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RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-12 Issue-108 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

## BRIEFLY

### Tragedy on Jammu-Pathankot Highway: Two youth killed in collision with Oil Tanker

JAMMU, Apr 20 (Agencies): As per initial reports, the deceased have been identified as Bantu Dogra, a resident of Himachal Pradesh, and Shubam Shrivastav, hailing from Uttar Pradesh.

Tragedy on Jammu-Pathankot Highway: Two youth killed in collision with Oil Tanker---Representational Image

GK Web DeskGK Web DeskApril 20, 2025 1:36 pmfacebook twitter linkedin google news

Samba, April 20: Two young men lost their lives in a tragic road accident on the Jammu-Pathankot highway in Samba district late last night.

The victims were returning from a marriage function when their car collided with an oil tanker.

As per initial reports, the deceased have been identified as Bantu Dogra, a resident of Himachal Pradesh, and Shubam Shrivastav, hailing from Uttar Pradesh.

KINS reported that Police and emergency teams rushed to the spot and shifted the bodies for medico-legal formalities. A case has been registered, and an investigation is underway to ascertain the cause of the accident.

Authorities have once again urged commuters to exercise caution while driving, especially during night hours on the highway.

### Police book man in North Kashmir for misuse of social media

SRINAGAR, Apr 20 (Agencies): Police in Bandipora have registered a case and arrested an individual for operating a Facebook page under the name "Kashmir Timer," allegedly used to circulate radical content and promote anti-national sentiments.

A police spokesperson, in a statement said, "The accused, identified as Aijaz Ahmad Wani, son of Gh Hassan Wani and a resident of Bangar Mohalla Hajin, was reportedly using the platform to post misleading material targeting security forces and glorifying secessionist ideology. A

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## Three dead, property damaged, NH blocked in cloudburst, Landslide hit Ramban

JAMMU, Apr 20 (Agencies): Three people have died in the cloudburst, while loss of property for some families due to hailstorm and flash floods, and the Jammu-Srinagar national highway is shut after a landslide triggered due to heavy rains in Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Officials here on Sunday said that the National Highway was blocked for vehicular traffic at Panthyal, Seri, and other areas of Ramban district, following heavy rainfall that triggered landslides, flash floods at several places in Ramban District.

"Moreover, three persons are killed as a cloudburst wreaks havoc in the remote Dharamkund area of the district," they



said. "Because of constant landslides amid heavy rains, a complete rescue operation cannot be launched by the Quick Response Teams (QRT) and Police," they said.

"Entire districts have been affected due to the flash flood, and there are

also reports of damage to private and public properties, and vehicles have been struck in the blocked roads in the town due to the flash flood," said an official.

Meanwhile, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, who is a Member of Parliament from Kathua-

and unfortunately, there have been 3 casualties and loss of property for a couple of families. I am in constant touch with Deputy Commissioner Baseer-ul-Haq Chaudhary," Dr Singh posted.

In a post, he said that the district administration deserves appreciation for timely and prompt action, which helped save several precious lives.

"Every kind of relief, both financial and otherwise, is being provided. The DC has been informed that, if need be, whatever more is required can be provided from the MP's personal resources as well. The request is not to panic. We shall all, together, overcome this natural calamity," Dr Singh posted.

Udhampur, posted on X, "There was a heavy hailstorm, multiple landslides, and fast winds throughout the night in the Ramban region, including the areas surrounding the Ramban town."

"The National Highway stands blocked,

## Omar Abdullah lambasts Delhi Airport for flight diversion; Airport regrets inconvenience



NEW DELHI, Apr 20 (Agencies): Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has lambasted Delhi airport as his flight was delayed and diverted to Jaipur

before landing in the national capital early morning on Sunday.

Delhi airport operator DIAL regretted the inconvenience caused to him and said there

are temporary capacity constraints due to runway upgradation and easterly winds.

"Delhi airport is a bloody shit show (excuse my French but I'm in no mood to be polite). 3 hours in the air after we left Jammu we get diverted to Jaipur & so here I am at 1 in the morning on the steps of the plane getting some fresh air. I've no idea what time we will leave from here," Abdullah said in a post on X at 0108 hours on Sunday.

He also shared a selfie ■ Turn to page 9

## Mughal Road Opens, Jammu-Srinagar Highway Closed

JAMMU, Apr 20 (Agencies): Mughal Road, connecting Kashmir Valley's Shopian district with twin districts of Rajouri and Poonch,

reopened after remaining closed due to fresh snowfall while Jammu-Srinagar highway was shut on Sunday, officials

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## Security forces continue joint search operation in Poonch for sixth consecutive day to trace terrorists

POONCH, Apr 20 (Agencies): The Romeo Force of the Indian Army and the Special Operations Group (SOG) continued their joint operation on Sunday for the sixth consecutive day in the forest area of Lasana in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch to trace terrorists believed to be hiding in the region.

The search operations started back on Tuesday following an exchange of fire between the security forces and terrorists on

Monday night.

Security forces have cordoned off the area and are conducting extensive search operations in dense forest zones. Additional troops were also called in to assist the search operations.

According to officials, terrorists opened fire on the Romeo Force personnel, in which one of the security personnel got injured near the Lasana village located on the National High-

way connecting Poonch to Jammu.

Speaking on the operation on Friday, Inspector General of Police, Jammu, BS Tuti, said the district has been dealing with a new wave of terrorism for the last one and a half to two years. He added that an action plan has been laid out to locate the terrorists in the area.

"Poonch district is dealing with a new wave of terrorism in the last 1.5-2 years, today, a

■ Turn to page 9

## Security forces launch search operation in Rasana Village Hiranagar, Kathua

KATHUA, Apr 20: Security forces launched a search operation on Sunday in Rasana village of Hiranagar sector in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district.

The search operation was initiated following specific intelligence inputs about

suspicious movement in the area.

As per the reports security forces cordoned off the village early in the morning and began a thorough search in the areas.

More details are awaited as the operation is still underway.

## LG Sinha mourns loss of lives in Ramban flash floods, Assures relief measures

JAMMU, Apr 20 (Agencies): Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has expressed grief over the loss of lives due to flash-floods triggered by incessant rain in Ramban.

"Deeply anguished by the tragic loss of precious lives due to the flash floods triggered by incessant rain in Ramban.

My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families in this hour of grief.

District administration, SDRF, rescue teams are on the job to ensure swift rescue and relief. All possible assistance is being extended to the affected families," the Lieutenant Governor said.

## "Extremely anguished by the tragic landslide, flash flood in Ramban": CM Omar Abdullah

JAMMU, Apr 20 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday expressed anguish over the tragic landslide and flash floods in Ramban.

In a post on X, CM JnK wrote, "Extremely anguished by the tragic landslide and flash flood in Ramban, which have caused considerable damage to life and property. My thoughts are with the affected families in this difficult hour."

"We are in touch with the local administration to ensure immediate rescue efforts wherever needed. Later today, I will be reviewing restoration, relief, and repair plans," he added.

"For now, the focus remains on managing the situation on the ground. Citizens are advised to follow travel advisories and avoid non-essential movement in vulnerable areas," the post reads.

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**TENTH DAY/KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI**

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

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

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

**Grief Stricken**

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

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

**Brother-in-law**

Smt. Babli & Sh. Janak Raj Makhnotra

**Sons & Daughters-in-law**

Smt. Madhu & Sh. Subash Makhnotra

Smt. Reena & Sh. Vinay Vikas Makhnotra

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

Miss Bandana Makhnotra - **Daughter**

**Grand Children:**

Anamika, Parul, Danish, Paras, Pursharth

Ph: 7006721778, 9419149996



**Smt. Chander Kanta Makhnotra**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SH. OMKAR NATH KOUL** S/O LATE SH. AMAR CHAND KOUL ORIGINALLY A RESIDENT OF BATAGUND KRENDI-GAM, ANANTNAG PRESENTLY RESIDING AT H.NO. 07, SEC. 01, DURGA NAGAR (ENCLAVE) JAMMU ON 16-04-2025.

**TENTH DAY KRIYA** SHALL TAKE PLACE AT MUTHI GHAT ON 25TH APRIL, 2025 AT ABOUT 8:30 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

**SMT. RATNI KOUL (WIFE)**

**DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW AND SONS**

**SMT. SUNITA & SH. RAMESH KUMAR KOUL**

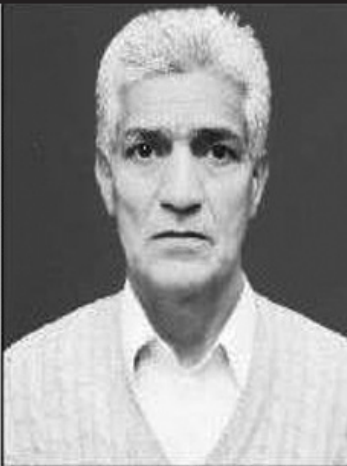
**SMT. JULLEY & SH. VIJAY KOUL**

**GRANDCHILDREN**

**RISHU & RAHUL KOUL**

**RICHU, PARTH, HARDIK**

**MOB: 9469213893, 9797850569**



**SH. OMKAR NATH KOUL**

**10TH DAY/13TH DAY**

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

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

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

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**

**Smt. Rani Sambyal - Grand mother**

**Father & Mother**

**Sh. Aman Dev Singh & Smt. Bandana Rani**

**Brother & Bhabi**

**Sh. Raman Dev Singh & Smt. Ranjana Sambyal**

**9419149127, 7006139216, 9906381083**



**HARSHVARDHAN SINGH**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the untimely sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt Raj Rani Mawa** W/o Lt Sh Kashi Nath Mawa original resident of Qaziya, GadaKocha, Zaina Kadal, Srinagar, Kashmir at present Lane No. 4, R K Vihar, Udaywala, Jammu (Behind Rama Krishna Hospital) on 12-4-2025.

**10th Day Kriya** will be held on 21-4-2025 (Monday) at Muthi Ghat, near Directorate of School Education, Jammu at 9.15 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN & FONDLY REMEMBERED BY :-**

Sh Rajinder Kumar Mawa (Son)

(Daughter in law & Son)

Smt Arjij & Sh Ramesh Kumar Mawa

Sh King Krishan Mawa (Son)

(Daughter -in-law & Son)

Smt Chanchan Ji & Sh Prince Ji Mawa

(Daughter & Son in law)

Smt Vijay Laxmiji & Sh Surinder Kumar Anand

Smt Raj Kumari Mantoo W/o Lt S N Mantoo (Daughter)

Smt Sumanji & Sh Rajinder Kumar Bindroo (Daughter & Son-in-law)

**Grand Children :**

Amrita Ji, Ankur Ji, Sagar Ji, Srushti Ji, Aarushi Ji, Saksha Ji, Shalish Ji, Sandeep Ji, Suraj Ji,

Profy Ji, Sahil Krishan Ji, Anmol Ji

**Contact Numbers :- 7006118166, 9419239609, 9622595418, 9412009642**



**Smt Raj Rani Mawa**

**TENTH DAY/KRIYA**

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 Shamboo 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. Bal 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/UTHALA**

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

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

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

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

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**RAGHAV AND HARMEET KOUR**

**SUSHAIN & PULKIT**

**SH RAVI SHANKER & SMT SAVITA SHARMA**

**SH. RAJEEV & SMT AMITA SHARMA**

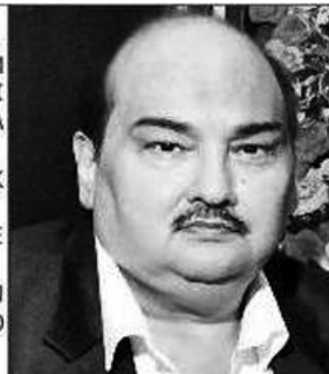
**SH JATINDER & SMT ANJU SHARMA**

**SH RAJESH & SMT RAJINI SHARMA**

**SH NARESH & SMT DEEPIKA SHARMA**

**& ALL NEAR AND DEARS**

**MOB 9796021969 9419227677**



**SH SHASHI BHUSHAN SHARMA**

**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 Viri (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. Dhiraj Chowdhary (Daughter and Son-in-Law)

Mr. Romil and Mrs. Hema Jaggi (Nephew and Daughter-in-Law)

**Brothers-in-Law and Bhabis**

Mrs Parveen Kumari W/o Late Shri Jagdish Jaggi

Mr Kuldeep and Mrs Sugandha Mankota

Mr. Rajnish and Mrs. Jyoti Mankota

**Sisters-in-Law and Co-Brothers**

Mrs Snehlata and Mr. Naresh Bahl

Mrs Suman and Mr. Ravinder Makhotra

**Grandchildren: Vaibhav, Shanya, Shivaj and Divit**

**Mobile: 9419243158, 9149477758**



**Shri K. K. Sharma**

**10th Day / 13th Day (Kriya)**

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

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

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

**GRIEF STRICKEN :-**

**Smt. Meena Devi - Wife**

**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**

**10TH DAY KRIYA**

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

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

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

**SAMAST MATTOO, WAF, BALI, RAZDAN PARIWAR.**

**Contact nos: 9810980730, 9797446896, 8527311888**



**Sh. Hari Krishan Mattoo**

**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 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 Padha - Daughter & Son-in-law**

**Miss Bandana Makhnotra - Daughter**

**Grand Children:**

Anamika, Parul, Danish, Paras, Pursharth

Ph: 7006721778, 9419149996



**Smt. Chander Kanta Makhnotra**

**TENTH DAY/KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **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)

Pyarey Lal Labroo (Son)

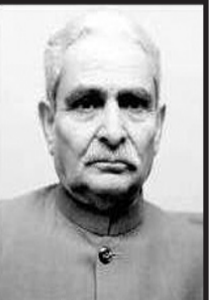
Shubam Ji Labroo and Sunila Labroo (Son and Daughter-in-law)

Ashok Kumar Bhat and Sunanda Bhat (Son-in-law and Daughter)

Ashok Ji Raina and Soni Raina (Son-in-law and Daughter)

Grandchildren: Sacet, Shivam, Rohit, Amit, Ritik, Rakshit

Samast Labroo, Ganjoo, Raina, Bhat Parivar. Mobile No: 7006260510, 6006255932, 941963384



**SH. BRIJ NATH LABROO**

**SHRADHANJALI/TENTH DAY**

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

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

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**

**Grandsons & Granddaughters**

Aashish & Aakriti

Priya & Akin

Rashi

Aakash & Antra

Aagosh

Kartik

Aakriti & Aaradhya

**Greatgrandson: Master Avyukht**



**Smt. Chand Rani Bhat**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Lakshmi Devi** (Retd Asst Matron GMC Jammu) W/o Sh. Prakash Singh Sambyal on 1-04-2025.

**TENTH DAY** will be held on 20-04-2025 and **3TH DAY** on 23-04-2025 at our residence H. No 9-1, Lane No 1/Extn A Greater Kailash Jammu.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**Prakash Singh Sambyal - Husband**

**Rupinder Singh & Beenu Devi - Son & Daughter in Law**

**Apna Singh & Sikander Chib - Daughter & Son in Law**

**Shabnam Sambyal - Daughter**

**Rakshit Singh Sambyal - Grand Child**

**Rakshit Rajput - Grand Child**

**MOBILE NO: 94192-80688, 9419121792**



**Smt Lakshmi Devi**  
(Retd Asst Matron GMC Jammu)

**TENTH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Mrs Ratna Kaul** (Bentathi) who left for heavenly abode on April 17, 2025.

**TENTH DAY** will be held on April 26th, 2025 (Saturday) at 11:00 am at Gangnager, Muradnagar Ghaziabad.

Residential Address: Q-503, VVIP Addresses, Rajnagar Extension.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-**

**Brother (Rajkumar Bangroo) Parivar**

**and Kaul Parivar**



# Soldier dies in Siachen Glacier

Top News Report

LEH, Apr 20 (Agencies): A soldier made supreme sacrifice in the line of duty in Siachen Glacier- the world's highest battlefield, the Army said on Sunday.

