and early detection of health concerns.

As part of the health camp, free health check-

ups including blood pressure, blood sugar and hemoglobin tests were conducted by the medical team headed by Vinay Sharma, Para-medical officer. Participants were also provided with free Ayurvedic medicines for common ailments, immunity boosting, and menstrual health. The Department of Social Welfare, Samba, felicitated the resource persons from AYUSH with mementos as a token of appreciation for their valuable contribution. Additionally, sanitary napkins were distributed to girl students by the Social Welfare Department, promoting menstrual hygiene awareness.

Tahir Choudhary urges LG Sinha, CM Omar to announce special relief package for Ramban

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 21: In the wake of the devastating cloudburst-triggered flash floods and landslides that wreaked havoc in Ramban district, senior BJP leader and party spokesperson Tahir Choudhary has appealed to the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to immediately announce a special relief package for the affected people of Ramban.

Choudhary expressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives and the extensive damage

caused to homes, roads, public infrastructure and livestock.

"The people of Ramban are going through an unimaginable crisis.

The cloudbursts, flash floods, and landslides have not only taken precious lives but also rendered many homeless and caused massive destruction to property," he said.

He acknowledged the ongoing rescue and relief efforts by the administration, police, and disaster response teams but emphasized the urgent need for long-term support.

"While the immediate response of the administration has been commendable, this disaster calls for a comprehensive rehabilitation plan and adequate financial assistance for those who have lost everything," Choudhary said. Calling the situation unprecedented, Choudhary urged the LG and CM to jointly ensure that a special relief and rehabilitation package is announced without delay.

"This is not just about compensation, but about rebuilding lives and restoring hope," he added.

DPS Jammu choir wins 1st prize at Dogri Sur Sarvshresta Tara Competition

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 21: In a proud moment for Delhi Public School (DPS) Jammu, the school's talented choir students secured 1st Prize along with a cash award of Rs 5100 at the Dogri Sur Sarvshresta Tara Competition held today at MAM College, Jammu.

The prestigious event was organized by the Senior Citizen Support Service Club, Village Chowadi, Jammu, a unit of Lajwanti Medical Trust, with the aim of preserving and promoting Dogri language and culture through musical expression.

The competition saw participation from 12 reputed schools across the region, including Jammu Sanskriti Kathua, Ved Niketan, Dogra Academy, Model Academy, Perfect Foundation Secondary School, Siras Higher Secondary School, Sanskriti School Jammu, K.V Nagrota,



Govt Higher Secondary School, IDPS Sunjan, and DPS Jammu. The DPS Jammu choir team showcased exceptional talent and cultural authenticity, earning high praise from the panel of distinguished judges Yash Paul Yash (renowned writer and composer), Prof. R.D. Sharma (Retired HOD, Commerce Department, University of Jammu), Sudheer Mahajan, and Captain Lalit Sharma.

The choir was trained and prepared by Mukti Oberoi, and accompanied by Anil Baru, both of whom played a pivotal role in guiding the students toward this achievement.

Participants representing DPS Jammu were Kavya (VIII-F), Abhiram (VIII-A), Uday (IX-A), Aadhaar (VII-H), Gunnat (VIII-B), Vasudha (VII-B), Devangi (X-B), Gaurangi (X-E),

Japleen (VII-C), Ridha (VII-C), Shudhi (VII-C) and Manini (XII-H).

This recognition is yet another testament to DPS Jammu's continued commitment to nurturing talent across all domains—academic, artistic, and cultural. The school takes immense pride in its students for keeping regional heritage alive while delivering stellar performances on competitive platforms.

The management of Delhi Public School Jammu, under the visionary leadership of President-RCT, Ajatshatru Singh, Pro VC, Dr. Ritu Singh, Director, S.S. Sodhi, along with Principal Ruchi Chhabra and the dedicated faculty, extended heartfelt congratulations to the winners and their proud parents.

They applauded the hard work and dedication of students and teachers and wished them continued success in all future endeavors.

IIM Jammu inaugurates 8th Batch of Nurturing Future Leadership Programme

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 21: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu under the leadership of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu inaugurated the 8th batch of the Nurturing Future Leadership Program on Monday at its permanent campus, Nyaya Classroom, Vedanta, MDP Centre, Jagti.

Organized under the aegis of the Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Programme, Ministry of Education, Government of India, this initiative reflects IIM Jammu's commitment to academic excellence and leadership development.

The inaugural ceremony commenced with the lamp lighting ceremony. Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu graced the Inaugural Ceremony.

This unique residential training program, scheduled from 21st April to 25th April 2025, is designed to cultivate leadership capabilities among educators at various levels, creating a pool of potential leaders ready to drive generational transitions. Delivered by IIM Jammu's



faculty, the program aims to help institutions enhance their leadership potential.

Participants introduced themselves and shared their reflections on the program, discussing their experiences and expectations. Present on the occasion were Dr. Ateeque Shaikh, Chairperson, Executive Education and Consultancy (EE & C), IIM Jammu, Dr. Mahesh Gadekar, Program Director and Dr. Kapil Gumte, Program Director, IIM Jammu.

Prof. B. S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, welcomed the participants and highlighted that the program, organized under the aegis of Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Programme, Ministry of Education, Government of India, is aimed at identifying

and nurturing academic leadership. He emphasized that the initiative is designed to equip faculty members, especially early-career professionals—with essential leadership skills, fostering a pool of future-ready academic leaders and a positive institutional culture. He noted that the program serves as a valuable platform for peer learning, collaboration, and long-term professional networking. Stressing that educational leadership is rooted in continuous learning and self-development, he described teaching as a professional endeavor.

He underscored the importance of staying updated, moving beyond textbooks, and integrating emerging technologies. He encouraged

participants to view tools like AI as opportunities to enhance critical thinking and classroom engagement.

Highlighting the strength of case-based teaching—a cornerstone of IIM pedagogy, he spoke on its effectiveness in driving interactive, discussion-led learning.

He reiterated for a symbiotic teacher-student relationship, where mutual influence creates a dynamic and positive classroom environment. Emphasizing discipline in academia, he urged educators to be well-prepared, punctual, and consistent in delivery to earn students' respect.

Reflecting on his transition from industry to academia, he shared that while the academic profession requires full

commitment, it offers unmatched fulfillment and purpose. He encouraged participants to cultivate engaging learning spaces, commit to ongoing improvement, and actively contribute to enriching the teaching-learning ecosystem.