They said Naib Subedar Baldev Singh, made supreme sacrifice in the line of duty in Siachen glacier.

The General Officer Commanding (GOC) of Army's Leh-based Fire and Fury Corps paid tribute to Naib Subedar Singh

"GOC, Fire and Fury Corps and All Ranks salute Naib Subedar Baldev Singh, who made supreme sacrifice in the line of duty in #SiachenGlacier on 20 Apr 2025 and offer deep condolences to the bereaved family in this hour of grief," Fire and Fury Corps said in a post on X. The Army, however, did not reveal the exact circumstances leading to the death of the soldier.



# 507th Nirwan Diwas of Sant Kabir observed by Manghal Kabir Sabha



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 20: In a heartfelt homage to the immortal teachings of Sant Kabir, the Working Committee of the Manghal Kabir Sabha organized a grand event marking the 507th

Nirwan Diwas.

This sacred day, shimmering with spiritual resonance and unity, brought together devotees and dignitaries under the canopy of divine wisdom and communal harmony.

The occasion was

graced by two stalwarts of the Kabir Panth—Shamsher Chand, President of the All JK Satguru Kabir Sabha, and J.L. Bhagat, Chairman of the All JK Sadhguru Kabir Sabha, who presided as Chief Guests.

Their presence uplifted the spirit of the event, as they shared profound words inspired by the timeless verses of Sant Kabir, echoing the call for truth, equality, and spiritual awakening.

A highlight of the program was the serving of Guru Ka Langar, a sacred meal shared with the Sangat — symbolizing the core tenets of humility, seva (selfless service), and fraternity. The air was filled with devotion as people from all walks of life came together in celebration of the eternal soul of Sant Kabir.

Among the prominent faces who lent grace and strength to the gathering were Janak Raj, General Secretary, All JK Sadhguru Kabir Sabha, Jagga Ram, Ex-Sarpanch, Subhash Chand, President of the Organizing Committee, Sewa Ram and Tilak Raj, community members.

# Health Awareness and Character Building Programme enlightens young minds at Naveen Shiksha Kendra

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 20: A wave of wellness and wisdom flowed through the grounds of Naveen Shiksha Kendra (NSK) as it hosted a powerful Health Awareness and Character Building Programme, inspiring young hearts to live with purpose, discipline, and inner strength. The event was organized by the Indian Yoga Association (IYA) in collaboration with Vichar Kranti Manch International (VKMI)—two national organizations renowned for their unwavering dedication to holistic development through yoga, values, and education.

For years, NSK has stood as a sanctuary of hope for children from underprivileged and slum communities, offering not just education but dignity—through the provision of free books, uniforms, and a nurturing environment. This latest programme served as another step in the school's journey toward building empowered lives.

Under the thoughtful guidance of Suresh Samyal, General Secretary of Swera NGO, which manages NSK High School, the event was conducted with utmost care. The spirited and seamless coordination of Principal Rajni Rozi added warmth and grace to the day's proceedings.

The highlight of the programme was an interactive, energizing session led by Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, State Chairman of IYA and President of VKMI. With clarity and compassion, he spoke to the students about anchoring their lives on four foundational pillars: Discipline, Sadaachaar (Good Conduct), Yoga, and a Focused Approach to Studies. His words weren't merely spoken—they were received like seeds



of transformation, ready to take root in young minds.

One of the most memorable moments came through poetry—a motivational piece titled "Lead and Follow", which captured the hearts of students and educators alike. The poem encouraged values of truth, honesty, health, and purpose. It spoke not just to the ears but to

the soul, igniting a quiet resolve in each listener. Its lines urged students to wake with purpose, eat with mindfulness, study with focus, and live with integrity—offering a melodic blueprint for a meaningful life.

To further nourish both body and spirit, nutritious items, especially fruit juice packets, were lovingly distributed to students and staff. This

thoughtful gesture was made possible through the contribution of Sanjeev Parihar, Founder President of Social Reform & Charitable Organisations, Kishtwar, in partnership with Dabur India Ltd. The act was a reminder that nourishment, in every form, fuels learning and growth.

The event was enriched by the pres-

ence of Yash Pal Sharma, Life Coach and Trained Yoga Teacher, and Ashok Bhat, Office Secretary of the Confederation of Voluntary, Social and Charitable Organisations, both of whom shared empowering thoughts rooted in service, awareness, and inner balance.

The programme concluded on a heartfelt note with a vote of thanks delivered by Principal Rajni Rozi, who expressed deep gratitude to all the guests, contributors, and enthusiastic students. She reaffirmed the school's continued mission of not just educating minds, but shaping luminous, compassionate souls who will illuminate society with knowledge, values, and grace.

# Rajeev Charak expresses deep condolences for lives lost in Ramban Cloudburst

Top News Report

RAMBAN, Apr 20: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Rajeev Charak has expressed profound grief over the tragic loss of three lives and widespread destruction caused by a cloudburst and subsequent landslides in Ramban district. The disaster, which struck Seri Bagna village, has also severely impacted homes, livestock, and infrastructure, while blocking the critical Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44).

In a heartfelt statement, Rajeev Charak said, "I am deeply saddened by the devastating cloudburst and landslides in Ramban that have claimed precious lives and caused immense suffering. My thoughts and prayers are with the families who have lost their loved ones and those affected by this calamity. The BJP stands in solidarity with the people of Ramban during this challenging time."

Charak commended the swift response of the local administration, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), and community volunteers in evacuating over 100 villagers and providing immediate relief. He urged for expedited rehabilitation efforts,



stating, "The affected families need comprehensive support to rebuild their lives. I appeal to the administration to ensure timely compensation and long-term rehabilitation for those who have lost their homes and livelihoods."

Addressing the highway closure, Charak emphasized the urgency of restoring connectivity, saying, "The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway is the lifeline of the region. I urge the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and concerned agencies to prioritize clearance operations to restore access and ensure the smooth flow of essential supplies."

Charak also called for a geological assessment to identify the causes of recurring landslides in the region, adding, "We must take proactive measures to prevent such tragedies in the future. Expert intervention from the Geology department is critical to safeguard vulnerable areas." The BJP leader extended his gratitude to the district administration and rescue teams for their tireless efforts and assured that the party remains committed to supporting the affected communities. "We will work closely with the government to ensure all necessary aid reaches those in need," he affirmed.

# KPS welcomes NC statements of people of Kashmir should work towards creating peaceful environment in Valley

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 20: The Kashmiri Pandit Sabha (KPS) welcomes the statement made by the national conference president Dr. Farooq Abdullah that the UT government led by Omar Abdullah, in collaboration with the people of Kashmir should work towards creating a congenial and peaceful environment in the valley so that the displaced community of Kashmiri Pandits, which left the valley out of fear and intimidation in the late eighties and early nineties can return and resettle in the land of their forefathers with dignity and a complete sense of security.

Dr. Farooq also stated that this cannot be achieved by merely making rhetorical statements but by doing a lot of ground work to make this happen.

As the tallest leader of Jammu and Kashmir, it is natural for everyone including the Kashmiri Pandits to have faith in his statement and hope that this will be

followed by real action on the ground. The government must take community leadership into confidence in order to formulate a robust return and rehabilitation policy for the displaced Kashmiri Pandits which is both pragmatic and holistic in nature, keeping in mind the fact that it's been thirty six years since the aborigines were driven out and much water has flown down the river Jhelum since then. Six months have already passed since the Omar Abdullah led NC govt was elected to power. Yet so far no initiative towards this vital issue has been visible on ground. The state government has not even earmarked any funds in the annual budget which would have been an indication of its intentions. The African proverb that "smooth seas do not make great sailors" must be borne in mind while navigating this arduous task. Since the onus to resettle the beleaguered community back in Kashmir is primarily on the state government,

Dr.Farooq Abdullah's statement that we must request Pakistan to stop its violent and dangerous activities and to let us live peacefully is disappointing.

The Kashmiri Pandits don't want the governments to hyphenate the issue of their return with the obviously dubious agenda of Pakistan. This task has to be achieved inspite of the sinister designs of our inimical neighbors. The sabha members also thank Dr Farooq Abdullah for taking note of the observation made in an article published in daily excelsior dated 8th of April that government and the community shall have to work jointly to restore the lost syncretic environment of the past. While Dr. Farooq Abdullah's statement is encouraging but over the decades it has been observed that actual action on ground fails to materialize. Hopefully this time round efforts to work jointly towards the return and rehabilitation of the Kashmiri Pandits are determined and committed.

# Modi govt committed to Dr Ambedkar's vision by working for welfare of deprived sections: Jasrotia

Top News Report

BILLAWAR, Apr 20: In continuance of BJP's series of programmes under the banner of Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Samman Abhiyan being observed from April 13 to April 25, in honour of the birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, an impressive programme organized at Mandli Billawar.

On this occasion, MLA Jasrotia participated in Ambedkar Samman Abhiyan as Chief Spokesperson wherein MLA Basholi Darshan Singh, MLA Kathua Dr. Bharat Bhushan, DDC Chairman Mahan Singh, District President Basholi Gopal were also present on the occasion besides Sanjeet Sharma, Mandal President Vishal Singh, Narayan Dutt Tripathi. The programme was also attended by prominent party leaders, social activists and local community members, who paid rich tribute to Dr. Ambedkar.

Honoring the contributions of Dr BR Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution,



Jasrotia addressed the gathering, shedding light on the Congress party's attempts to distort Dr. Ambedkar's statements and undermine his legacy. He said Congress party consistently opposed Dr. Ambedkar, forcing him to resign from the cabinet and ensuring his defeat in elections. Congress governments denied Dr. Ambedkar the Bharat Ratna until 1990, when a non-Congress government supported by the BJP conferred it upon him. Congress governments prevented the construction of a memorial for Dr. Ambedkar, added Jasrotia. Jasrotia observed that out of 106 amendments in the Constitution 75 amendments were carried out by the Congress party for the sake of political

gains. At the same time, he stressed that the BJP carried out the much-needed amendments in the interest of the nation and its residents.

Jasrotia highlighting BJP's commitment to Dr. Ambedkar's Legacy under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, said that BJP government developed Panchteerths, significant sites related to Dr. Ambedkar's life. PM Modi declared November 26 as Constitution Day to honor Dr. Ambedkar's contributions.

The BJP government established the Ambedkar International Centre to promote Dr. Ambedkar's ideals. The BJP has strengthened reservation policies, protecting the rights of SCs, STs, and OBCs. While Congress opposed the

Mandal Commission report, the BJP supported its implementation. Jasrotia further said that BJP remains committed to upholding the principles of the Constitution and honoring Dr. Ambedkar's legacy. The party's efforts to promote Dr. Ambedkar's ideals and protect the rights of marginalized communities demonstrate its dedication to social justice and equality, said Jasrotia.

MLA Basholi Darshan Singh, MLA Kathua Dr. Bharat Bhushan in their address highlighted invaluable contributions of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar to the nation. They highlighted the pivotal role played by Dr. Ambedkar in the framing of the Indian Constitution. They asked the party activists to connect

with the economically weaker sections and other needy persons in the society to aid them and help them in getting the benefits of the public welfare schemes of the Modi Government. Baba Saheb worked for the upliftment of the weaker sections and all the communities which were oppressed, and neglected. They highlighted the notable contribution of Baba Saheb to ensure the rights of women, SC, OBCs and others.

DDC Chairman Mahan Singh, District President Basholi Gopal also offered tributes to Dr Ambedkar and reiterated the party's commitment to his vision of an inclusive and progressive India.

They recalled Dr Ambedkar's struggle against social discrimination and his pivotal role in shaping a democratic and egalitarian framework for the nation. They said Dr Ambedkar's ideals remain more relevant than ever and serve as a guiding light for the ongoing mission of nation-building under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



EDITORIAL

SAY NO TO DRUGS

In the grand journey of life, where dreams are the stars and health is the sky, every choice we make becomes the wind in our sails—or the weight on our wings. One such choice, deceptively small at first, yet immensely powerful, is the choice to say no to drugs. In that single syllable—no—lies the strength to protect our health, our future, and the happiness of those we love.

Drugs, whether legal or illegal, when misused, become a silent thief. They steal our potential, hijack our happiness, and cloud our clarity. What starts as an escape often ends in entrapment. The initial euphoria, so temporary, fades into dependency, anxiety, and a cascade of physical and mental health problems. The very thing people turn to for relief becomes the source of their suffering.

Why do people fall into the trap? It could be curiosity, peer pressure, stress, emotional trauma, or simply a desire to feel something different. But no matter the reason, the result is too often the same: lost time, shattered relationships, broken health, and a sense of self that fades into a fog.

Saying no to drugs is not just about turning away from harm; it's about turning toward health, joy, and freedom. It's about choosing a life where your mind remains sharp, your body remains strong, and your dreams remain within reach. Every time you say no to drugs, you're saying yes to life.

Choosing a drug-free life means embracing wellness in all its vibrant forms. It means waking up with energy, not exhaustion. It means having control over your mind and body, not being ruled by cravings. It means reducing the risk of heart disease, liver damage, brain disorders, and countless other conditions that drug abuse can cause. A healthy body is the foundation on which we build careers, relationships, and a purpose-driven life.

Mental health, too, thrives when we keep drugs at bay. Depression, paranoia, hallucinations, and anxiety are common consequences of drug abuse. But in the absence of toxins, the mind becomes a clear lake—reflecting creativity, calm, and connection with others. Emotional resilience, joy, and inner peace are all easier to attain when we are not battling the side effects of addiction.

The best way to combat the drug menace is through education and awareness. We must start early—teaching children and teens about the dangers of drug use before temptation knocks at their door. Empower them with knowledge, surround them with support, and inspire them with healthier alternatives: sports, arts, music, volunteering, and mindfulness.

It's equally vital to build a culture of empathy, not judgment. Many people turn to drugs due to pain they cannot express. By creating safe spaces where people can talk, heal, and feel heard, we reduce the need for artificial escape routes. Let's make seeking help for emotional pain as normal as visiting a doctor for a cold.

Community programs, rehabilitation centers, and youth outreach initiatives also play a key role. Those who have stumbled can still rise. Recovery is not only possible—it's beautiful. Every recovered soul becomes a beacon of hope for others still lost in the dark.

To the dreamers, the dancers, the coders, the poets, the builders of tomorrow: you are too powerful, too precious, and too full of potential to let drugs steal your light. Life will have its storms, yes. But there are healthier ways to cope: through friendship, therapy, meditation, exercise, and art. Your scars can become your strength. Your pain can become poetry. You do not need chemicals to create magic—you are the magic.

Saying no to drugs is not just a personal choice; it's a collective movement. Families, schools, communities, governments—when we all commit to building a healthier, more compassionate world, we raise a generation that is not only drug-free but driven, daring, and deeply alive.

Role of Coaching Institutes in UPSC Preparation

By: Vijay Garg

Know about the crucial role of coaching institutes in UPSC preparation, offering structured learning, expert guidance, and key resources to help aspirants succeed in the civil services exam.

Regular Assessments: Regular tests, mock exams, and practice sessions conducted in institutions help the candidates assess their progress. These assessments not only test knowledge but also enhance time management skills, which are essential during the actual exam.

Study Materials: Many coaching centres provide concise and up-to-date study materials. These notes and books are prepared after extensive research and are curated to focus on the key areas of the exam.

Peer Learning: The environment in a coaching institute often promotes healthy competition and peer learning. Discussing various topics with fellow aspirants helps in tp clarify doubts, build knowledge, and gain different perspectives.

Guidance on Optional Subjects: Choosing an optional subject is a critical decision for every UPSC aspirant. Coaching institutes provide detailed and one-to-one guidance and support in selecting and preparing for optional subjects, which can be a deciding factor in success.

Necessity of Coaching For UPSC Preparation

A frequent question among UPSC aspirants is, “Is coaching necessary to crack UPSC?” The answer to this question isn’t a simple yes or no, as it solely and largely depends on an individual’s learning style, discipline, and resources.