Dr. Ateeque Shaikh, Chairperson, EE & C, IIM Jammu, highlighted the program's focus on leadership development, real-life challenges, and team building. He also provided an overview of Executive Education and Consultancy and IIM Jammu's journey. He emphasized the Institute's commitment to fostering collaborative learning environments that encourage active participation and experiential learning.

Dr. Mahesh Gadekar, Program Director, IIM Jammu welcomed everyone and provided a brief introduction to the program. He outlined the objectives of the five-day program, emphasizing its focus on equipping faculty with essential leadership skills to enhance their academic journeys and foster impactful learning environments.

From Page No: 1

Jammu-Srinagar highway may reopen in 5-6 days: NHAI

community, including women and children, Lal said they were walking to cross the problematic stretches before boarding a bus to Jammu.

Jamna, who was carrying a minor child on her shoulders, said stones and boulders were still coming down the hills overlooking the highway and added that the situation was frightening.

"We have not taken meals for the past two days," she said as the group made their way to Udhampur.

Dressed in their wedding attire, Zahir Ahmad and Zaheera Bano were expecting a smooth ride into their new life together but it turned into an unforgettable journey as the newlywed couple had to walk from the bride's Chenani home to the groom's residence in Ramban.

"It was tiring but, in a way, it made the day even more special," said Ahmad, adding he wanted no other person to experience such an ordeal.

Pope Francis passes away after

prolonged illness

Jesus, we commend the soul of Pope Francis to the infinite merciful love of the One and Triune God."

Earlier on Sunday, The Pope delivered his Easter message from the balcony of St Peter's Basilica to thousands of people gathered in Vatican Square.

The 88-year-old head of the Roman Catholic Church was recently discharged from Rome's Gemelli Hospital, where he spent five weeks receiving treatment for an infection that led to double pneumonia.

On Easter Sunday, he was able to offer the "Urbi et Orbi" blessing to the city of Rome and to the world. Only the pope can offer this blessing, which includes the offer of an indulgence, a remission for the effects of sins.

"Christ is risen! These words capture the entire meaning of our existence, for we were not made for death but for life," the official X handle of the Pope said on Sunday.

Cardinal Angelo Comastri, Arch-priest emeritus of Saint Peter's Basilica and Vicar General emeritus of Vatican City, led the liturgy in the Square and delivered the homily of Pope Francis, prepared for the occasion, as reported by Vatican News.

Pope Francis dedicated his

Easter Urbi et Orbi message to calling for peace worldwide, global disarmament, and the release of prisoners.

Pope Francis was the first Pontiff from the Jesuit Order and the first from outside Europe since the 8th century.

Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, as Jorge Mario Bergoglio, he was ordained a Catholic priest in 1969. Following the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI on February 28, 2013, a papal conclave elected Cardinal Bergoglio as his successor on March 13. He chose Francis as his papal name in honour of Saint Francis of Assisi.

There will now be a fourteen-day period of official mourning after which the Cardinals will go into conclave to elect the new Vicar of Christ.

Farooq Abdullah flags drugs menace In J&K, Seeks harshest punishment for peddlers

Pakistani and cannot speak on behalf of a Pakistani general. Please direct your enquiries to him." Addressing a diaspora event recently, Pakistan Army chief Gen-

eral Asim Munir had said, "Our stance is very clear. It (Kashmir) was our jugular vein, it will be our jugular vein, and we will not forget it. We will not leave our Kashmiri brothers in their heroic struggle." The event was attended by Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, senior ministers and Pakistanis living abroad.

Abdullah also expressed confidence about statehood restoration. "We will get our powers and statehood back. It has been promised in Parliament. It will definitely come." Asked about differences in the National Conference, especially after comments by Srinagar MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi, Abdullah said, "It is an internal matter." He, however, declined to comment on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's remarks abroad regarding the Election Commission. "Please do not ask me questions about Rahul Gandhi. I have no comments on it."

CM to visit Ramban, Assure compensation through relief funds

to inform the government in case of black marketing.

He added that the Srinagar-Jammu highway is presently closed, but if the need arises,

Mughal Road will be used to bring in essentials.

Moreover, the Chief Minister, while replying to a query, said that the Supreme Court has been authorised to review the actions taken by the Centre or any other government. "Didn't we approach SC on the Article 370 issue? The Parliament's action was reviewed. Was not the emergency declared during Indira Gandhi's tenure challenged in the court? Approaching the court should not be politicised. The court has its own jurisdiction and the legislature has its own."

"In the Assembly, we have done whatever we could have done and later we approached the court, where we have got some relief for now.

There are no negative results. At least the SC, while discussing the case, has compelled the Centre to move backwards. For now, the interference of non-Muslims has been stopped, and self-declared waqf is not being stopped. Let the SC do its job. We will wait for its verdict," he added.

Central, State GST officers detect 25,009 fake firms fraudulently passing Rs 61,545 Cr ITC

in FY25

can be claimed as a credit or deduction at the time of paying the final output tax.

Dealing with fake ITC has been a major challenge for the GST administration as unscrupulous elements were creating fake firms just to claim ITC and defraud the exchequer.

To deal with this, the GST registration process has been made stringent with checks on risky applicants.

While non-risky businesses are to be granted GST registration within 7 days, physical verification and Aadhaar authentication are mandatory for those granting registration to those applicants who are flagged as risky by data analytics.

As a measure to track down the masterminds, the GST Act provides for punishment for wrongly availed ITC, suspension or cancellation of registration of taxpayers involved in fake ITC cases; blocking of ITC in electronic credit ledger; and provisional attachment of property/bank accounts, etc. for the recovery of government dues.

So far, two national conferences of enforcement chiefs of State and Central GST Formations have been held with respect to activities being undertaken by the enforcement formations and the importance of maintaining ease of doing business.

Dr Farooq inaugurates Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Tournament at MAM Stadium

Urges youth to embrace Sports & Education, shun growing menace of drug abuse

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 21: Dr. Farooq Abdullah, President of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference and former Chief Minister, today inaugurated the Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Tournament at MAM Stadium, Jammu.

The tournament is being held under the theme 'Say No to Drugs' and aims to channel the energy of the youth towards constructive and healthy activities.

Organized by Tejinder Pal Singh, Provincial President of J&K Youth National Conference, the cricket tournament is part of a broader campaign to combat drug abuse among the youth of the region. In today's opening match, Majid 313 faced off against Trikuta Cricket Club in a thrilling 20-over encounter that marked the commencement of the week-long tournament, which will conclude on April 26.

While inaugurating the



tournament, Dr. Farooq Abdullah interacted with the players and appreciated their enthusiasm and spirit for the game. He encouraged the young participants to stay focused on sports and education and avoid the menace of drug addiction that is increasingly affecting the younger generation.

Dr. Abdullah also appreciated the efforts of Tejinder Pal Singh Aman for his dedication and commitment to the anti-drug campaign.

On this occasion Rattan Lal Gupta Advocate Provincial Presi-

dent JKNC said there is a dire need to divert the energy of our youth towards sports, culture, and education.

Tournaments like these play a crucial role in engaging young minds in meaningful and disciplined pursuits. He further added that community-led efforts are key to defeating the drug menace.

Ajaz Jan MLA from Poonch Haveli also said that such initiatives are essential in shaping a brighter future for the youth. He emphasized that sports not only promote physical fitness

but also instill discipline, teamwork, and a sense of purpose, which are vital in steering young minds away from drug addiction.

Tejinder Pal Singh Aman informed that this cricket tournament has been organized as a significant part of an ongoing awareness campaign against drug abuse.

The primary objective is to motivate young individuals to embrace a healthier lifestyle, stay away from harmful substances, and engage in constructive activities that contribute to their

personal growth and well-being, he added.

The opening day saw an overwhelming response from local youth, sports enthusiasts, and community members, who hailed the initiative as a step in the right direction.

The Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Tournament will continue with daily matches till April 26, culminating in a grand finale and felicitation ceremony for the winning team.

Prominent among those who were present include: Babu Rampal former minister and Central Zone, Pardeep Bali Provincial Secretary Jammu, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, Rakesh Singh Vice President Central Zone, Nitish Goswami, Vishal Parihar, Zamir Quershi, Attal Singh, Gurcharan Singh, Gorav Bhagat, Kousar Malik, Jaseen Malik, Akhil Mehra, Raman Verma, Hameed Choudhary, Muzamil Malik and others.

FTII Business conclave empowers traders, MSMEs



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 21: The Federation of Trade and Industry of India (FTII) successfully hosted a FTII Traders Conclave under the chairmanship of Dr Sanjay Bansal, National President FTII at the prestigious Zion Banquet Hall in Delhi.

The event brought together prominent business personalities, traders, and MSME representatives to discuss growth opportunities and challenges in the current economic landscape.

Around 400 Prominent Businessmen from Trade and Industry participated in this prestigious event.

Sunil Singhi, Chairman of the National Traders Welfare Board, Government of India, and Smt. Rekha Gupta ji,

Chief Minister of Delhi, graced the occasion as esteemed guests. Shri Singhi highlighted the welfare schemes launched by the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, aimed at supporting traders and MSMEs.

The Delhi Chief Minister elaborated on her vision to make Delhi the best city in India, focusing on creating a conducive business environment. She assured Dr Sanjay Bansal and the rest of the traders' community that all necessary actions would be taken to make Delhi a business paradise.

Dr. Sanjay Bansal, National President of FTII, welcomed delegates and shared insights into the Federation's activities support-

ing traders and MSMEs. He emphasized FTII's commitment to empowering the business community through various initiatives.

The ceremony included the presentation of the prestigious Vyapar Ratna awards to prominent business personalities by the Chief Minister and Chairman NTWB and Dr Sanjay Bansal. This recognition honoured their contributions to the trade and industry.

The Business Conclave served as a platform for knowledge sharing, networking, and collaboration among stakeholders.

FTII's efforts in organizing this event underscore its dedication to the growth and development of the trading community and MSMEs in India.

"Tourism boom fuelled by peace, development"

Kashmir's renaissance brings new opportunities for youth: Raman Suri

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 21: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) executive member Raman Suri said that Jammu and Kashmir proudly celebrates the historic premiere of the film Ground Zero, starring Emraan Hashmi, in the picturesque Kashmir Valley. This landmark event marks a significant milestone in the region's resurgence as a hub for tourism, filmmaking, and cultural activities, driven by the transformative policies and programs of the Union Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Raman Suri said that for decades, Jammu and Kashmir, once a crown jewel of Indian cinema

and tourism, faced the scourge of militancy and separatism, deterring visitors and filmmakers alike. However, the last ten years have witnessed a remarkable turnaround. The Union Government's resolute measures to eradicate terrorism and separatism have restored peace and stability, creating an environment conducive to growth and prosperity. As a result, the Valley is once again resonating with the sounds of "Lights, Camera, Action!"

He said that the premiere of Ground Zero, extensively shot in the breathtaking locales of Kashmir, is a testament to this transformation. The event, held yesterday in Srinagar, not only showcases the region's

scenic beauty but also sends a powerful message to the nation and the world: Kashmir is open, vibrant, and ready to reclaim its status as a premier destination for filmmakers and tourists.

The Union Government's policies, including robust infrastructure development, promotion of new tourist destinations, and enhanced security measures, have catalyzed an unprecedented surge in tourism. In 2024, Jammu and Kashmir welcomed over 2 crore tourists, shattering previous records and establishing the region as a year-round destination.

Raman Suri said the tourism sector, a cornerstone of the local economy, has directly benefited from high-

profile events like the Ground Zero premiere, which amplify the Valley's appeal on a global stage. The government's focus on developing lesser-known destinations, coupled with initiatives like the G20 Tourism Working Group meeting held in Srinagar in 2023, has further elevated Kashmir's profile. These efforts have created a ripple effect, generating employment opportunities and empowering local communities, particularly the youth.

The BJP executive member added that return of Bollywood to Kashmir is a significant cultural milestone. The Valley, once a favorite backdrop for iconic films, is now witnessing a revival of its cinematic

legacy. The premiere of Ground Zero is just the beginning. The BJP envisions a future where Kashmir becomes a hub for film shoots, musical concerts, and other cultural extravaganzas, fostering an ecosystem that nurtures creativity and talent. This vibrant atmosphere is paving the way for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir to explore and excel in their chosen fields. From filmmaking and performing arts to hospitality and entrepreneurship, the opportunities are boundless. The Union Government's initiatives, such as skill development programs and startup schemes, are empowering young Kashmiris to pursue their passions and contribute to the region's growth.