Self-Preparation vs. Coaching: Many prior aspirants have successfully cleared the UPSC exam by self-study. However, those who find it challenging to maintain a disciplined routine or are confused about where to start might benefit especially from coaching. The structured guidance provided by coaching institutes can save time and effort by providing clarity.

Guidance in the Right Direction: For aspiring candidates who are new to the exam process or feel overwhelmed by the massive syllabus, coaching institutes can provide the right direction. They help to break down complex topics into understandable pieces and ensure candidates remain motivated throughout their preparation journey.

Role of Coaching Institutes in UPSC Preparation

Coaching institutes play an important role in Role of Coaching Institutes in UPSC Preparation shaping the preparation of UPSC aspirants. These institutes work as a bridge between the raw knowledge of candidates to the systematic approach that is needed to tackle the complex UPSC syllabus. These institutions provide a holistic framework, from current affairs updates to exam strategies, which helps aspirants navigate through the extensive material.

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The role of coaching institutes in UPSC preparation can be summarized through the following points:

Structured Learning Approach: UPSC coaching institutes offer a structured curriculum that is designed specifically to cover every aspect of the syllabus. It helps every candidate to stay on track, preventing them from wasting time on unnecessary topics.

Expert Guidance: With access to experienced faculty who have a complete understanding of the

While UPSC coaching institutes can help, it's essential to remember that coaching is not a magic solution. Success in UPSC depends on hard work, persistence, and self-study, with or without formal coaching.

The Role of Coaching For IAS Preparation

The role of coaching for IAS specifically is crucial as it comprises multiple stages, each testing different skill sets—Prelims (objective questions), Mains (descriptive answers), and the Personality Test (interview). Coaching institutes offer specialized training for every stage, which may not be possible to gain through self-study alone.

Prelims Strategy: Coaching institutes provide shortcut techniques, quizzes, and mock tests for the Prelims. By providing training on how to tackle multiple-choice questions and avoid negative markings.

Mains Preparation: For the Mains Examination, writing practice is important. Coaching institutes guide aspirants on how to structure answers, manage time effectively, and present information clearly, which ensures their content highlights and candidates may achieve good marks.

Interview Guidance: Coaching centers also help candidates to prepare for the Personality Test. Mock interviews, current affairs discussions, and feedback from experts are conducted which significantly improves a candidate’s performance in the final stage. Benefits of Joining UPSC Coaching Classes

The benefits of joining UPSC coaching classes are beyond which amplifies the role of coaching Institutes in UPSC preparation. Coaching institutes create an ecosystem where candidates can access resources, guidance, and moral support, which can greatly enhance their confidence and readiness.

Mentorship: A mentor can help and guide aspiring candidates in the right direction, which will ultimately help them to focus on strengths and work on weaknesses.

Time Management: UPSC preparation is all about preparation by balancing time across different subjects. Many Institutes provide a well-planned schedule that helps candidates prevent over-focused preparation of a single subject.

Access to Resources: Joining a coaching institute ensures aspi-

rants get access to the best study materials, test series, and library resources.

Is Coaching Necessary To Crack UPSC?

After evaluating the role of coaching institutes in UPSC preparation, candidates may still have confusion regarding, ‘Is coaching necessary to crack UPSC?’ The answer to this confusion can vary from candidate to candidate. There are many aspirants who have succeeded without formal coaching, but other candidates may find it necessary due to a lack of direction, motivation, or discipline.

Coaching institutes generally helps in to streamline the preparation process by providing structure, strategy, and support, but they cannot substitute personal effort, dedication, and consistent hard work.

Best Coaching Institute for UPSC Preparation

When considering the best coaching institute for UPSC preparation, Physics Wallah stands out for its innovative and affordable online and offline classes. With a focus on structured learning, expert guidance, and interactive sessions, Physics Wallah is making quality UPSC coaching accessible to students nationwide.

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Conclusion

The role of coaching institutes in UPSC preparation is significant for many aspirants, providing them with the right tools, guidance, and motivation to tackle one of India’s toughest examinations. However, success depends on personal dedication and a clear understanding of the syllabus. While coaching institutes offer support, a self-driven approach combined with structured learning can yield the best results in the long run.

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

The Spirit of Easter-Honoring the Resurrection &Embracing Hope

By: Omkar Dattatray

Easter is one of the most significant and sacred festivals celebrated by Christians around the world .It marks the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, a cornerstone of the Christian faith that symbolizes hope, renewal ,and victory over sin and death. According to the New Testament of the Bible ,Jesus was crucified on Good Friday and rose from dead on the third day Easter Sunday. His resurrection fulfilled the prophecy of the Messiah and confirmed the belief in eternal life for all who follow His teachings. Easter ,therefore ,is not only a celebration of Jesus return to life but also a message of spiritual rebirth and triumph of good over evil. Easter is preceded by “Holy Week” ,which recounts the final days of Jesus earthly life. It begins with “Palm Sunday” commemorating His entry into Jerusalem. “Maundy Thursday ”honors the Last Supper ,while “Good Friday” solemnly reflects on the crucifixion .Finally Easter Sunday arrives with joyous celebrations of the resurrection. On this auspicious occasion Churches around the world hold special services on Easter Sunday , often featuring hymns ,readings , and the lighting of candles to represent Jesus as the light of the world. In many cultures , Easter is also a time for feasting and family gatherings. Though rooted in Christian traditions, the message of Easter transcends religious boundaries. It remains humanity of the power of faith ,the promise of new beginnings ,and the importance of compassion and forgiveness. Easter is a Christian festival celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ,typically observed on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the vernal equinox. In 2025,Easter Sunday falls on

20th April. Easter thus is the Sunday following good Friday. The festival is marked by church services, feasting, and traditions like egg hunts and decorating. It is the festival of happiness ,joy, positivity and hope .In essence Easter is a time for Christians to rejoice in the promise of resurrection and to celebrate the triumph of faith over death. Easter celebrations often include feasts,family gatherings ,and exchange of gifts ,including Easter eggs and chocolate .Easter commemorates Jesus's resurrection ,a central belief in Christianity ,symbolizing hope, renewal , and victory over death. It is observed in variety of ways across the globe. However Easter is marked with church services, prayer and reflection. Easter eggs represent new life and rebirth and is associated with fertility and abundance. The Easter Bunny, a more secular tradition, is associated with fertility and abundance. Easter is a Christian festival celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ and it refers to the Easter holiday ,a major celebration in Christianity that commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is a time of joy and spiritual renewal for many Christians ,marking the end of Lent and triumph of life over death. While not directly an “offer” in the sense of commercial promotion ,the term likely refers to the various activities and traditions that are associated with Easter celebrations ,such as church services, family gatherings ,and exchange of gifts. Easter is a central event in the Christian faith ,marking the resurrection of Jesus three days after his crucifixion. The week leading up to Easter is often referred to as Holy Week ,which includes Palm Sunday, Maundy, Thursday ,Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. Easter celebrations vary across different Christian denominations and cultures ,but often include special Church services

,family gatherings, and the exchange of gifts such as Easter eggs. Easter is a movable feast ,meaning its date changes each year based on the lunisolar calendar .It is always the first Sunday after the first full moon following the vernal equinox. Easter also called Pascha or Resurrection Sunday is a Christian festival and cultural holiday commemorating the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, described in the New Testament as having occurred on the third day of his burial following his crucifixion by the Romans of Calvary c 30 AD. It is the culmination of the Passion of Jesus,preceded by Lent or Great Lent ,a 40-day period of fasting ,prayer , and penance. Easter –observing Christians commonly refer to the week before Easter as Holy Week ,which in Western Christianity begins on Palm Sunday [marking the entrance of Jesus in Jerusalem ]includes Spy Wednesday [on which the betrayal of Jesus is mourned]and contains the days of the Easter Triduum including Maundy Thursday ,commemorating the Maundy and Last Supper ,as well as Good Friday ,commemorating the crucifixion and death of Jesus .In Eastern Christianity ,the same events are commemorated with the names of days all starting with “Holy” or “Holy and Great” ,and Easter itself might be called Great and Holy Pascha. In both Western and Eastern Christianity ,Easter tide ,the Easter or Paschal season ,begins on Easter Sunday and lasts seven weeks, ending with the coming of the 50th day ,Pentecost Sunday ,but in Eastern Christianity the leavetaking of the feast is on the 39th day ,the day before the Feast of the Ascension. Easter and its related holidays are movable feasts ,not falling on a fixed date, its date is computed based on a lunisolar calendar [solar year plus Moon phase]similar to the Hebrew calendar ,gen-

erating a number of controversies. The first Council of Niceae [325]established on the first Sunday after the first full moon on or after the vernal equinox . Even if calculated on the basis of the Gregorian calendar ,the date of that full moon sometimes differ from that of the astronomical first full moon after the March equinox. The English term may derive from the Anglo-Saxon goddess name Eostre, Easter is linked to the Jewish Passover by its name [Hebrew],Aramic are the basis of the term Pascha[by its origin [according to the synoptic Gospels, both the crucifixion and the resurrection took place during the [week of Passover] and much of its symbolism ,as well as by its position in the calendar .In most European languages ,both the Christian Easter and the Jewish Passover are called by the same name ,and in the older English translations of the Bible ,as well , the term Easter was used to translate Passover. Easter traditions vary across the Christian world ,and include sunrise services or late-night vigils ,exclamations and exchanges of Paschal greetings, following the cross ,the wearing of Easter bonnets by women, clipping the Church ,and the decoration .As Christians around the world celebrate Easter each year, they not only honor the resurrection of Christ but also embrace the hope and renewal it brings to their lives and communities. In brief Easter gives us the message of hope, positivity, compassion,forgiveness and above all the eternal values of righteousness.

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



# MLA Karnah conducts door-to-door visit across Reddi Chowkibal Block; assures holistic development across constituency

Top News Report

KUPWARA, Apr 20: In a spirited outreach initiative following the conclusion of the recent Assembly session, MLA Karnah and senior National Conference leader Javaid Mirchal Sahib visited multiple villages in the Reddi Chowkibal Block — including Kahanabal, Panjgam, Chowkibal, Malasarii, and Tumna. The visit witnessed door-to-door interactions, with Mirchal personally meeting households, listening to their problems, and inspecting various ongoing and completed developmental works. These included road construction, drinking water facilities, electricity supply, healthcare centers, and educational infrastructure. Residents welcomed



the MLA with garlands and bouquets, expressing their happiness and admiration for his ground-level engagement and consistent dedication to the people's needs. Villagers shared their concerns related to local connectivity, employment,

and basic amenities, and were assured by the MLA that National Conference will prioritize equitable development across the entire Karnah constituency in the coming days. While speaking to the people, Javaid Mirchal emphasized, "We are

committed to reaching the last person in the line. Our vision is inclusive development — every village, every household matters. Karnah has long been neglected, and this is the time to bring real change. The visit is part of

a broader strategy to strengthen grassroots connection and ensure accountability after the Assembly session. Officials from various departments accompanied the MLA, providing updates and receiving on-the-spot instructions to speed up pending works. Mirchal further stated that he would soon be visiting Tangdar and other areas of Karnah, ensuring no region is left behind. He reiterated National Conference's renewed focus on the constituency, promising sustained development, increased employment opportunities, and better civic facilities. This outreach marks a new phase of proactive leadership in Karnah, signaling the beginning of focused governance and people-first politics in the region.

# CEC reviews arrangements for upcoming visit of Drikung Kyabgon Chetsang Rinpoche



Top News Report

LEH, Apr 20: The Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh convened a meeting at the Council Secretariat to review the preparations for the proposed visit of His Holiness the 37th Drikung Kyabgon Chetsang Thinley Lhundup, Green Ambassador of the Union Territory of Ladakh. The meeting was chaired to oversee and coordinate all necessary

arrangements required to ensure a smooth and successful visit of His Holiness. The visit, which is expected to witness large gatherings, includes significant stopovers and short visits across various locations including Phyang, Lingshed, Durbuk, Shachukul, Chushul, Skindiang, Kargyam Satho, Bodhkharbu, Humla and others. The Chairman stressed on timely execution of

all required works, with special focus on road connectivity, cleanliness and infrastructure readiness, particularly at Singay-la and Tulchung. As part of the preparations, it was informed that a Jio network engineer along with the Jio Telecom team will visit Sumpata Gongma, Kungyam, Lingshed and Spangmik to assess the existing BSNL network conditions. The Sub Divisional Magistrate and the con-

cerned Block Development Officer will also conduct visits to these areas to oversee the work and coordinate necessary support. The Chairman emphasized that this visit holds deep spiritual and cultural value for the people of Ladakh and called upon all departments and stakeholders to work in close coordination to ensure the success of the event. The meeting was attended by the Nominated Councillor Ven. Konchok Tsepal, Superintending Engineer PWD Circle Leh, Com-

mander 13 Task Force, Sub Divisional Magistrate Khaltai, Executive Engineer Electric Distribution Division Leh, Executive Engineer Public Health Engineering Division Leh, Executive Engineer R&B Khaltai, Block Development Officer Khaltai/Singay-Lalok, and officials from Jio Telecom Leh. Among the stakeholders were Lama Utchos/ Lopen from Phyang, Lamayuru, Shachukul and Lingshed Monastery; Numbardar Lingshed, Yulchung and Photoksar, and other important delegates from BJP Singaylalok.

# Vivek Bali demands urgent govt relief for apple growers affected by hailstorm in South Kashmir

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 20: Prominent political leader Vivek Bali today expressed deep concern over the severe damage caused to apple orchards in South Kashmir by a sudden and destructive hailstorm. The untimely calamity has badly affected crops in their early growth stage, leaving hundreds of fruit growers devastated. Vivek Bali, who has been consistently advocating for the welfare of farmers and horticulturists in the region, has urged the government to immediately dispatch assessment teams to the affected areas and announce a comprehensive relief package. "Our apple growers



are the pride of South Kashmir's economy. This hailstorm has not only destroyed their crops but also shattered the hopes of thousands of families who depend on horticulture for their livelihood," Bali said. "The government must

intervene without delay to assess the losses and compensate farmers adequately." He further appealed to the Horticulture Department and the local administration to remain proactive and extend every possible help, including technical and financial support, to the affected farmers. Bali assured the farming community that he will personally continue to raise their demands at every platform until appropriate action is taken. "The people of South Kashmir should know that we stand with them in this hour of distress. I will leave no stone unturned to ensure their voices are heard and their losses are addressed," Vivek Bali added.

# Army organizes medical patrol for youth at Keri



Top News Report

RAJOURI, Apr 20: Indian Army has always been known for its ethos, values and traditions of highest order. The professional and humane face of Indian Army is well known and is always praised and commended. Following its ethos and traditions, Indian Army has been at the forefront and working along with the Awam in their fight against the medical related issues. Indian Army at Samote organised medical patrol in far flung areas of Keri. A total of 58 locals including 23 men, 21 women and 14 chil-

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

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## Malavika Mohanan admits South's 'navel obsession is real', was trolled for being too skinny for Tamil audiences: 'You've lost your chub'

Actor Malavika Mohanan, who has worked across industries in India, spoke about the frequent comments about her body that she has to face. She also admitted that 'navel obsession' is a real thing in the South, as is a preference for women who aren't skinny. She said that she has been told by co-stars and team members that she is either too skinny or too chubby, and that she doesn't appreciate such comments. Malavika is the daughter of cinematographer KU Mohanan, and has worked in the Malayalam, Hindi, Tamil and Telugu film industries.

In an interview with agency, she said, "Every industry has a different idea of the ideal female body type. If I put on a little bit of weight and

I come to Mumbai for work, my manager will be like, 'You put on a little bit? You've stopped working out?' And at the same time, if I'm fit and have washboard abs and I'm in Chennai, they'll say, 'Oh, you've lost your chub, you were cuter when you had your chub'. Women's bodies are commented on so frequently, at one point I would get confused, should I be fit, should I be curvy? Now, I've reached a stage where I'm like, 'Be healthy, be fit'."