Heritage School organises Youth4 Himalayas workshop in collaboration with IUCN



Top News Report

JAMMU Apr 21: Heritage School in partnership with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), convened the Youth 4 Himalayas Workshop on 17th April 2025, welcoming 45 students from various schools across Jammu.

This full day event aimed to deepen participants' understanding of the Himalayan ecosystem and inspire youth led conservation efforts.

The workshop began with a formal welcome, where green plants were presented to the resource persons as a symbol of growth and sustainability. A student moderator greeted the participants, followed by the opening address by the Vice Principal, Ms Rashmi Thakur.

In her address, the Vice Principal highlighted the importance of involving youth in environmental initiatives and underscored the relevance of the Himalayas as one of

the most ecologically sensitive regions. She shared that Heritage School has consistently promoted green practices through initiatives like eco-clubs, plantation drives, and sustainable campus activities. She also expressed gratitude to IUCN for the collaboration and hoped the workshop would inspire students to become active agents of environmental change.

The sessions were conducted by IUCN team members: Archana Chatterjee (Programme Manager), Meenal Pahuja (Senior Project Associate - Habitats and Species), and Akanksha (Communications and Partnerships Associate). They engaged students in insightful discussions, interactive presentations, and hands-on activities highlighting conservation efforts and climate action.

The workshop was further enriched by expert inputs from Dr. Pankaj Chandan, Director of the Institute for Devel-

opment, Jammu, and Prof. Sachin Kumar Bhagat, Assistant Professor of Political Science at Government Degree College, Marh. Dr. Pankaj Chandan is a wildlife biologist with 25 years' experience in Himalayan ecology and wetland management, Senior Conservation Scientist and India Lead for the Black necked Crane project, and author of six books.

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

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

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

HDFC Bank Parivartan to empower 1,000 villages with access to clean, renewable energy solutions by 2025

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 21: As the world marks Earth Day 2025, HDFC Bank reaffirms its commitment to sustainable progress by announcing a significant milestone under its flagship CSR initiative, Parivartan. The Bank will enable access to clean and renewable energy solutions to over 1,000 villages across India by 2025—empowering rural and semi-urban communities through innovative solar-powered infrastructure, awareness, and local partnerships.

The Bank's work in renewable energy aligns with this year's Earth Day theme, Our Power, Our Planet, which calls for global acceleration of clean energy adoption. Under its pillar of Natural Resource Management, HDFC Bank Parivartan has installed over 61,655 solar streetlights across 22 states. It has also launched a range of solar initiatives that are enhancing rural life—from street safety to drinking water, farming, food processing and livelihood

enhancement.

Recognising that infrastructure alone is not enough, HDFC Bank has developed Solar Shiksha, an awareness initiative designed to demystify solar energy adoption in semi-urban India. Solar Shiksha addresses the lack of awareness, process barriers, and myths that often prevent adoption. The programme provides crucial education and practical demonstrations as well as information on government schemes and subsidies. By delivering educational materials in multiple regional languages, the program ensures accessibility and understanding across diverse communities. To date, over 90 awareness workshops have been held across states such as Goa, Karnataka, Haryana, Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir, Maharashtra, Telangana, and Chhattisgarh—impacting over 3,000 individuals across 450+ communities. The programme reaches schools, public hospitals, orphanages, farming groups and old-age homes—places where solar

can directly improve quality of life. It promotes the adoption of a wide range of solar solutions, including solar pumps, panels, cookers, stoves, streetlights, and water heaters.

Speaking about its initiatives, Kaizad Bharucha, Deputy Managing Director, HDFC Bank, "At HDFC Bank, we believe that the path to a sustainable future lies in inclusive development. Our solar energy initiatives under Parivartan are designed to bring real, measurable change—lighting up streets and homes, while also creating opportunities. By focusing on awareness, innovation, and community ownership, we are investing in a future that is equitable, resilient and green. On Earth Day, we reaffirm our commitment to scaling up such impactful models across India."

"We recognise that the democratisation of solar energy goes further than technological deployment," said Nusrat Pathan, Head - Corporate Social Responsibility at HDFC Bank. "Our commitment extends beyond infrastructure develop-

ment, focusing on the creation of a knowledge-driven framework that enables long-term, community-led energy independence." Some innovative solar projects include portable solar pumps for efficient irrigation, solar-powered piped water supply systems, solar-powered food processing unit that boost local economies, and solar heaters in homestays to enhance tourism income sustainably. These projects showcase the versatility and transformative potential of solar energy in diverse applications across the country.

In the extreme climate of Ladakh, the Bank is supporting climate-adaptive solutions like passive solar greenhouses, solar-heated homestays, and apricot processing units powered-by solar dryers.

HDFC Bank Parivartan remains dedicated to building inclusive, resilient communities. On this Earth Day, the Bank invites all stakeholders to come together and unlock the full potential of Our Power, Our Planet.

BCCI Central Contracts: Rohit, Virat retained in top grade; Iyer, Kishan back

The A+ grade, which commands an annual retainership fee of Rs 7 crore, also features Ravindra Jadeja and pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah much like the last few years.

NEW DELHI, Apr 21 (Agencies): India's Test and ODI captain Rohit Sharma and batting talisman Virat Kohli retained their place in the top category, while the out-of-favour duo of Shreyas Iyer and Ishan Kishan returned to the fold in lower brackets in a 34-strong list of contracted players released by the BCCI on Monday.

The A+ grade, which commands an annual retainership fee of Rs seven crore, also features Ravindra Jadeja and pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah much like the last few years.

India's Champions trophy hero Iyer has been the notable comeback in the list, inducted in group B which comes with an annual remuneration of Rs three crore.

Iyer was dropped last season for allegedly ignoring domestic cricket for IPL. Wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan, dropped for the same reason, also



made a comeback in category C, which is worth Rs one crore annually.

Rishabh Pant, who was demoted to group B during the 2023-24 season as he didn't due to his recovery from a life-

threatening accident, is back in A category in place of the retired Ravichandran Ashwin. Category A comes with a retainership of Rs five crore annually.

Category C features the max-

imum number of players, 19 in all, with four new entrants in Harshit Rana, Varun Chakravarthy, Abhishek Sharma and Nitish Kumar Reddy.

BCCI central contracts list:
A+ category: Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Jasprit Bumrah, Ravindra Jadeja

A category: Mohammed Siraj, KL Rahul, Shubman Gill, Hardik Pandya, Mohammed Shami, Rishabh Pant

B category: Suryakumar Yadav, Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shreyas Iyer

C category: Rinku Singh, Tilak Verma, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Shivam Dube, Ravi Bishnoi, Washington Sundar, Mukesh Kumar, Sanju Samson, Arshdeep Singh, Prasidh Krishna, Rajat Patidar, Dhruv Jurel, Sarfaraz Khan, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Ishan Kishan, Abhishek Sharma, Akash Deep, Varun Chakravarthy, Harshit Rana.

Here's why Panchkula lost out on hosting Neeraj Chopra Classic event, know where it's shifted

CHANDIGARH, Apr 21 (Agencies): The inaugural 'Neeraj Chopra Classic', a marquee javelin throw event named after India's Olympic champion, will now be held in Bengaluru instead of Panchkula, owing to some technical issues raised by World Athletics.

The event is a World Athletics Category A competition and was scheduled for May 24 at the Tau Devi Lal Stadium—the same stadium where Chopra practiced during the early days of his career.

Chopra, while talking to the media, confirmed that after World Athletics officials raised some technical issues (such as lighting not up to the 600-lux standard, open field layout, and other concerns), the event has now been shifted to the Sri Kanteerava Outdoor Stadium, Bengaluru.

It will feature top javelin throwers from around the world, including Chopra, the Olympic champion.

"Initially, it was planned for Panchkula, but after spotting some technical requirements, it has now been shifted to Bengaluru this year," said Chopra, who maintained that this will now be an annual event to be held in India.

"I am very excited. There will be many international javelin throwers participating in it. I have also invited Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem for the event. He will discuss the same with his coach and

revert," said Chopra.

"There were a lot of questions going around... people asking what's next after the Olympics, Diamond League, World Championships and all... so this (the tournament) is my ultimate excitement point now," he added.

Chopra also opened up about his deeper involvement in the organisation of the event.

"I have never gone into such details—whether lights should be adequate for live telecasting, what food should be served, how to organise the medal ceremony, or whether the washrooms and changing rooms are comfortable for international javelin throwers. I've never considered such things while playing. But since I'm one of the hosts now... I'm trying to make it happen in a very professional manner," said Chopra.

He also reflected on the change in venue and the upcoming plans. "Everything was planned in Panchkula. However, since the event is now being shifted, the plans—seating, ticket pricing, timings—will be finalised in a couple of days. The weather in Haryana remains hot in May; hopefully, Bengaluru will be pleasant enough. I've spent some good time in Bengaluru, experienced some exciting football games at the same stadium... so I'm excited to be coming back," he added.

Jyothika Sri Dandi likely to miss World Relays Championships

NEW DELHI, Apr 21 (Agencies): One of the premier women's quarter milers of the country is in danger of sitting out of the World Relays, after the Athletics Federation of India rejected her entry to National Federation Senior Athletics Championships.

Jyothika Sri Dandi, who took part at the Paris Olympics, and one of the prominent runners to help India qualify, did not meet AFI's qualifying standards to take part in the meet that is starting in Kochi from today.

The AFI rule stipulates that Indian athletes has to participate in one domestic event, including the Grand Prix, in order to participate in the Kochi meet.

With her entry rejected, the Andhra runner will not be able to be selected for the Asian Championships that is to be held in Gumi, South Korea, next month, as the Senior Athletics Championships was a qualification meet. Further, Jyothika is now nervous about being selected for the World Relays that is to be held



in Guangzhou, China, again in the month of May.

While her entry form was rejected, Jyothika claimed that she sent her entry by mistake, as she is currently undergoing rehabilitation.

"I know my entry has been rejected but I was not supposed to take part in the Kochi meet as I am in rehab as I have some pain in my quads (quadriceps muscle). I should not have sent my entry at all. It was a mistake on my part," Jyothika told The Tribune.

When asked about the World Relays, she said it is in the hands of the federation. "I am hopeful to get selected in

the team for the World Relays but if you ask me about my chances, I will say 'unlikely' since I have missed the Kochi event," she added.

Khan is another prominent athlete whose entry has been rejected on the same grounds. Khan, who broke the U-20 national record in 3000m steeplechase during the World Athletics U20 Championships last year, was equally disappointed.

"I failed to see the circular and now my entry has been rejected. I have to accept it and move one," he said. Overall, the AFI has rejected over 40 entries for the Kochi meet.

IPL 2025: Delhi eye capital gains from openers against confident Lucknow Super Giants

LUCKNOW, Apr 21 (Agencies): Delhi Capitals (DC) will expect a more productive effort from their openers when they visit the 'City of Nawabs' to face an increasingly confident Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) in an IPL match here on Tuesday.

The Capitals' opening has been a bit of roulette so far this season with Faf du Plessis, Jake Fraser-McGurk, Abhishek Porel and the latest entrant Karun Nair coming in at the pole position.

In fact, in the last five matches they had three different opening combinations between those four batters, producing partnerships of 23, 34 0, 9, 0.

It also had to do with the injury of Du Plessis, and the South African's fitness will be closely watched ahead of this match.

Thus far, it looked like a minor glitch because the Capitals have won five of their seven matches and the middle-order under the aegis of KL Rahul too worked like a well-oiled machine.

But Lucknow's com-



petent bowling unit of Digvish Rathi, Ravi Bishnoi, Avesh Khan and Shardul Thakur, though he is a bit expensive, has choked the opposition without much fanfare.

The way Avesh excelled in the 18th and 20th over against Rajasthan Royals in LSG's two-run win is an example of that.

It might have also doubled the confidence of the Super Giants that they can pull off wins from any situation.

Therefore, the Capitals will not like to leave the task of building the innings to Rahul and his middle-order colleagues as they have been doing so often this time.

Instead, the DC management will like to see their middle-order driv-

ing in the early advantage given to them by the top two.

In contrast, the Lucknow outfit has a solid top three with Mitchell Marsh, Nicholas Pooran and Aiden Markram firing more often than not and it has given them an edge over opponents in the Power Play phase.

Travails of skippers Pant, Axar

It's ironic that the personal form of DC and LSG skippers is going in exactly the opposite direction of their teams' fortunes.