Asked if South Indian audiences are actually obsessed with female navels, Malavika said with a laugh, "I used to be very perplexed earlier, too, because I've grown up in Mumbai. It was a completely new phenomenon that



navels are obsessed over so much. And then you'd see pictures of actresses on social media, where they zoom into their bodies. Navel obsession is a very real thing."

Malavika said that when she did her first film as a 'gawky' 21-year-old, she was told that she is too skinny, because South Indian audiences like their women to be curvier. "I was trolled so much for being skinny. My body changed in my mid-20s. That's when I got a little curvier. I was trolled so badly, and it was harsh! It really affected me." Malavika made her acting debut in the film Pattam Pole. She has also starred in films such as Master, Petta, Thangalaan, and Yudhra.

## Khushboo Sundar alerts fans about suspicious activity after X account gets hacked



Popular Tamil actor and politician Khushboo Sundar's X account has been hacked. She shared a post on Instagram and warned her fans, advising them against fraudulent messages and posts from her account.

Her post read, "Hi friends, my #TWITTER @khushsundar account has been hacked. I am not able to log in and it's not accepting my id or password. I am

blocked out. Any news, updates, posts, or any activity on my Twitter page has not done by in the last 9 hours. Trying to sort this out. Kindly bear and keep me posted if you see any kind of activity on my TWITTER page. See you soon on Twitter. Till then, i am here (sic)."

In a separate post, she requested help to retrieve her account. "Attention, everyone! My Twitter account has been hacked. If anyone knows how to retrieve it, please help me out. It's urgent! #CyberHelp #AccountRecovery #UrgentAssistance @twitter (sic)," she wrote.

One social media user tried to help the actor, stating, "Hi Kushboo Ma'am, I'm sorry about your account being hacked. Please add a text box across your recent post that shows a screenshot of the hacked account. This is because at first glance it looks like you've just reposted ur Twitter post and many don't read the caption and might not notice (sic)," in the comment section.

Sundar began her career as a child artist in Hindi films and rose to prominence in Tamil cinema, appearing in over 185 films. Khushboo transitioned into politics, joining the Bharatiya Janata Party in 2020, and currently serves as a member of the National Commission for Women.

## Shocking exit: A major Emily in Paris star won't be back for Season 5

As Emily in Paris gears up for Season 5 filming this May, fans are in for a major twist—one key character won't be returning, potentially shaking up a central storyline. After a dramatic Season 4, which saw Emily navigating her romance with Gabriel and Camille's affair with Sofia, the absence of this character could leave unresolved tensions, particularly in the complicated love triangle that's been at the heart of the series.

Camille Razat bids adieu to Emily in Paris

The production for the next season of Emily in Paris begins next month, and on Thursday, Variety reported that Camille Razat will not be returning for it. While the news is certainly shocking, creator Darren Star dropped hints about her exit previously. He told The Wrap, "I think she's always going to be part of the series — she's part of their world and I would never rule out the fact that we're going to see her again. Her story is going to continue."

He continued, "Characters can come in and out of a series, but you don't necessarily have



to see them. We may or may not. I don't know how much of Camille we'll see next season. But again, she's part of the world of the series. I'm not sure how soon we'll see her, but it doesn't mean, again, that we won't be seeing her," as reported by The New York Post.

New view in Emily in Paris' next season

In addition to the cast changes, Season 5 will bring a major shift in Emily's life. After moving into an Italian apartment last season to open a new Agence Grateau office in Rome, she'll be embracing her new

chapter in Italy. However, Paris isn't completely off the table — Emily will still find herself tangled in the city's charm and chaos.

Star shared with Tudum, "Emily's going to have a presence in Rome. It doesn't mean she's not going to be in Paris, but she's going to have a presence in Rome." This shift from Paris to Italy, where Emily opens a new office, was inspired by Star's desire to "stay ahead of the audience and take them to new places," while showcasing "the show's ability to expand its reach."

## Rakul Preet on being the 'IT' girl in Bollywood: I just wanted to be a heroine

Her fierceness is what defines her, but the way she balances it with grace and aplomb is what truly sets her apart. That's what actor Rakul Preet Singh brought with her as she shot for the cover of HT City Showstoppers.

Inspired by vintage portraits of Indian women, Rakul embodies femininity in this vintage bouquet saree by Navyasa created by LIVA. The outfit is paired with a heritage Basra pearl necklace and bangles by Chaulaz Heritage Jewellery (Photographer: Tejas Nerurkar)

Inspired by vintage portraits of Indian women, Rakul embodies femininity in this vintage bouquet saree by Navyasa created by LIVA. The outfit is paired with a heritage Basra pearl necklace and bangles by Chaulaz Heritage Jewellery (Photographer: Tejas Nerurkar)

Never one to take it slow and always up on her feet, the actor insists that the gone year has taught her to take things at their own pace. "2024 was a year which gave me extreme happiness. I got married and then work was great, but then my back injury sort of set



me back. In the beginning, I was in denial and that it is going to be fine, but you learn to surrender and realise that this is a lesson," she says.

Rakul Preet Singh took a three-month break from work after her back injury in October last year to focus on her recovery and she says it puts things into perspective: "That period taught me to calm down and introspect; it was a mental battle but I've now become very

patient to align with what life is telling me."

And then she came back with a bang, giving a memorable performance in Mere Husband Ki Biwi earlier this year. Starring alongside Arjun Kapoor and Bhumi Pednekar, it was one of those two-heroine projects that many actors turn away from. Where does that security comes in from into her to choose such projects? "It comes from your childhood. If you

are made to believe that you're good enough, then you believe that you're good enough. Never have I heard my parents say to me or my brother that 'tumse nahi hoga'. They brought us up in a fearless and confident manner that for me, it has been 'main apni favourite hoon, hamesha'."

Coming from Delhi to being the 'IT girl' of Bollywood, the process has been seamless for the actor. But she doesn't pay much heed to it: "When I entered the industry, I didn't know what is the 'IT girl'. I just wanted to be a heroine and be on the big screen. When I started, people said that five to six years is the shelf life of a girl in cinema but things are changing. As long as you look good and work well, age is just a number. I want to aim at longevity, and I aspire to be like Amitabh Bachchan sir or Tabu ma'am."

An image of a modern Indian woman, Rakul takes her responsibility as a public figure seriously. "You have to be cautious about what you put out for the people. What I do at my job, that's what matters. But I also need to show the reality—the good and

the bad days. Even if I'm not looking my best every day, it's fine. I feel not setting unrealistic expectations is very important because there are a lot of young kids who aspire to be like actors, and they set standards thinking that this is what ultimate beauty is. They feel they aren't good enough and that responsibility is on us," she insists.

So, how does she ensure it with her fashion? "For me, fashion is a lot of comfort. My sense of style is easy and it's not OTT. It's my mood for the day and I like to dress for the occasion. I love experimenting, but for me, experimentation also happens within the boundaries of what I'm comfortable in and what I can carry."

Professionally, this year Rakul is back to the masala genre, and now she is excited to elevate it with De De Pyaar De 2. But she points out, it's a lot more than that. "De De Pyaar De was one of the most credible films because it's not purely masala. It's also about the emotional scale that the film and its character gave me to explore. I'm very excited about part two and I can say is that it's a role of a lifetime," she ends.

## Shabana Azmi says she saw Parveen Babi 'going mad in front of my eyes': 'She was struggling, said the chandelier was going to fall on her'

Actor Shabana Azmi and Parveen Babi became popular in Bollywood around the same time and got to work with each other in films like Amar Akbar Anthony and Jwalamukhi. Parveen was a mainstream star and while she was starting to enjoy her stardom, she was also learning to deal with her mental health problems. At the time, the world around her wasn't equipped to help her in the right way so many of her contemporaries, could not make sense of what she was going through. In a recent interview, Shabana recalled the time when she worked with Parveen and how she started observing some changes in her.

In an appearance on Filmfare's YouTube channel, Shabana said, "I saw Parveen Babi going mad in front of my



eyes. We were doing a Prakash Mehra film, Jwalamukhi, and we were on the set, and she suddenly looked to the chandelier and started screaming, 'This chandelier is going to fall on me.' Even on the sets of Ashanti, I saw that she was eating very little. She used to

eat two grapes and say that I

am bursting," added the actor. She shared another incident with Parveen and recalled that once, when Zeenat Aman was having her makeup done, Parveen went and stood behind her and "looked at her in a very strange kind of manner". The actor said, "There were indications that something is not quite

right with this girl."

When asked about whether there was any discussion about Parveen's mental state among the people who used to frequently work with her, Shabana replied, "We never talked about this. She was always speaking about esoteric things, discussing books, and she was a big star, but she never played the star as such, but she was in quest of an intellect that didn't really come easy to her, but she was struggling with something."

Parveen Babi and Shabana Azmi both climbed the ladder of the industry around the same time, with Parveen debuting in 1973 with Charitra and Azmi in 1973 with Ankur. Azmi was last seen in the Netflix series Dabba Cartel alongside Shalini Pandey, Anjali Anand, Jyothika, Nimisha Sajayan, Gajraj Rao.

## Abhishek Bachchan blushes when asked about 2nd baby with Aishwarya Rai



An old video of Ritesh Deshmukh's show "Case Toh Banta Hai" featuring Abhishek Bachchan has recently gone viral on social media. The video shows Ritesh teasing Abhishek about having a second child with wife Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, leaving the actor

visibly blushing.

In the clip, Ritesh said, "Amitabh ji, Aishwarya, Aaradhya aur aap Abhishek. Yeh saare 'A' letter se shuru hote hain. Toh Jaya aunty aur Shweta ne aisa kar liya..." The comment had Abhishek in splits, and he responded by saying, "Yeh unko

poochna padega. Lekin ek pratha si bann gayi hai humare parivaar main shayad. Abhishek, Aaradhya..."

Ritesh then interjected, "Aaradhya ke baad?" To which Abhishek playfully replied, "Nahi abhi agli peedhi jo aayegi tab dekhenge na." Ritesh, not letting it slide, added, "Utna kaun rukta hai? Jaise Ritesh, Riaan, Rahyl (his two sons). Abhishek, Aaradhya..."

This left Abhishek blushing, prompting him to say, "Umar ka lihaza kiya karo, Ritesh. Main tumse bada hoon."

Abhishek married Aishwarya in 2007, and the couple welcomed their daughter Aaradhya in 2011.



# IAF's Surya Kiran pilots paint Ranchi sky with tri-colour

RANCHI, Apr 20 (Agencies): The Indian Air Force's Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT) painted the skies above the Namkum Army Ground in Ranchi with vibrant streaks of saffron, white and green, leaving thousands of spectators spellbound on the final day of an air show on Sunday.

Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth, senior defence and administrative officials were present at the event.

The two-day air show began on Saturday in Ranchi, aimed at instilling passion among children and youths to fly high.

A large number of people, school students and tourists gathered at the army ground since early morning on Sunday to experience the air show.

In the composite phase, all



nine aircraft flew in close formation, while the synchronisation phase featured smaller formations, as they performed dynamic low-level manoeuvres – some as low as 100 feet, officials said.

The spectators were mesmerised to witness swooping, spinning, and slicing of jets through the sky and Surya Kiran pilots exhibiting various

patterns, barrel rolls, and heart-shaped formations.

On Saturday, only six aircraft participated in the air show, while three jets were partially damaged due to rain and hailstorms in Ranchi on Friday afternoon.

The SKAT, formed in 1996, has performed over 700 such shows across India and the world, including Sri Lanka, Myanmar, China, Singapore and the UAE, an official said.

Known for its motto 'Sadaiva Sarvottam' (Always the Best), the team's air show is part of the IAF's outreach programme to inspire the youth and raise awareness about the forces, he said.

Such an event will also be organised in Patna on April 22-23.

# Damage control: Congress slams BJP after it distances itself from MPs' criticism of SC

NEW DELHI, Apr 20 (Agencies): The Congress on Sunday described the BJP disassociating itself from the criticism of the Supreme Court by its MPs Nishikant Dubey and Dinesh Sharma as "damage control" and asked why no action had been taken against the two.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said the distancing of the "outgoing BJP president" from the "atrocious remarks" made by two MPs on the Chief Justice of India (CJI) carried little meaning.

"These MPs are repeat offenders when it comes to hate speech and are very often used by G2 to attack communities, institutions, and individ-

uals. The outgoing BJP president's clarification is nothing but damage control," Ramesh said in a post on X.

"It will fool nobody. This is Entire Political Science reflecting itself as Entire Political Hypocrisy," he said.

But the "outgoing BJP president" is totally silent on equally unacceptable remarks on the judiciary that are continually made by one of its very distinguished appointees to a high constitutional position, Ramesh said and asked what he had to say about those remarks and if the BJP subscribed to them.

The former Union minister further asked, "If the continued silence of the prime minister on these repeated attacks on the Indian Constitution is not tacitly supportive of

them, why has no action been taken against these two MPs? Has Nadda ji issued show cause notices to these two MPs?" The BJP on Saturday disassociated itself from Dubey and Sharma's criticism of the Supreme Court, with party president JP Nadda calling the comments their personal views.

He also affirmed the ruling party's respect for the judiciary as an inseparable part of democracy.

"The BJP has nothing to do with the comments of MPs Nishikant Dubey and Dinesh Sharma on the judiciary and the chief justice. This is their personal comments but the BJP neither agrees with them nor does it ever support such remarks. The BJP



absolutely rejects them," Nadda said in a post on X.

He said he had directed both the leaders and other members of the party not to make such comments.

Earlier on Saturday, Dubey — one of the more vocal BJP members in the Lok Sabha — launched a broadside against the Supreme Court, saying Parliament and state assem-

blies should be shut if the apex court had to make the laws.

He also took a swipe at CJI Sanjiv Khanna.

Dubey had also alleged that CJI Khanna was responsible for "civil wars" in the country.

Sharma, a former deputy chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, was also critical of the Supreme Court, saying no one could direct Parliament or the president.

# SP can never be 'true well-wisher' of Dalits due to flaws in its intentions, policies: Mayawati

LUCKNOW, Apr 20 (Agencies): BSP supremo Mayawati on Sunday launched a scathing attack on her rivals, particularly the Samajwadi Party, and said like the Congress and the BJP, it could never become a "true well-wisher" of Dalits-Bahujans due to flaws in its intentions and policies.

Mayawati's criticism came amid Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav's continued support for the party's Dalit MP Ramji Lal Suman over a controversy surrounding his remark on Rana Sanga.

In a series of posts in Hindi on X, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP)

supremo said the Samajwadi Party, like the Congress and the BJP, instead of working for the uplift of Bahujans, especially Dalits, by giving them their constitutional rights, had no willpower to end their poverty, caste-based exploitation and injustice-atrocities.

Recalling the 1995 Lucknow guest house incident, she said, "The Samajwadi Party's betrayal of the BSP, murderous attack on its leadership on June 2 (1995), tearing the bill for reservation in promotions in Parliament, renaming new districts, parks, educational and medical colleges cre-



ated in honour of their saints, gurus and great men are such extreme casteist acts that are impossible to forgive."

The former Uttar Pradesh chief minister claimed that the BSP had been successful to a great extent in its mission of ending the caste system and creating an egalitarian society.

"The Samajwadi Party

is trying to spoil it in every way to fulfil its narrow political interests," she said and urged people to be cautious.

Mayawati said, "It is clear that, like the Congress and the BJP, among others, the Samajwadi Party can never be a true well-wisher of Dalits-Bahujans due to its ill intentions and policies but will keep deceiving them for the sake of votes."

The BSP, on the other hand, is dedicated and struggling to make the Bahujan Samaj the "ruling class", she added.

# Acid attack: 'Alcoholic' man targets wife, daughters in UP village

SHAHJAHANPUR (UP), Apr 20 (Agencies): Suspecting that his wife was involved in an illicit relationship, a man allegedly attacked her and his two daughters with acid at Tikri village here, officials said today.

The incident on Friday night left the three — identified as 39-year-old Ramguni, 16-year-old Neha and 23-year-old Rachita — seriously injured.

Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP), Nagar, Devendra Kumar, said on Sunday that the victim resided in a rented house in Tikri village with her two daughters and a son, while her husband Ram Gopal lived in Shahabad Hardoi.

"On Friday night, Ramguni and her daughters were asleep when her hus-

band allegedly jumped over the wall, entered the house and threw acid on them," the officer said.

At the time of the incident, Ramguni's son Ashu was staying with a friend. He subsequently filed a report against his father.

The injured have been admitted to the Government Medical College. Ashu told police that his father was an alcoholic and had sold his farmland in Shahabad area due to his addiction. Following this, Ramguni moved to Tikri village with her children. However, her husband suspected her fidelity and would frequently visit her.

Gopal is absconding and is a search is on to trace him.

# Prime accused in Murshidabad double murder case held in Uttar Dinajpur's Chopra

KOLKATA, Apr 20 (Agencies): One of the prime accused in the murder of a man and his son in violence-hit Murshidabad district in West Bengal was arrested, police said on Sunday.

This was the fourth arrest in the killing of the two at Jafrabad in Shamsheganj, a senior officer said.

The arrested person, identified as Ziaul Sheikh, a resident of

Sulitala Purbapara, the neighbouring village of Jafrabad, has been on the run since the crime took place on April 12.

Sheikh was arrested by the Special Task Force (STF) of the West Bengal Police along with the Special Investigating Team (SIT) from his hideout in Chopra in Uttar Dinajpur district on Saturday, he said.

"This person is one of the prime accused who

# JD(U)-BJP Alliance 'Opportunistic', Nitish Switches Sides For 'Kursi', Alleges Kharge



BUXAR, Apr 20 (Agencies): Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday termed the alliance between the ruling JD(U) and the BJP in Bihar as "opportunistic" and alleged that Chief Minister Nitish Kumar switches sides for 'kursi' (chair) only.

Addressing the party's 'Jai Bapu, Jai Bhim, Jai Samvidhan' rally at the Dalsagar stadium in Buxar, Kharge urged people of the state to oust the NDA government in the assembly polls due later this year.

"The alliance between Nitish Kumar and the BJP is opportunistic. It is not good for the people of the state. Nitish Kumar switches

sides just for 'kursi' (CM's post). The JD(U) chief has joined hands with the ideology that killed Mahatma Gandhi," the Congress president alleged.

He also asked what happened to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's promise of a Rs 1.25 lakh crore package for Bihar, and accused the PM of running a "factory of lies".

"People of Bihar must ask Nitish Kumar what happened to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's promise of Rs 1.25 lakh crore package for Bihar, which he had made on August 18, 2015? Modi Ji is running a factory of lies," Kharge claimed.

The NDA government must be ousted in the

coming assembly polls in Bihar, he said, adding that "people should vote for 'Mahagathbandhan' parties in the next state elections.

On the recent charge sheet filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) against Sonia Gandhi, Rahul in the National Herald case, Kharge said, "This has been done to target Congress. Our leaders can't be scared. Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi sacrificed their lives for the country".

The Congress chief also alleged that the RSS and the BJP are "not in favour of the welfare of weaker sections of society".

"They are against the poor, women, and the weaker sections of society....they (RSS-BJP) can't think for the betterment of society. They believe in dividing society based on caste and religion", he claimed.

"The Waqf (Amendment) Bill passed by Parliament is a conspiracy of the BJP and the RSS to create divide among communities," he alleged.

# BJP Kerala chief Rajeev Chandrasekhar says Waqf Act implementation will resolve Munambam issue

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, Apr 20 (Agencies): Kerala BJP president Rajeev Chandrasekhar on Sunday reiterated that the implementation of the Waqf (Amendment) Act would pave the way for resolving the Munambam issue.

Addressing reporters after visiting Cardinal Mar George Alencherry, here, Chandrasekhar said, "Let's wait and see who resolves the Munambam issue," he said.

"I believe that once the Waqf (Amendment) Act is implemented, a solution to the Munambam issue will also emerge," he said.

What have Kerala's ruling and opposition parties done over the past 35 years? Chandrasekhar asked "Union Minister for Minority Affairs Kiran Rijju's remarks were well-intentioned and I also understand from that the Munambam issue would be resolved with the implementation of the Act after it comes out of Supreme Court," he added.

In a scathing attack on INDIA alliance parties, he said things are being interpreted differently by the Congress-led UDF and CPI(M)-headed LDF.

Both the Congress and CPI(M) have alleged that the BJP brought Rijju to Munambam in the hopes of making political gains, but the move failed when the minister said the Act had no retrospective effect and that the people of Munambam would have to take up legal remedies to get back their land rights.

The Munambam residents, the majority of them Christians, have been agitating for the past several months against the Waqf Board's allegedly unlawful claim on their land and properties, despite them having registered deeds and land tax payment receipts.

The BJP leader visited Cardinal Alencherry to extend his greetings on



Easter day.

Chandrasekhar, accompanied by the saffron party's district leaders met the Cardinal here at the Lourde Forane Church in Palayam.

However, Cardinal Alencherry later told the media that it was an informal meeting.

Other BJP leaders also visited churches on Easter.

The state leadership had given instructions to BJP workers across the state to join the Christian community in their Easter celebrations.

On the day symbolising the resurrection of hope, Chandrasekhar extended his wishes to all believers.

"Easter marks the resurrection of hope. May the profound message of love that Jesus Christ shared, along with the blessings of this holy day, guide us toward the vision of a #Viksitakeralam", he posted on X.

Union Minister Suresh Gopi attended special Easter prayers at churches in Thrissur.

He participated in the Mass held at the Ollur Mary Matha Church and the Puthanpally Mary Matha Catholic Church.

He also visited the Archbishop of Thrissur, Andrews Thazhath, at the Bishop's House.

Gopi extended Easter greetings to all believers celebrating this day of hope and resurrection.



## Trump administration urges Supreme Court to allow deportations under alternative laws

*Following the Supreme Court's order, the US Justice Department argued that the justices should deny the request to halt deportations under the controversial wartime authority provided by the Alien Enemies Act.*

WASHINGTON DC, Apr 20 (Agencies): After the US Supreme Court temporarily barred the deportation of migrants, President Donald Trump's administration has urged the apex court to allow the use of alternative laws to remove a group of Venezuelan migrants detained in Texas, agency reported.

Following the Supreme Court's order, the US Justice Department argued that the justices should deny the request to halt deportations under the controversial wartime authority provided by the Alien Enemies Act.

The Justice Department further urged the Supreme Court to provide clarity that it may remove at least some of the same migrants under less controversial immigration laws.

The Supreme Court's order did not distinguish between depor-



tations under the Alien Enemies Act and other laws, agency reported.

The court said, "The government is directed not to remove any member of the putative class of detainees from the United States until further order of this court."

Earlier, the White House said in a statement that "President Trump promised the American people to use all lawful measures to remove the threat of terrorist illegal aliens, like members of (Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua), from the United States."

"We are confident in the lawfulness of the Administration's actions and in ultimately prevailing against an onslaught of meritless litigation brought by radical activists who care more about the rights of terrorist aliens than those of the American people," said press secretary Karoline Leavitt, as reported by agency.

Previously, a Federal Judge in Washington DC told lawyers for migrants in Texas who believed the Trump administration was about to swiftly deport them under the Alien Enemies Act that he did not have the power to pause the deportations, even though he was concerned about the administration's actions, agency reported.

The dispute between SC and the administration reflects Donald Trump's aggressive stance on deportations.

## "No choice but to keep fighting...": Netanyahu vows to continue military operations in Gaza



TEL AVIV, Apr 20 (Agencies): Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has pledged to continue military operations in Gaza and emphasised that Israel must keep fighting to ensure its survival, despite increasing opposition, according to a report by agency.

In a pre-recorded video, Netanyahu said Israel has "no choice" but to keep fighting "for our very own existence until victory."

Netanyahu urged "perseverance and resilience" in defeating Hamas and rescuing the 59 hostages still held in Gaza. Netanyahu cited Hamas' refusal of a recent Israeli ceasefire proposal as a reason Israel will continue its bombardment of Gaza. Israel's proposal called for the disarmament of Gaza and did not include a permanent end to the war, both of which have been red lines for Hamas, agency reported.

"If we surrender to Hamas's demands now, all the tremendous achievements gained by our soldiers, our fallen, and our wounded heroes--those achieve-

ments will simply be lost," Israeli PM said.

Meanwhile, the Hostage Families Forum Headquarters criticised Netanyahu's latest address, accusing him of lacking a clear "plan" for securing the release of hostages. "Many words and slogans will not succeed in hiding the simple truth -- Netanyahu has no plan. It's no surprise there was no time for questions -- otherwise, he would have had to answer the most basic one: What exactly is the State of Israel doing to immediately bring back all 59 hostages," the forum said.

Earlier, Israeli soldiers had signed a letter calling for an end to the war in Gaza and speeding up negotiations for the return of native captives from the war-torn territory. Earlier this week, Al Jazeera cited Israeli Army Radio as stating that a group of 150 Golani Brigade members have joined the call to end the war, adding their names to thousands of others in a sign of dissent that has alarmed the Israeli government. Several petitions have been circulating within the Israeli military since last week. The first was signed by 1,000 Israeli Air Force reserves and was followed by others circulated among veterans and officers serving within the armoured corps, navy and other military units.

## Hong Kong's oldest pro-democracy party to shut down amid intensifying crackdown by China

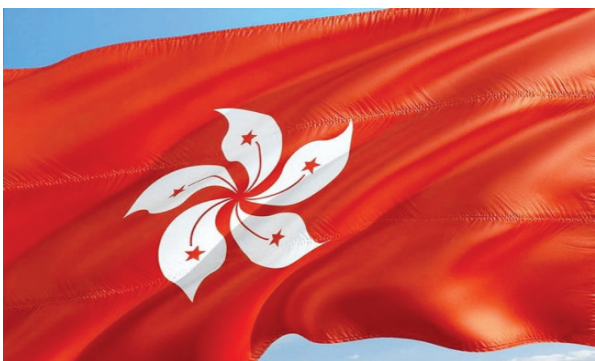
HONG KONG., Apr 20 (Agencies): Hong Kong's oldest and most prominent pro-democracy party is preparing to shut down amid an intensifying crackdown by China.

The Democratic Party, which has been a key part of the city's opposition movement for over 30 years, has begun the process of disbanding after receiving strong warnings from Chinese authorities, according to two longtime members who spoke with agency.

Yeung Sum, a former chairman of the party, said the message from Beijing was clear: disband or face consequences. "The message was that the party has to be disbanded or there will be consequences," Yeung said.

Former legislator Fred Li added that a Chinese official told him the party should not continue operating beyond the end of the year, ahead of an upcoming election.

Current party leader Lo Kin-hei said at a press conference last Sunday



that around 90 per cent of the party's 110 members had agreed to hand authority to a committee tasked with initiating the disbandment. He expressed hope that a conclusive vote would be held in the coming months "I hope Hong Kong's political parties... will continue to work for the people. We have always hoped to serve the Hong Kong people, and to do things that are good for society," Lo said.

Founded by liberal lawyers and academics three years before the former British colony's 1997 handover to China, the Democratic Party had campaigned for universal suffrage

and on matters from labour rights to conservation during a period when such issues were openly discussed in the city, according to agency.

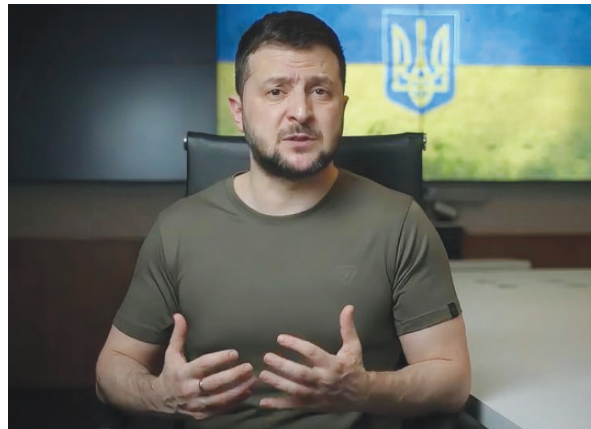
Hong Kong is a Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China. According to the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration and the Basic Law of the Special Administrative Region, except in matters of defence and foreign affairs, Hong Kong would have a high degree of autonomy. However, in 2022, China continued to dismantle Hong Kong's political freedoms and autonomy in violation of these commitments.

## Zelenskyy condemns Russia for violating Easter ceasefire with 387 shellings

KYIV, Apr 20 (Agencies): Following President Vladimir Putin's announcement of a 30-hour ceasefire in observance of Easter, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy claimed that Russian forces carried out attacks, citing a total of 387 shelling incidents and 19 assaults.

Zelenskyy further said that despite Russia's declared truce, Ukrainian frontline units recorded 59 cases of shelling and 5 assaults, along with multiple combat engagements across the Donetsk, Starobilsk, and Zaporizhzhia sectors.

In a post on X on Sunday (local time), Zelenskyy wrote, "A report by Commander-in-Chief Syrskiy on the frontline as of 6:00 a.m. Across various frontline directions, there have already been 59 cases of Russian shelling and 5 assaults by Russian units. In the sector of the Starobilsk Operational Tactical Group,



one combat engagement was documented. In the Donetsk OTG sector, there were three combat engagements - in the Pokrovsk and Novopavlivka directions, and one combat engagement took place near Stepove in the Zaporizhzhia direction. The enemy carried out dozens of FPV drone strikes."

"In the Kursk region, Russian forces conducted artillery strikes and used drones. Everywhere, our warriors are responding as the enemy deserves, based on the specific combat situation. Ukraine will

continue to act symmetrically. Between 6:00 pm yesterday and midnight today, there were 387 instances of shelling and 19 assaults by Russian forces. Drones were used by Russians 290 times," he added.

The Ukrainian President further emphasised that while Russia seeks to create the impression of a ceasefire, Ukraine will continue to respond accordingly.

"Overall, as of Easter morning, we can state that the Russian army is attempting to create the general impression of a ceasefire, while in some areas still continu-

ing isolated attempts to advance and inflict losses on Ukraine. Russia must fully comply with the conditions of the ceasefire. Ukraine's proposal to implement and extend the ceasefire for 30 days after midnight tonight remains on the table. We will act in accordance with the actual situation on the ground," Zelenskyy added.

Zelenskyy on Saturday (local time) alleged that the Russian offensive has not "subsided" despite Moscow declaring a ceasefire on the occasion of Easter.

In a post on X, Zelenskyy said that Russian assault operations are ongoing on several frontline sectors and there is no "trust" in Moscow's words.

"As of now, according to the Commander-in-Chief reports, Russian assault operations continue on several frontline sectors, and Russian artillery fire has not subsided.

Therefore, there is no

trust in words coming from Moscow. We know all too well how Moscow manipulates, and we are prepared for anything," Zelenskyy wrote on X.

Zelenskyy also stated that Russia has rejected the proposal for a full and unconditional 30-day ceasefire, noting that the 30-hour Easter ceasefire is insufficient for building "genuine confidence".

In a video shared by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Russia on X, President Putin said, "The Russian Side announces an Easter ceasefire from 06:00 pm today to 00:00 am Monday. This is done for humanitarian reasons. I hereby order all military operations ceased for this period."

This is the second ceasefire to be announced since the conflict began in 2022. A previous attempt at a ceasefire during Orthodox Christmas in January 2023 failed after both sides were unable to agree on a proposal.

## TRENDS highlights vital role of scientific innovation in healthcare

WASHINGTON DC, Apr 20 (Agencies): As part of its US research tour and in line with the "Year of Community," a delegation from TRENDS Research & Advisory visited the Sheikh Zayed Institute for Pediatric Surgical Innovation, affiliated with Children's National Hospital in Washington, DC.

The delegation included several of the centre's leaders and researchers, headed by Dr Mohammed Abdullah Al-Ali, CEO of TRENDS, along with a number of sector heads and young researchers. During an extensive on-site tour, the delegation was introduced to the institute's key research and medical facilities and its remarkable achievements in the field of innovative pediatric surgery.