Both DC and LSG have 10 points and a win will keep them safely perched in the higher echelons of the points table ahead of the jostlers.

But the lukewarm form of skipper Rishabh Pant

has been a massive issue for LSG. He has merely 106 runs from eight games and 63 of those came in a single match. His strike-rate of 98 is also a tad worrisome.

Against Delhi, Pant will have to deal with an excellent bowling unit comprising Mitchell Starc, Kuldeep Yadav, Vipraj Nigam and Mukesh Kumar.

But much like LSG, the Delhi side too will have some concerns about their skipper—Axar Patel.

Axar has led well and made 140 runs at a strike-rate of 159, but those improvements have masked his diminishing returns as a bowler—just a solitary wicket from seven matches at an economy of 9.36.

It seems that the added responsibility of captaining the side and the demands batting higher up in the order have forced Axar to neglect his primary skills.

The DC management might want him to address this disparity at the earliest so that they can have more variety in

their attack. Teams (from): Lucknow Super Giants: Rishabh Pant (wk/captain), Aiden Markram, Mitchell Marsh, Nicholas Pooran, Ayush Badoni, Abdul Samad, David Miller, Shardul Thakur, Avesh Khan, Akash Deep, Digvish Singh Rathi, Ravi Bishnoi, Prince Yadav, Shahbaz Ahmed, Matthew Breetzke, Himmat Singh, Shamar Joseph, Manimaran Siddharth, Aryan Juyal, RS Hangargekar, Yuvraj Chaudhary, Akash Maharaj Singh, Mayank Yadav, Arshin Kulkarni.

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

Match starts at 7.30 pm.

It's easy to start doubting yourself, but I don't do it: Rohit Sharma

MUMBAI, Apr 21 (Agencies): Star batter Rohit Sharma asserted that he never doubted his abilities amidst a prolonged lean patch, and termed the glorious fifty against Chennai Super Kings as a validation of the faith he has in his skill sets.

"Player of the Match" Rohit slammed four boundaries and six maximums in his unbeaten 45-ball 76 to guide Mumbai Indians to a nine-wicket win over the Super Kings.

It was Rohit's first fifty of this IPL season after scores of 0, 8, 13, 17, 18, and 26 in the previous matches.

"After being here for a long time, it's easy to start doubting yourself and start doing different things. It was important for me to practice well,

hit the ball well. When you are clear in your mind, things like this can happen," said Rohit.

The former MI skipper said pressure would mount if a player began to doubt his own abilities.

"It has been a while (getting a big score) but if you doubt yourself, you put pressure on yourself. It is important to balance how you want to play. Today I wanted to hit the ball but it was also important to hold the shape and extend the arms."

"And then if the ball is in the arc, I want to try what I always do. It has not been happening consistently but I am not going to doubt myself," he added.

With one of the stands at the Wankhede Stadium to be built in his



honour, Rohit, who played most of his formative cricket here, said it was a "huge honour" for him.

"Looks pretty far! Huge honour. I used to come here as a kid and watch the game. We were not allowed to come here at some stage. I grew up playing at this ground, now to have that stand, huge honour."

"Don't know how I will

react when it actually comes up. Satisfying part was to finish the game."

Mumbai Indians have jumped to sixth spot on the table with four wins and Rohit said the team was building up the momentum.

"We are peaking at the right time, winning three on the trot. Winning back-to-back is important, we stand in a good

position," he said.

MI skipper Hardik Pandya said he was never overly perturbed by Rohit's lack of runs as he knew they would come soon.

"The way Rohit and Suryakumar bat, it is a relief from outside. You don't have to worry about Rohit's form. He's gonna come good like this."

"We knew when he comes good, the opposition will be out. SKY (Surya) complimented him," Hardik said.

"Percentage cricket is high, we are not trying magical stuff and sticking to simple cricket. Knew they (CSK) were behind the game and wanted to keep it tight. The fast bowlers went for runs and we knew 175 was below par," said Pandya.

Ashish Nehra influenced Mohammed Siraj's IPL comeback: GT Director of Cricket

KOLKATA, Apr 21 (Agencies): Gujarat Titans (GT) Director of Cricket Vikram Solanki has revealed how head coach Ashish Nehra has played a key role in Mohammed Siraj's comeback in the Indian Premier League 2025 (IPL 2025). Siraj has been in phenomenal form in the ongoing season after being bought by Gujarat for Rs 12.25 crore.

The right-arm seamer has scalped 11 wickets from seven innings at an average of 22.81 and an economy of 8.96.

He won back-to-back Player of the Match awards against Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) and Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH). Siraj came into IPL 2025 on a disappointing note after missing a spot in the squad for the Champions Trophy 2025. However, working under Ashish Nehra has helped the right-arm seamer to regain his confidence, as revealed by Vikram Solanki.

"I think Ashish has been a big influence as far as Siraj is concerned for a good number of years now. They obviously have a very good connection, but I don't want, for a second, to take away from all of the hard work that Siraj has done. Of course, he has all of the support of all of the coaches, and there is no doubt that Ashish has been a big

influence. But we must also acknowledge the work that Siraj has done and respect that," said Solanki in the pre-match press conference.

Solanki further hoped for the Siraj Nehra duo to continue their connection for as long as possible as it has massively helped Gujarat this season.

"As far as confidence is concerned, there is probably no better coach, I don't think, than Ashish Nehra in instilling some confidence in players. It just seems as though we've got a guy that has something to prove. I'm sure Siraj was disappointed (on Champions Trophy snub), but he's channelled that disappointment in working hard, and, I suppose, having a real thought about what he wants to do. He's got a great coach in Ashish Nehra helping him as far as his performance is concerned. Long may that connection continue and long may Siraj continue to thrive," he added.

Meanwhile, Gujarat are comfortably sitting on top of the points table with five wins from seven matches having ten points to their name. The Shubman Gill-led side will look to continue their winning momentum against Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) on April 21 and further consolidate their pole position.

CUJ organises workshop on Molecular Biology Tools and Genome Editing

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 21: The Centre for Molecular Biology, Central University of Jammu, under the visionary leadership and patronage of Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Sanjeev Jain, successfully organized a comprehensive three-day workshop on "Molecular Biology Tools and Genome Editing, to enrich students' and research scholars' knowledge base and laboratory skills. The workshop witnessed active participation from various biotechnology disciplines and was a blend of theoretical lectures and intensive hands-on sessions.