A broad discussion session was held during the visit, highlighting the vital role of scientific research and innovation in advancing healthcare, particularly in pediatric



medicine. The dialogue also explored potential areas of collaboration between the two sides in artificial intelligence, health research, and media cooperation through hosting the institute's experts in scientific and medical podcast programs.

At the start of the session, officials from Children's National Hospital presented a detailed overview of the Sheikh Zayed Institute's mission and operations, affirming that since its establishment, the institute has been a global model in providing advanced, compassionate medical care for children. Its approach integrates cutting-edge technologies to accelerate recovery

and enhance quality of life while maintaining a humane, patient-centred environment.

They noted that the centre annually provides care to children from dozens of countries, reflecting its prestigious standing in the international medical community.

The delegation from TRENDS Research & Advisory expressed its pride and admiration for the institute's scientific and technical excellence, stating: "The Sheikh Zayed Institute is not just an outstanding medical facility, but also a reflection of the UAE's enduring humanitarian vision -- one grounded in knowledge, partnership and innovation."

It also affirmed that TRENDS will continue to build partnerships with leading international institutions, contributing to the development of innovative solutions for health challenges, particularly those related to childcare, emphasising that scientific research remains the foundation for building a better future.

Dr Anthony Sandler, Surgeon-in-Chief at Children's National Hospital in Washington, DC, expressed his great pleasure in welcoming the TRENDS delegation to the Sheikh Zayed Institute, stressing the importance of such visits in strengthening cooperation and the exchange of expertise.

At the conclusion of the session, the TRENDS delegation presented the hospital's management with a copy of the book "The Young Researcher", which highlights the importance of scientific research and knowledge in serving communities and encourages children to engage in research.

The Sheikh Zayed Institute for Pediatric Surgical Innovation was founded in 2009 with the aim of improving the lives of children, and it stands today as a global model for innovation in pediatric healthcare, pioneering new methods in pediatric surgery.

The institute represents one of the UAE's pioneering humanitarian initiatives, alongside a wide array of research centres, academic grants, and healthcare programs across the globe -- reflecting the enduring legacy of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan in fostering cooperation and partnerships with nations around the world in service of humanity.

## Taiwan detects six Chinese naval vessels, four ships around its territory

TAIPEI, Apr 20 (Agencies): Taiwan detected six Chinese naval vessels and four official ships operating around its territory up until 6 am (local time) on Sunday, a statement by Taiwan's Ministry of National Defence (MND) said.

In a post on X, the MND wrote, "1 PLA aircraft, 6 PLAN vessels and 4 official ships operating around Taiwan were detected up until 6 a.m. (UTC+8) today. 1 out of 1 sorties crossed the median line and entered Taiwan's northern and southwestern ADIZ. We have monitored the situation and responded accordingly."

Earlier on Saturday, the MND detected 14 Chinese aircraft, five Chinese naval vessels, and four official ships operating around its territory up until 6 am.

In a post on X, Taiwan's MND said, "14 PLA aircraft, 5 PLAN

vessels and 4 official ships operating around Taiwan were detected up until 6 a.m. (UTC+8) today. 13 out of 14 sorties crossed the median line and entered Taiwan's northern and southwestern ADIZ. We have monitored the situation and responded accordingly."

On Friday, 11 Chinese aircraft, six Chinese naval vessels, and three official ships were detected around Taiwan.

On April 17, Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs reacted sharply to a joint statement released by China and Vietnam, which mentioned Taiwan as part of China and described it as "a serious distortion of the facts," Taiwan News reported.

During Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit on Tuesday, Vietnam backed China's claim that "Taiwan is an inseparable part of Chinese territory" and opposed "any separatist activity" seeking Taiwan Independence, Taiwan News reported, citing Viet Nam News.

In response to the joint statement issued by China and Vietnam, the ministry said it "strongly condemns and firmly refutes the Chinese Communist Party's authoritarian regime for continuing to spread rhetoric that internationally undermines Taiwan's sovereignty."

It said that Taiwan's stance on defending national sovereignty remains firm and unchanged. Taiwanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs reiterated its position that Taiwan is a sovereign and independent nation and is not subordinate to China.

The ministry further said that the CCP has never ruled Taiwan.



# Army holds motivational lecture for youth at Patti



## Top News Report

RAJOURI, Apr 20: The Indian Army conducted a lecture on "Motivating youth and fostering associations with locals in Patti Village, Darhal. A total str of 50 individual along with the Sarpanch attend the event.

The aim of the session was to inspire young minds to adopt values like discipline, patrio-

tism and service to the nation. Interactions with local youth fostered to build trust, understandings and mutual respect among the society for the security forces.

The session also aimed to provide career guidance and skill development opportunities to the youth & promote national pride and social responsibility amongst

the local population. It also focused on community development and social cohesion by encouraging youth to become responsible citizens.

This session not only benefited the youth but also strengthened the bond between the armed forces and the local community, promoting a sense of unity and shared purpose.

# Shiv Sena Hindustan demands relief for cloudburst victims

## Top News Report

ARNIA, Apr 20: Shiv Sena Hindustan J&K Unit under Chairmanship of President Rajesh Kesri Sunday organized a meeting in Arnia Block to discuss the recent cloudburst in Ramban that resulted in loss of life and property.

The party's workers and leaders demanded that the government provide immediate relief to the victims and their families. The meeting was attended by prominent leaders and workers of Shiv Sena Hindustan, including Balvir Kumar, State Vice President, Satpal,

Dhiraj Kumar, Guru Dayal, Ravi Kumar, Amit Kumar, Darshani Devi, Vijay Kumari, Neeru Devi.

Kesri demanded that the government provide fair and prompt compensation to the families of those who lost their lives and to those who were injured in the disaster.

He also demanded that the government provide a job to one member of each family that has lost a loved one, considering the financial difficulties faced by these families. Kesri said cloudburst in Ramban has caused significant damage to

life and property, leaving many families struggling to cope with the aftermath. Shiv Sena Hindustan's demand for relief and support aims to alleviate the suffering of these families, said Kesri.

Kesri urged the government to take immediate action to provide relief and support to the victims of the cloudburst in Ramban.

The party believes that prompt compensation and government jobs for affected families will help alleviate their suffering and provide them with a sense of security, added Kesri.

# Chairman LAHDC discusses various transport-related matters

## Top News Report

LEH, Apr 20: The Chairman LAHDC Leh, Advocate Tashi Gyalson, convened a meeting at the Council Secretariat in the presence of Deputy Chairman, LAHDC Leh, Tsering Angchuk and Bhupesh Chaudhary, Administrative Secretary, SIDCO, UT Ladakh and GM SIDCO/ADDC Sonam Norboo to discuss various transport-related matters, particularly those concerning SIDCO, local unions, and the overall management of public transport services.

The meeting focused on addressing issues related to the permit issuance system, improving the functioning of local and SIDCO buses, and easing traffic congestion in key areas of the town. Also present in the meeting were the Director, Industries and Regional Transport Officer, Leh; Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Leh; President, All Ladakh Transport Association and Presidents of Different Transport Association and Executive Members.

One of the key discussions focused on introducing a lottery system for issuing permits to Mazda vehicles, aimed at ensuring transparency in the process. It was also decided that all SIDCO and

Mazda Union buses would operate from the Leh New Bus Stand to help decongest the Leh Main Gate area, where frequent halts by vehicles have been causing traffic issues. The decision is expected to improve the overall traffic flow in the town.

Parking challenges at Bombgarh, where a large number of trucks are currently stationed, were also discussed. The need to regulate the issuance of new permits was highlighted, with suggestions to introduce a structured framework for better management.

The meeting also reviewed the status of the Vehicle Scrapping Policy and the Electric Vehicle Policy. The Secretary, Transport Department assured that relevant orders would be issued soon. A proposal to install GPS tracking systems in all commercial vehicles was also supported.

The department informed that an agency is being empanelled for the task, and implementation will begin shortly. The meeting concluded with the Chairman emphasising the importance of coordinated efforts and timely action to ensure better transport services and smooth traffic management in the region.

# Narsingh Seva Kendra at Khoon celebrates its 2nd Anniversary

## Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Apr 20: Narsingh Seva Kendra, situated in the heart of Village Khoon in Tehsil Majalta, District Udhampur, celebrated its 2nd anniversary on 20th April 2025 with immense enthusiasm, community participation, and renewed commitment to rural upliftment. The Kendra is established as a registered trust under the Narsingh Gau Seva Samiti, Jammu & Kashmir and has continued to build on its vision of holistic development through Gau Seva, farmer empowerment, education, naturopathy, and sustainable agriculture. It is developed over an area of approximately 150 kanals and stands as a dynamic example of integrated rural development, with its activities expanding and evolving to meet the diverse needs of the community.

The 2nd anniversary celebration was presided over by Sh. Shambu Prasad Giri Ji, Akhil Bhartiya Seh Gram Vikas Pramukh of RSS, who commended the multifaceted contributions of the Kendra and its impact on the local population. Also present as distinguished guest were Shri Arvinder Singh Reen, Director of Agriculture, Jammu, who praised the Kendra's integrated approach to sustainable rural development. On this occasion, the Kendra proudly announced that its Gau Samvardhan Kendra (Gaushala), originally established on a non-commercial basis to promote the rear-



ing and preservation of indigenous cow breeds, now shelters and cares for 30 cows. The Gaushala continues to provide Panchgavya items such as milk, ghee, cow dung, curd, and cow urine for both local consumption and medicinal use, symbolizing the trust's commitment to animal welfare, sustainability, and traditional Indian practices.

Further strengthening its focus on health and well-being, the Kendra had organized free medical camps in collaboration with Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital and the Department of AYUSH, under the banner of Arogya Bharti.

These camps are a major step toward promoting preventive and affordable healthcare for the local population, in line with the Kendra's broader mission of nurturing a healthy society. In addition to this, veterinary camps were also conducted by the Kendra in association with SKUAST, where local livestock owners received guidance, vaccinations, and animal health services, further enriching the animal husbandry support system of the area.

Highlighting its deep connection with the agricultural community, the Kendra had previously organized an Agriculture Mela in coordination with the Directorate of Agriculture, during which farmers were trained in modern and sustainable farming techniques through practical demonstrations, workshops, and expert lectures.

This initiative was widely appreciated and has led to significant adoption of best practices among local farmers, improving both yields and livelihoods. Since its inception, Narsingh Seva Kendra has operated across five vital dimensions—Farmers Training Center and Yoga, Ved Vidyalaya with Gurukul, Gau Samvardhan Kendra, Naturopathy Center, and Education, each of which is designed to address specific socio-economic and cultural challenges.

The Farmers Training Center, in particular, has empowered many local farmers with the knowledge and tools needed to thrive in changing agricultural scenarios, while preserving traditional wisdom.

The Shri Narsingh Ved Vidyalaya has emerged

as a beacon of India's ancient wisdom, instilling Vedic values, discipline, and spiritual knowledge in its students, thus producing well-rounded individuals connected to their roots. A dedicated Yoga Centre and Naturopathy Centre are currently under construction, aimed at offering enhanced facilities and therapeutic services to the rural population. These developments reaffirm the Kendra's long-term commitment to preventive healthcare and spiritual well-being.

The Kendra has also launched an educational institution Shri Narsingh Seva Kendra under the Bhartiya Vidya Mandir banner to ensure quality, values-based education for children in Khoon and nearby areas, blending academics with character development rooted in Indian traditions.

The 2nd Anniversary celebration witnessed participation from a large number of farmers, local residents, self-help groups, which included 24 Gram Samities.

The event was marked by a special Vedic Havan for societal welfare as per vedic traditions for the welfare of the society. Several esteemed guests appreciated the

Kendra's unwavering dedication to community welfare, sustainable development, and the empowerment of rural youth.

Earlier, Vice Chairman of Narsingh Seva Kendra, Raman Suri and Chain Singh expressed heartfelt gratitude to all attendees, volunteers, and partners for their continued support and reaffirmed the trust's vision to evolve the Kendra as a model center for integrated rural development in Jammu & Kashmir, embodying the spirit of seva (service), self-reliance, and cultural pride. Vice Chairman of Narsingh Seva Kendra, Raman Suri also gave an overview of the activities launched by Narsingh Seva Kendra, Khoon.

Large number of dignitaries present on the occasion includes Prant Sanghchalak of RSS Dr. Gautam Mengi, Chairman of Narsingh Seva Kendra, Vikram Gujral, Dr. Shiv Raina, Dr. Yash Paul Sharma, Deputy Director Ayush, Dr. Suresh Sharma, Sushil Gupta, RK Chibber, BJP MLAs Balwant Singh Mankotia, RS Pathania, Kuldeep dubey, Sunil Bhardwaj, Satish Sharma, Yuva Morcha Vice President Divyani Rana and others. All these distinguished guests praised the ongoing initiatives and pledged their continued support. As the Kendra steps into its third year, it remains committed to expanding its reach and deepening its impact, paving the way for a self-sustaining, healthy, and empowered rural society.

# Sat Sharma inaugurates MDH Masala C&F Unit at Belicharana, Jammu

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 20: Sat Sharma CA, President, Jammu and Kashmir BJP, accompanied by Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, MLA & General Secretary, J&K BJP and other leaders inaugurated the new Carry & Forwarding (C&F) unit of MDH Masala under the banner of Jai Bawa Enterprises at Belicharana, Jammu.

BJP District Presidents Naresh Singh Jasrotia & Adv. Rajesh Gupta, Social Media Incharge Ankit Gupta, Mandal President Reetika Deewan and senior leader Jaideep Sambyal were also present on the occasion.

The family of the firm's proprietor Tarun Gupta, including his father Sudesh Gupta, Neena Gupta, Sanjay Gupta, and Sunny, also



attended the inaugural ceremony.

Commending the young entrepreneur Tarun Gupta for his initiative, Sat Sharma extended his best wishes and emphasized the importance of business ventures in strengthening the regional economy. He added that many schemes of the Modi

Government have created business and entrepreneurship avenues, and added that the enthusiastic youth of Jammu & Kashmir is now moving forward on the party, which is going to boost the economy of the UT and the nation.

"A single business unit supports multiple families and reflects

the transformation from job-seeker to job-giver. For a sustainable socio-economic environment in the city, we need successful ventures in industry, business, and commerce," he said. "Such enterprises also help in balancing economic growth, social equity, and environmental responsibility for

the long-term prosperity and quality of life of our citizens."

Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal appreciated the proprietor, congratulating him along with his family members for the business. He underlined the importance of good public relationship, competitive pricing, and consistent inventory availability for a good sustainable business. He added that this Masala business unit can be a lucrative and rewarding venture, especially given the strong and consistent demand for spices in the domestic market.

Expressing his enthusiasm, Tarun Gupta stated that the business represents more than just a source of income, rather it is a path to social recognition and a personal milestone.

Omar Abdullah lambasts Delhi Airport for flight diversion; Airport regrets inconvenience

from the Jaipur airport standing on the steps of the IndiGo aircraft. In another post at 0340 hours, Abdullah said that in case anyone is wondering, he got to Delhi just after 0300 hours.

Replying to the chief minister, DIAL said it has issued several advisories regarding the unsea-

sonal changing wind patterns in Delhi.

"Runway 10/28 has been closed for ILS upgradation since 8th April, following consultation with all stakeholders and based on historical wind patterns," it said in a post at 1110 hours.

Additionally, DIAL said the shift toward more easterly winds and the use of converging runways for easterly arrivals have led to temporary capacity constraints during this upgradation.

"These conditions at times result in flight diversions to ensure passenger safety. We sincerely regret the inconvenience caused," it said.

A source at IndiGo said the flight was diverted to Jaipur due to congestion at the Delhi airport.

In recent days, there have been flight delays at the Delhi airport due to closure of one runway for maintenance works and easterly winds.

Mughal Road Opens, Jammu-Srinagar Highway Closed

said.

The recent snowfall at several places along the road including 'Pir Ki Gali', led to the closure of the Mughal road.

DTI Mughal Road Mohd Mahroof confirmed the reopening of the road.

Meanwhile, Jammu-Srinagar

highway remained closed due to landslides, mudslides and shooting stones at several places along the thoroughfare, officials said.

The traffic on both sides of the highway was closed at around pre-dawn hours. and since then efforts are underway to clear the thoroughfare of the landslides, mudslides and shooting stones.

Security forces continue joint search operation in Poonch for sixth consecutive day to trace terrorists

meeting was held with the Army and we have formed an action plan...we have marked certain areas where the presence of terrorists is there. Action will be taken, and you will get to see the results also in the coming days," police officer said.

Meanwhile, the Indian Army on Friday launched an inquiry after an alleged incident of manhandling by Army personnel surfaced in the Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir.

According to a release by Defence PRO, Jammu, the situation unfolded during a routine search operation based on intelligence inputs about the possible movement of terrorists in the region.

Police book man in North Kashmir for misuse of social media

case under FIR No. 31/2025 has been registered at Police Station Hajin, and an investigation is underway."

Officials said Bandipora police are closely monitoring digital activity to address content that threatens public peace or promotes violence. "Any attempt to glorify terrorism, promote secessionism, or malign national institutions will be dealt with sternly," they added.



# ITC to acquire Mother Sparsh in next 2-3 years, increases its stake to 49% by additional investment of INR 81 crore

NEW DELHI, Apr 20 (Agencies): Multi-conglomerate ITC will invest an additional amount of Rs 81 crore in Mother Sparsh, thereby increasing its stake in the Indian baby care brand from 26.5 per cent to 49.3 per cent.

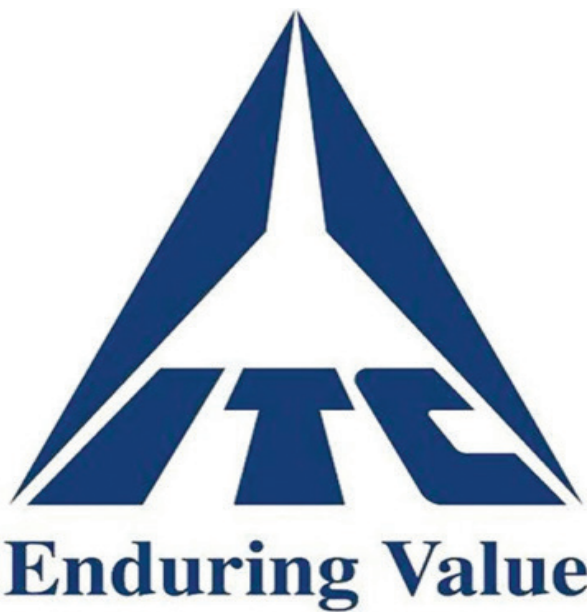
The investment will be made by ITC in two tranches, through a combination of primary subscription and secondary purchase, by the end of the first quarter of Financial Year 2027 (Q1 FY27), the company said in a release.

Following this fresh strategic investment, the conglomerate's total investment in the baby care brand will stand at approximately Rs 126 crore. The balance stake will be acquired over two to three years on pre-agreed conditions and valuation criteria.

Sameer Satpathy, the Divisional Chief Executive of Personal Care Products Business Division at ITC, said, "This acquisition is an exciting opportunity, aligned with our aspiration to build a formidable portfolio of

future ready, best-in-class innovative offerings that delights Indian consumers. Mother Sparsh in a true spirit of entrepreneurship, has created a reputed brand with Indian ethos in the natural baby care space, powered by an assortment of innovative products and a robust digital eco-system."

Himanshu Gandhi, Founder and CEO, Mother Sparsh said, "We are delighted that ITC has found value in Mother Sparsh, coming forward as an early investor, well poised to leverage the growth potential in the baby care space. We have built Mother Sparsh with a lot of love, passion and innovation, and we are happy to have found a home for it in a place where it will thrive. ITC is the largest incubator of FMCG brands in India and knows how to build and scale brands. We are confident that ITC will take Mother Sparsh to the next level and help serve the needs of mothers for generations to come."



Mother Sparsh has a bouquet of premium natural and ayurvedic products that are winning the trust of Indian mothers seeking safe and high-quality baby care, anchored on traditional Indian knowledge. The range of offerings straddles baby personal care, baby health and hygiene and baby expert products. The company has adopted a digital first strategy with a robust presence across online channels. The entire range has

been made available through its own dedicated website mothersparsh.com, as well as across e-commerce platforms. It also has a focused offline presence in baby stores. Mother Sparsh currently stands at an Annual Revenue Runrate of about Rs 110+ crore, as per the release. The company said that the acquisition is expected to unlock future growth opportunities by filling in whitespaces in the personal care prod-

ucts portfolio and will be scaled up further, leveraging the institutional strengths of ITC.

ITC had first invested in Mother Sparsh in 2021 with the aspiration of having a significant play in the natural and ayurvedic segment as well as in the Digital online space. With follow on rounds of investment, ITC currently holds 26.5 per cent stake in Mother Sparsh. The balance 73.5 per cent stake in Mother Sparsh will be acquired by ITC over a period of 2-3 years.

Mother Sparsh is a premium Indian-Origin D2C Baby Care Brand that has redefined parenting with its commitment to purity, innovation and trust.

Rooted in traditional Indian wisdom and an innovation-driven approach, the brand offers a thoughtfully curated range of natural products—from its flagship 99 per cent Pure Water Unscented Baby Wipes to real-time solutions that address evolving parental needs.

# Ford pauses shipments of SUVs, sports cars and other models to China

*Ford has halted exports of key US-built vehicles to China amid rising tariffs and trade tensions, impacting a once-profitable segment of its business.*



NEW DELHI, Apr 20 (Agencies): Ford Motor Co. has suspended exports of its SUVs, pickup trucks, and sports cars to China due to retaliatory tariffs imposed amid ongoing trade tensions under former President Donald Trump, agency reported.

This week, the automaker halted shipments of its F-150 Raptors, Mustangs, Michigan-built Bronco SUVs, and Kentucky-made Lincoln Navigators to the Chinese market, according to reports.

"We have adjusted exports from the U.S. to

China in light of the current tariffs," Ford said in a statement.

The export pause is attributed to escalating tariffs, with China targeting U.S. vehicle imports in response to U.S. trade measures.

According to the WSJ, the China export business represents a small but profitable operation for Ford. The automaker began shipping some of its most-recognizable nameplates to the country about a decade ago, in part to burnish its brand image amongst Chinese car buyers. The company earned approximately USD 900

million in operating profit from its China operations last year, Ford Vice Chairman John Lawler said at a recent conference.

Ford's exports of US-built engines and transmissions to China are expected to continue despite the pause on exports of assembled vehicles.

Its Lincoln Nautilus model, which is manufactured in China, is also expected to have continued shipments, despite heavy tariffs.

In 2024, Ford shipped about 5,500 Broncos, F-150s, Mustangs, and Navigators to China—a sharp decline from the annual average of over 20,000 vehicles shipped over the past decade. While the company has halted exports of assembled vehicles, shipments of US-built engines and transmissions to China have continued, according to sources familiar with Ford's operations.

# Eating almonds daily can help control blood sugar in Asian Indians: Study

NEW DELHI, Apr 20 (Agencies): Consuming almonds daily can help control blood sugar levels in specific populations, such as Asian Indians, according to a research article.

Analysing previously published research on almonds and cardiometabolic health, an international team of researchers and physicians said almonds can help improve metabolic health by reducing 'bad' cholesterol and increasing beneficial gut bacteria.

Findings, published as a consensus article in the journal Current Developments in Nutrition, reinforce almonds' role as a heart-healthy, weight-supporting, and gut-friendly food, the team said.

The findings also reveal how almonds can potentially benefit specific populations such as Asian Indians, where rising rates of cardiometabolic diseases are a concern, study author Dr Anoop Misra, chairman of Fortis Centre for Diabetes, Obesity and Cholesterol, told agency.

Consuming almonds was found to lower LDL, or 'bad' cholesterol by five units, and diastolic blood pressure in small but significant amounts of 0.17-1.3 mmHg.

For Asian Indians with pre-diabetes, eating almonds daily can help reduce fasting blood glucose and HbA1C, the researchers said.

"The most current meta-analyses on almond consumption and various health-related endpoints suggest that almond consumption does not result in weight gain and results in small reductions in LDL cholesterol and diastolic blood pressure, as well as improved glycemic responses in certain populations (i.e. Asian Indians)," the study said.

Dr Misra said, "These benefits aid weight loss efforts by helping stabilise energy levels and reduce appetite fluctuations. When paired with balanced nutrition and physical activity, almonds can be a health-promoting part of a weight loss plan."

In the article, the authors also wrote that "there was some evidence that almond consumption of (more than) 50 grams per day may have led to small reductions in body weight in some study participants." They said the result debunks the myth that almonds can contribute to weight gain.

Dr Misra said, "Almonds can support weight loss efforts due to their nutrient composition — protein, fibre, and healthy fat content — which helps people feel satisfied for longer periods and may reduce overall calorie intake." Further, almonds have been shown to benefit one's gut by promoting the growth of healthy gut bacteria and

increasing the production of short-chain fatty acids.

"These changes support better metabolic health and can contribute to reductions in excess body fat," the author said.

Rich in proteins, fibre and heart-healthy unsaturated fats, almonds can play a crucial role in one's balanced diet, by bringing together essential nutrients, such as magnesium, potassium, and vitamin E.

"While almonds can be easily included in snacks and salads, the best time to consume them — with breakfast, afternoon snack, post-workout or on-the-go — depends on one's routine and goals," Dr Misra said in response to PTI's question about how to get the most out of almonds.

He added that almonds or oatmeal in breakfast can boost protein and fibre intake, providing steady energy through the day. However, consuming them mid-morning or in the afternoon can be a healthy alternative to unhealthy snacks. Post-workout, the proteins in almonds have shown to help with muscle recovery.

"When on-the-go, simply keep almonds in your bag or car for a convenient, nutritious snack to help you feel energised when you're shuttling around or running errands," Dr Misra said.

# Preventing vision loss in children

NEW DELHI, Apr 20 (Agencies): The fact that a newborn can only see a blur up to 8 to 12 inches from its face is not commonly known. The newborns must be exposed to their surroundings to develop normal eyesight. The most crucial period for this exposure, first observed in newborn kittens, is within the first 3 months after the eyes open. The neural cell network in the brain's visual cortex is relatively flimsy and highly plastic at birth, and it needs to be strengthened and refined through visual experiences. If the light entering the eye is partially or entirely blocked at birth, its connections in the brain die, resulting in permanent vision impairment, commonly referred to as a lazy eye (amblyopia). Lazy eye is reduced vision in one eye caused by abnormal visual development early in life. The weaker, or lazy, eye often wanders inward or outward. It generally develops from birth up to age 7 years and is the leading cause of decreased vision among children.

The eyes form an image of the surroundings and transmit it to the brain, to an area called the visual cortex that interprets and recognises various objects. In 1981, David Hubel and Torsten Wiesel won the Nobel Prize for physiology or medicine for their work on the immaturity and plasticity of vision at birth. The critical period for vision development in young children may extend up to the first 7 to 8 years. However, children lose the faculty of depth perception forever if they cannot simultaneously perceive objects from both eyes within the first 2 years of age. Early detection and intervention to remove any blocks in the path of light entering the eyes are thus of paramount importance in babies.

Of the 2.5 crore children born every year in India, 20,000-40,000 are born with cloudy crystalline lenses (cataracts) that impair light entering into their eyes. Congenital (present at birth or within the first year of life) and developmental cataracts are among the most common causes of childhood blindness.

A few years ago, Chandigarh-based expert Dr IS Jain and another group of experts from Madurai could not find any apparent cause of cataracts in half of the affected children. Interestingly, both found hereditary factors in nearly one-fourth of the cases. Dr Jagat Ram and Dr Jaspreet Sukhija, both from the PGI, believe that consanguineous marriages (between blood relatives who share a common ancestor) are the leading cause of hereditary cataracts that affect eyes.

Antenatal ultrasonography can discover opacities in the crystalline lens, which may not be apparent in newborns. Despite highly aggressive MMR (measles, mumps and rubella-German measles) vaccination campaigns for preventing these infections, nearly 15 per cent of Indian women of childbearing age remain susceptible to contracting rubella during pregnancy, with consequent congenital cataracts, deafness, heart anomalies and maldevelopment of several other organs. Before planning pregnancy, it is advisable for women to go for an MMR vaccine if not vaccinated earlier, at least four weeks prior to conception. Nearly 30 per cent cases of childhood cataracts, often occurring in one eye in school-going male children, result from eye injuries while playing.

While replacing the cataractous crystalline lens with an artificial intraocular lens implant

(IOL) in adults is highly standardised and successful, it is a major challenge in newborns and infants. According to Dr Ram, who specialises in paediatric cataract surgery, there is no consensus on the optimal age for surgery. While some experts may wait until the child is at least 2 months old and is better able to withstand anaesthesia and surgery, others perform surgery as early as 28 days. The eye loses its ability to focus on objects after the surgical removal of the cataractous lens. In adults, an IOL can restore the lost power. There is a general agreement that children over 2 years can also have an IOL, but it remains controversial for children under 6 months. In children under 2, the IOL power calculation is highly inaccurate.

Dr Sukhija recently reported that if the size of the bag, critical for fixing the IOL, is small, it is safer to leave the eye without a lens (aphakia) or perform a bicapsular placement of the IOL. The aphakic eye's power can be corrected with thick glasses or with a contact lens placed on the cornea as a temporary arrangement until an IOL implantation is done at a later age.

Infants who undergo surgery with IOL before the age of 6 months and especially those developing complications often require high myopic glasses by the age of 5, the change being less substantial in those corrected with thick glasses or contact lenses. While replacing contact lenses to adjust to the changing requirements of the eye is easy, the contact lenses are expensive, not readily available and require utmost care, posing a logistical challenge in low-income settings. Regardless, all children who undergo surgery require treatment to pre-

vent a lazy eye and follow-up care for several years to monitor for any potential complications that may arise later.

Unfortunately, parents often stop bringing these children for follow-up after a few months of surgery.

Sheela Devi and colleagues from London University interviewed parents of nearly 750 children admitted to nine eye hospitals across India between 2015 and 2016. Most came from rural areas and belonged to low socioeconomic strata. They noted staggering delays of 4 to 8 years in reporting for diagnosis and surgery. Recently, Dr Savleen and Dr Sukhija also noted a significant delay in the presentation and surgery of these children.

Early detection and treatment of childhood cataracts can prevent permanent vision impairment. A simple red reflex test, performed by paediatricians or ophthalmologists worldwide for decades, involves shining a direct ophthalmoscope light into each eye and comparing the reflected light from both eyes. This test can detect the presence of cataracts or any other visual disability. Although not highly sensitive, even at home, parents can use a mobile camera with a flash to take a picture of their toddler in a dark room, looking into the camera, seated at a distance of half a metre. A white, yellow, or black reflex, or a difference in the reflex between the two eyes, should prompt a visit to the ophthalmologist. While universal eye screening has been mandated in newborns in India since 2017, a simple red reflex test to detect common eye abnormalities in children is yet to catch up, losing the critical time to prevent permanent vision loss.

# New human 'multi-zonal' liver organoids improve injury survival rate in rodents

WASHINGTON DC, Apr 20 (Agencies): One of the reasons our livers excel at clearing waste from our blood system is because the organ functions according to three key "zones" that perform specific major tasks.

So, if scientists hope to create self-growing patches of liver organoid tissue that could help repair damaged organs, it's important that the lab-grown tissue faithfully reproduces such zones.

In a groundbreaking paper published, a team of organoid medicine experts at Cincinnati Children's reports achieving just such a milestone -- made from human stem cells.

When these humanised organoids were transplanted into rodents whose own liver-bile duct system had been disconnected, the improved organoids nearly doubled the rodents' survival rate.