The workshop commenced with an inaugural session graced by Chief Guest Prof. Yashwant, Registrar, CU Jammu, Prof. Ashwini Nanda, Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, CU Jammu, and Heads and Faculty from different departments of CU Jammu. The workshop co-convenor, Dr. Shelly Sehgal, CMB, introduced the chief guests to the participants.

Prof. Yashwant, Registrar, CU Jammu, highlighted the pivotal role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) in advancing the field of molecular biology. He underscored their growing significance in addressing contemporary challenges in biomedical and agricultural research. Prof. Yashwant Singh further encouraged interdisciplinary collaboration with the Department of Computer Science to enhance the understanding and effective application of AI-driven technologies in molecular research. Prof. AK Nanda highlighted the role of hands-on training sessions in the skill development of the students and congratulated the CMB faculty and students organising the pertinent workshop.

Dr. Narendra K. Bairwa, Director, Centre for Molecular Biology, and convenor of the workshop, provided an



overview of the three-day hands-on training session focused on molecular biology tools. The session aimed to equip participants with practical skills relevant to current biotechnological applications. He emphasised the importance of experiential learning in strengthening foundational and advanced concepts in molecular biology.

Over three days, participants engaged in a series of interactive lectures, demonstrations, and practical sessions conducted by experts from reputed institutions and research organisations.

The practical component of the workshop was a major highlight, designed to offer participants real-time exposure to crucial molecular biology techniques. Key hands-on training sessions included Isolation and culturing of microbes from soil samples, Blood smear preparation and blood grouping, DNA isolation from blood and yeast samples, and quantification techniques, Gel electrophoresis and PCR techniques, Plasmid isolation and bacterial transformation, Guide RNA designing and in silico CRISPR-Cas9 genome editing strategies, Haemocytometer-based cell counting and analysis.

These sessions were carefully curated to ensure participants gained practical proficiency and a better conceptual understanding of modern molecular biology tools used in research and diagnosis.

The training program witnessed enthusiastic participation from in-house scholars and various esteemed departments/institutions such as Central University of Himachal Pradesh, University of Jammu, Government Women College, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, Vidai Labs, and Central University of Jammu.

The workshop was further enriched by the presence of eminent guest speakers, whose lectures provided valuable insights into cutting-edge research and emerging trends.

The notable speakers included Dr. Mritunjay Suar, Professor and Director General R&D, KIIT School of Biotechnology, Bhubaneswar, delivered a thought-provoking lecture on "Changing the Mindset: Creating an Innovative-Enabling Ecosystem", inspiring attendees to approach science with creativity and entrepreneurial vision. Dr. Raghuvir Singh Tomar, Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, spoke on "Epigenetic and Metabolic Regulation of Cellular Copper Homeostasis", shedding light on the complex molecular mechanisms governing trace element regulation. Dr. Samer Singh, Centre of Experimental Medicine and Surgery, Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, discussed "Prospecting Plants for Antimicrobial Activity - Identifying Anti-Bacillus anthracis Activity", emphasizing the significance of plant-

based bioactive in combating infectious diseases. Dr. Admas Bernhau Berisso, Department of Molecular, Cellular, and Biomedical Sciences, University of New Hampshire, USA, delivered an engaging session on "Metagenomic Analysis of Heat-Distributed Soil Microbial Communities", introducing participants to advanced metagenomic tools and microbial ecology.

The successful execution of the three-day hands-on training workshop was made possible through the dedicated efforts of a highly committed organizing committee that included, Convener: Dr. Narendra K. Bairwa, Director, CMB, Co-Organizing Secretary: Prof. Mush-taq Ahmed, CMB, Co-Convenor: Dr. Praveen K. Mehta, CMB, Co-Convenor: Dr. Shelly Sehgal, CMB, Co-Convenor: Dr. Aadesh Bhat, CMB, Organizing Secretary, Dr. Sudhir Singh, CMB, Workshop Coordinator, Dr. Fareeda Akhter, CMB, Workshop Co-Coordinator: Research Scholars, M.Sc. Students and the Office Supporting Staff, their collective planning, seamless coordination, and tireless commitment ensured the smooth conduct and remarkable success of the workshop. The synergy between faculty, scholars, students, and administrative staff was truly commendable and instrumental in delivering a high-impact academic experience.

The valedictory session marked the successful culmination of

the workshop, which was presided over by the Head of the Department of Botany, CU Jammu, Dr. Yogesh Kumar, Head of the Department of Zoology, CU Jammu, Dr. Ashok K Yadav. They appreciated the efforts of CMB in conducting the workshop for students. The summary of the workshop was presented by the co-convenor of the workshop, Dr. Praveen Mehta, Associate Prof., CMB, CU Jammu.

The feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, appreciating the depth of instruction, the quality of instruction, and the balance between theory and practice. The vote of thanks was presented by the organising secretary of the workshop, Dr. Sudhir Singh, Assistant Professor, CMB, Jammu, and thanked all the stakeholders and the university administration for their support provided. Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Sanjeev Jain, congratulated the CMB faculty members and Director, CMB, for organising skill-enhancing workshop for participants and encouraged them to conduct such a comprehensive workshop in the future as well.

General Category Peoples Front deputation calls on Cabinet Minister Satish Sharma



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 21: A deputation of General Category Peoples Front led by Prof. Yash Paul Sharma President of the Front called on Cabinet Minister Satish Sharma Member Cabinet Subcommittee set up by the Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir to review and rationalisation of Govt Reservation Policy, submitted 12 points memorandum which included the increase of EWS quota from 10% to 20%, the reservation provided to the affluent people on the basis of their caste be abolished.

Memorandum also included the demands that a person who are not practicing their pro-

cessions be deleted from the list of OBC, SC and ST Category. Moreover, before providing reservation to any section of the society Govt. must collect quantifiable data showing inadequacy of the representation and 50% limit should not be increased in any case.

The benefits of reservation be provided to the family only once.

The Scheduled Caste Reservation be categorized to three or four categories to end the monopoly of one section as implemented on 134th birth anniversary of Baba Sahib Ambedkar by the Talengana Govt, approved by State High Court and Supreme Court of India, exclusion of creamy

layer from the reservation and there should be time limit as reservation cannot be forever. Minister assured the delegation that their concerns were heard and demands would be addressed.

The deputation included Raj Kuman Banathia Chairman of the Front, Jagdish Dogra Ex-president Sanatan Dharam Sabha, Jammu, Bhushan Pargal, Deepak Khajuria, V.K. Sharma, Kewal Sharma, Inder Sharma, Pran Nath Koul, yash Paul Sharma, Shri Niwas Sharma, Kewal Krishan Sharma, Ashok Khajuria, Ashok Shastri, Suresh Magotra, S.P. Sharma and Parveen Sharma.

GDC Nagrota celebrates World Creativity and Innovation Day 2025

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 21: The celebration of World Creativity and Innovation Day at GDC Nagrota was a remarkable event that showcased the institution's commitment to sustainability and innovation. The highlight of the day was the screening of a documentary on the Material Recovery Facility in Jammu, which focuses on recycling plastic waste. This showcasing of documentary will serve as an educational tool, emphasizing the importance of waste management and the role of creativity in addressing environ-

mental challenges. This documentary is based upon the project Rural and Urban Landscape Free of Dry and Plastic Waste which introduces a unique PPP Model (Public Private Partnership Model) in which will enhance waste collection efficiency. It also focuses on disposal of

plastic waste in a sustainable way.

The initiative reflects a forward-thinking approach to creating cleaner and greener communities. The celebration brought together students, faculty, and community members, encouraging discussions and activities cen-

tered around innovative solutions for environmental sustainability.

Principal of the College Prof. Anjali Mahajan addressed the students and talked about importance of creativity and innovation in problem solving in context of economic and sustainable development.

Dhun Anand Foundation, USA Unit Punjab provides scholarships to students of Government School Badbar

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 21: During the Punjab Education Revolution program at Government Senior Secondary School Badbar, District Barnala, under the able leadership of District Education Officer Primary and Secondary Indu Simak and Deputy District Education Officer Dr. Barjinderpal Singh, an amount of fifty thousand rupees has been sent by the Patron NRI Shivpreet Singh and Guide Preet Mohan Singh of Dhun Foundation USA.

The Punjab unit selected ten students for the scholarship and distributed an amount of fifty thousand rupees.

In which the chief guest Shri Ram Tirath Manna Chairman Improvement Trust Barnala, Sardar Gurjot Singh Dhillon Bhattal Chairman Market Committee Dhanaula, Media Coordinator Rohit Kumar



Osho, Sardar Satnam Singh Fateh, District Education Coordinator, Education Department Coordinator Assembly Constituency Barnala, Headmistress Harpreet Kaur, Education Revolution Coordinator Pradeep Sharma, DSM Rajesh Kumar specially arrived and provided scholarships, bags, stationery, coats to the students and blessed them for achieving success in life.

Giving more information in this regard,

State Awardee Master Avnish Kumar said that ten students have been selected at the school level with the support of senior members led by the office bearers of Dhun Anand Foundation, former headmaster Gurbaksh Singh, chairman Jasbir Kaur, president Avnish Longonwal, vice president Avtar Singh, general secretary Rishi Kumar, treasurer Meenakshi Gautam.

He said that this organization is working under the leadership of

Sardar Shiv preet Singh, who is a world-class personality and has millions of fans, music lovers, social service and is connected through the organization. In which NRI Preet Mohan Singh from USA, who has been helping needy students in the field of music, social service, education, technical education at the global level, this organization in India is helping students through financial education, musical, technical education in different

states.

Preet Singh's village is Badbar. He is living in USA, while working as an officer in different states of India and abroad. He has a deep connection with his state Punjab and his village Badbar. Under this chain, he is helping students in a proper way. General Secretary Rishi Sharma said that such people are rare, who come forward and work for the needy students in the field of social service, so I salute the thinking of Sardar Preet Mohan Singh. He said that other activities of Dhun Foundation Unit Punjab will continue to work under his guidance and leadership. Youth leaders of Badbar village, media coordinator Gurmeet Singh Kaka and Yashpal Gupta said that this is a very good work, a large number of students, parents, village panchayat, dignitaries were present on this occasion.

Martyr Major Arvind Bazala Boys Higher Secondary School RS Pura organises IEC Campaign against drug abuse



Top News Report

RS PURA, Apr 21: An impactful IEC (Information, Education, and Communication) campaign against drug abuse was held today at Martyr Major Arvind Bazala Government Boys Higher Secondary School, RS Pura, aimed at raising awareness among students and the local community about the perils of substance abuse.

The event witnessed the presence of Zonal Education Officer (ZEO), RS Pura, Subash chander, Zonal Education Planning Officer (ZEPO), RS Pura, Tara Chand and the former Vice Chairman of RS Pura Municipality, Kishore Sharma who graced the occasion as chief guests. The programme was held under the dynamic chairmanship of Principal Neelam Gupta and Vice Principal Rachna Tomar. A significant number of students, parents, and faculty members actively participated in the campaign. Representatives from various government departments, including the Police, Medical, Rural Development, and Social Welfare Departments, were also in attendance, reflecting the collaborative spirit required to combat the growing menace of drug addiction.

The highlight of the event was an enlightening lecture by Rahul Dev Raina, Senior Lecturer of the institution, who lucidly addressed the grave issue of drug abuse.

He elaborated on the psychological and physical ill-effects of narcotic substances, early warning signs of addiction, and urged the students to pledge themselves to a drug-free life, encouraging them to "Say No to Drugs, Yes to Life."

Adding further depth to the programme, Dharampal Sharma (Master) and Priyanka Sharma (Teacher) also delivered motivational addresses. Speakers from the participating departments provided valuable insights and reiterated the importance of early intervention, community support, and youth engagement in eradicating drug-related issues. The event was ably anchored by Kanchan Deep Kour, Teacher, while Dheeraj Singh, Lecturer, served as the Nodal Officer, overseeing all arrangements for the programme.

The function concluded on a solemn and patriotic note with a vote of thanks delivered by Kanta Smailpuri, Teacher, followed by an oath-taking ceremony where students pledged to abstain from drugs, and the singing of the National Anthem. Such awareness campaigns are of paramount importance in today's time, playing a crucial role in sensitizing the youth and strengthening societal resolve to eliminate the drug menace from the roots. GHSS (Boys) RS Pura remains committed to nurturing not only academically sound but also socially responsible citizens.