"The research community has long needed a better model for



studying human liver biology and disease, because there are outstanding hepatocyte diversity and associated functional orchestrations in the human liver that do not exist in rodents," says Takanori Takebe, MD, PhD, the study's corresponding author.

"This new system paves the way for studying, and eventually treating, a wide range of otherwise fatal liver disorders."

Takebe is Director for Commercial Innovation at Cincinnati Children's Center for Stem Cell and Organoid Medicine (CuSTOM).

He has been studying methods for growing liver organoids for over 13 years.

Breakthroughs from his lab include producing the first connected set of three organoids grown together, a novel way to mass produce liver organoids for research purposes, and gene-engineered liver organoids that may someday help treat severe jaundice.

In the short term, these multi-zonal liver organoids will help scientists shed new light on diseases including diabetes, drug-induced liver injury, alcohol-related liver disease, and viral hepatitis. In turn, such work could accelerate drug development and other approaches to restore liver health.

Longer-term, for people on waiting lists for liver transplantation, this study moves the medical community one step closer to "growing" a patient's own liver replacement tissue instead of relying on organ donation.



# ISSF World Cup: Arjuna Babuta clinches 10m air rifle silver in a thriller, misses gold by 0.1 point

*In a nail-biting final, Babuta (252.3), who had finished fourth at the Paris Games last year, lost by just 0.1 point to reigning Olympic champion Sheng Lihao of China (252.4)*

LIMA (PERU), Apr 20 (Agencies): Paris Olympian Arjuna Babuta clinched the silver medal, narrowly missing out on gold, in the men's 10m air rifle event at the ISSF World Cup here.

In a nail-biting final, Babuta (252.3), who had finished fourth at the Paris Games last year, lost by just 0.1 point to reigning Olympic champion Sheng Lihao of China (252.4).

Seasoned Hungary shooter Istvan Peni, with over 40 ISSF medals to his name, bagged the bronze in what was a world-class field with a total of 229.8.

The final featured a star-studded lineup, including reigning world champion and Paris silver medalist Victor Lindgren of Sweden, Jon-Hermann Hegg of Norway and India's former world champion Rudranksh Patil.

India had a chance for a double podium finish, but Rudranksh was unfortunately docked his



11th shot by the jury due to a technical infraction. As a result, Indian finished eighth, bowing out at the first elimination stage.

In the final, both Babuta and Patil started strong with identical 10.1s and stayed close to the lead pack early on. Babuta raised his game after the 10th

shot, climbing to third and breathing down the necks of Hegg and Peni as Rudranksh took the challenge to Sheng.

Patil had won gold at the World Cup in Buenos Aires last week.

Patil's shock exit, Babuta stayed composed and took the lead for the first time after the

14th shot.

With Hegg slipping, Sheng surged back with a string of high 10s, including a near-perfect 10.9 on his 16th shot to close the gap.

With two of the 24 shots left, Babuta held a slim 0.3-point advantage. But Sheng, showcasing his champion's poise, fired another 10.9 to flip the margin.

A closing 10.5 from Babuta wasn't enough to reclaim the lead, as Sheng sealed it with a 10.3.

Earlier in qualification, Babuta shot a solid 631.9 in the first relay, while Sheng topped it effortlessly with 635.0.

Patil posted 632.0 in the second relay to lead the group and place third overall.

India's Hriday Hazarika narrowly missed out on the final, finishing 10th with a score of 629.3.

# Rajasthan's Suryavanshi makes IPL debut at 14, starts off with a six



BENGALURU, Apr 20 (Agencies): Vaibhav Suryavanshi was thrust into the Indian Premier League (IPL) spotlight as its youngest debutant on Saturday and the 14-year-old announced himself in spectacular style with a massive six off the first ball he faced.

The Rajasthan Royals left-hander came into the squad for the clash with Lucknow Super Giants in place of captain Sanju Samson and was an impact substitute during their chase of 181, where he started by smashing Shardul Thakur over extra cover.

"My word, what the hell was that?" Australia's Shane Watson said during the broadcast.

"One of the hardest shots in cricket is to gain power over cover off the front shoe ... Power to burn from the 14-year-old. What a way to announce yourself to the world." Suryavanshi, who idolises West Indian great Brian Lara, hit two more sixes in his 20-ball 34 and was dismissed after forging an 85-run opening stand with Yashasvi Jaiswal,

but his team went on to lose the match by two runs.

"It was important to give him an opportunity. He batted well in the nets, his preparation was good," Rajasthan's spin bowling coach Sairaj Bahutule told reporters.

"Obviously we missed Sanju but it created an opportunity for Vaibhav and he made the most of his it. He batted beautifully.

"He's a great kid with a really good head on his shoulders. He's got a game that's almost 360 degrees. He's courageous and you saw his approach. He's dominating and wants to play his shots. His theory is 'watch the ball, hit the ball'." Suryavanshi had grabbed headlines in November when he became the youngest player to earn a contract in the lucrative Twenty20 league at the age of 13 after his team outbid Delhi Capitals and signed him for 11 million Indian rupees (about \$128,750).

The youngster made his debut in the domestic Ranji Trophy red-ball competition aged 12 last year and has played for India's Under-19 side against Australia, scoring a 58-ball ton.

There were murmurs about his immense talent after he made a triple-century in a local tournament in his home state of Bihar, and fans will hope he can continue to sparkle for his IPL team.

# Athletics coach Ramesh suspended for 'complicity' in doping, 7 athletes for 'evading' test

NEW DELHI, Apr 20 (Agencies): A slew of dope cases rocked Indian athletics with junior national team chief coach Ramesh Nagpuri suspended by the NADA for "complicity" in doping, while seven athletes were also in dock for "evading" tests.

Two more coaches—Karamveer Singh and Rakesh—were also suspended for "complicity" and "administration of prohibited substances" respectively.

The seven athletes suspended for "evasion" in the latest list of dope offenders published by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) were Paras Singh, Pooja Rani, Nalubothu Shanmuga Sreenivas, Chelimi Pratusha, Shubham Mahara, Kiran and Jyoti.

The 19-year-old Singh had won the boys 2,000m steeplechase for Haryana at the Khelo India Youth Games in 2024. Sreenivas won a silver each in 200m in the Federation Cup, National Inter-State Championships and National Open in 2024.

Nagpuri, based at the Sports Authority of India Centre in Hyderabad and appointed junior chief coach by Athletics Federation of India (AFI) in 2023, is a renowned Dronacharya Awardee coach.

He has been suspended under Article 2.9 of the NADA Anti-Doping Rules of 2021, which deals with 'Complicity or attempted complicity by an athlete or other Person'.

Under this article, 'Assisting, encouraging, aiding, abetting, conspiring, covering up or any other type of intentional complicity or attempted complicity involving an anti-doping rule violation, attempted anti-doping rule violation or violation of Article 10.14.1 by another person (including either physical or psychological assistance)' will constitute a doping offence.

According to sources, Nagpuri allegedly helped two athletes avoid getting tested by dope collection officers (DCOs) sent by the



NADA at the SAI Hyderabad Centre.

He has coached top sprinter and women's 100m national record holder Dutee Chand as well as Deepthi Jeevanji, the 2024 Paralympics bronze winner and reigning world champion (in 400m T20 classification).

When contacted Nagpuri declined to comment on the matter.

"I don't want to comment on this. I have been serving Indian athletics to the best of my abilities," he said.

AFI officials also refused to comment, saying that it's the NADA which has to deal with the matter.

It's not the first time that an athletics coach has been penalised for doping-related offences.

In November 2022, the National Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel (ADDP) had imposed a four-year ban and a fine of Rs 50,000 on Mumbai-based athletics coach Mickey Menezes for injecting prohibited substance Drostanolone to his trainee Kirti Bhoite, who also was handed a two-year ban.

Karamveer has been suspended for a similar charge as Nagpuri, while Rakesh's offence comes under Article 2.8 which reads 'Administration or attempted administration by an athlete or other Person to any athlete in competition of any prohibited substance or prohibited method, or administration to any athlete out-of-competition of any prohibited substance or any prohibited method that is prohibited out-of-competition.'

The seven athletes suspended were charged under Article 2.3 which related to 'Evading, refusing or

failing to submit to sample collection by an athlete without compelling justification after notification by a duly authorized person'.

Interestingly, the AFI recently initiated the process to mandatory registration of coaches in the country, admitting the "involvement of the coaches in doping of their wards".

During its Annual General Body Meeting in Chandigarh in January, the AFI decided to make it mandatory for all coaches—qualified and unqualified—in the country to register on its portal from this season onwards if they want to continue to train athletes to take part in competitions under the national body.

The coaches who do not register themselves with the AFI will be blacklisted.

This is in addition to the formation of an anti-doping cell to identify coaches suspected to be "involved in doping of their wards" and drawing up a list of training centres which serve as "hideouts" for cheats on the recommendation of a high-powered committee to deal with the menace.

The AFI will share this intelligence with the NADA and Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) established by World Athletics.

The AFI had, in fact, started the registration process but found a large number of coaches reluctant to register.

Alarmed at the rising doping cases in athletics, the AFI had set up a high-powered committee headed by Delhi Police Special Cell Commissioner Sagarpreet Hooda to look into the doping issue and its recommendations have been published.

# Buttler's 97, Prasidh's 4/41 lead Gujarat Titans to 7-wicket win over Delhi Capitals

AHMEDABAD, Apr 20 (Agencies): Jos Buttler braved cramps to rustle up a tempestuous unbeaten 97 to guide Gujarat Titans to a wonderful seven-wicket win over Delhi Capitals here.

After the impressive Prasidh Krishna-led (4/41) Gujarat pacers limited Delhi to 203/8, the home side paced their chase impeccably to reach 204/3 in 19.2 overs as Buttler played the protagonist role during his 54-ball innings.

There were mini-hiccups for the Titans in the form of early dismissals of skipper Shubman Gill and B Sai Sudharsan (36), who helped Buttler add 60 runs for the second wicket.

But Buttler batted around them with collectedness in the company of Rutherford (43) until the left-hander was dismissed in the penultimate over.

The English-West Indian pair milked 119 runs for the third wicket that pushed GT closer to the shore.

Buttler's batting was aesthetically violent as he exploited a pitch on which the ball came fluently on to the bat. The Somerset man has all the shots in the book but plays them in the calmest of ways.

Instead of moving around the crease like modern T20 batters, Buttler often relies on a strong body core and quick hands to



unfurl his shots.

There was a tell-tale example of his methods when he biffed Mitchell Starc for five boundaries in a row in the 15th over.

Buttler did not move towards the ball but reached out with a feet firmly rooted on the ground as the ball sped to the ropes between covers and point regions.

On the other hand, Rutherford's batting was all about brute power, as he showed while pulling pacer Mohit Sharma for two consecutive sixes as GT motored on.

There was not a popular Buttler hundred as Rahul Tewatia finished off the match with a six and four off Starc with four balls

to spare.

The result also helped the Titans to move to the top of the table with 10 points, same as Delhi but the former has a better net run rate of 0.98 against their opponent's 0.58.

Earlier, Gujarat bowlers led by Prasidh, produced a disciplined effort to stifle the Delhi batting unit.

It started from the top-order. Abhishek Porel (23) started well, hammering pacer Mohammed Siraj for 16 runs in the first over.

The barrage included two fours and a six and he looked set for a bigger score. But he perished in the next over to Arshad Khan, clubbing his over-pitched delivery straight to Siraj at mid-on.

KL Rahul (28, 14b) and Karun Nair (31, 18b) added 35 runs for the second wicket and played some delectable shots.

Rahul's six over long-on off Siraj and Karun's pick-up flick for a six off Arshad were simply wonderful.

But Prasidh trapped his Karnataka teammate Rahul with a searing yorker that pinged his back foot to break the promising alliance.

Karun tried to ramp Prasidh but Arshad took an easy catch at wide third man as DC slipped to 93 for three despite consuming only nine overs.

The visitors then weaved another good stand of 53 runs through Tristan Stubbs (31) and Axar Patel (39) for the fifth wicket.

Stubbs's cover drives off Prasidh that raced to the fence testified his grace and power.

Just as the South African, who was dropped on 30 by Rashid Khan off his own bowling, was gaining in confidence, he chose to play a reverse paddle off Siraj only to be caught by Prasidh at short third man.

The Karnataka pacer returned to get rid of Axar as he continued to dig the ball into the pitch to get some bounce and grip to keep the batters guessing.

Ashutosh Sharma (37, 19b) played some beefy shots as they crossed the 200-run mark.

# Kerala Blasters look to rebound after disappointing ISL season

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, Apr 20 (Agencies): Kerala Blasters FC (KBFC) endured a difficult Indian Super League (ISL) campaign this season, finishing outside the playoff spots for the first time in four years. Hopes were high at the start under new head coach Mikael Stahre, especially following the high-profile signings of Noah Sadaoui and Jesus Jimenez. However, an opening-day defeat set a challenging tone for the season. While the team briefly regained momentum with two wins and two draws in their next four matches, they ultimately struggled to maintain consistency, as per the official website of ISL.

Then came the real slump. The Blasters suffered six defeats in their following seven games -- a dismal run that led to the departure of Stahre, with assistant coach TG Purushothaman stepping in as interim head coach.

Under his guidance, the Kochi-based side showed signs of revival, collecting 10 points out of a possible 15. But once again, consistency eluded them. In their final seven games, they managed only two wins and two draws, ultimately finishing seven points behind sixth-placed Mumbai City FC and missing out on a playoff berth.

Kerala Blasters played 24 matches this season, winning 8, drawing 5, and losing 11, finishing the campaign with a total of 29 points.

Despite the struggles of the season, there have been glimpses of hope for Kerala Blasters FC. The presence of talented players like Jesus Jimenez and Noah Sadaoui has brought moments of flair and brilliance. Alongside the

new foreign duo, young talent Korou Singh has made a name for himself, stepping up in crucial moments and showing that the future could be bright despite recent setbacks. His energy and creativity have often sparked the team's attack, suggesting that the Blasters have promising assets in their ranks moving forward.

Unfortunately, the positives have been few and far between, overshadowed by a series of persistent issues. The season has been marked by an alarming number of losses, including disappointing defeats to top teams such as Mohun Bagan Super Giant and FC Goa. The inability to convert draws into wins -- like in their matches against Jamshedpur FC and Hyderabad FC -- further hurt their chances of competing at a higher level, ultimately leaving them in the bottom half of the table.

A lack of consistency plagued their campaign, while problems with team cohesion and defensive structure made things worse. Frequent defensive lapses led to soft goals at key moments, and the midfield often looked disconnected, struggling to provide the necessary link between defence and attack.

Amid the chaos, Jesus Jimenez has stood out as Kerala Blasters' best player this season and a fitting successor to last season's Golden Boot winner, Dimitrios Diamantakos. The 31-year-old Spanish forward has been vital both in scoring and creating chances, ending the campaign with 11 goals and one assist. His presence up front has often been the only ray of hope for a struggling side. On several occasions, his link-up play with Noah Sadaoui brought much-

needed goals, while his leadership and composure inspired teammates to lift their game in difficult moments.

On the other end of the spectrum, 18-year-old Korou Singh has been a breath of fresh air. Singh has shown maturity beyond his age. His dynamic contributions in both attack and defence underline his versatility and immense potential. With two goals and four high-quality assists to his name, he leads the list of Indian goal contributors for the Blasters this season. His emergence is a promising sign not only for the club but also for Indian football as a whole.

Kerala Blasters have appointed David Catala as their new head coach ahead of the Kalinga Super Cup, where they'll look to put the disappointments of the season behind them and make a fresh start, beginning with a tough opening fixture against reigning champions East Bengal FC.

Beyond the tournament, however, the Blasters must craft a clear strategy to address the shortcomings revealed during their ISL campaign. Reinforcing the backline should be a top priority to offer better protection for the goalkeeper and cut down on goals conceded.

Bringing in players who align with the philosophy of the new coach is important, and nurturing budding talents could foster a more competitive environment within the squad. Holding on to crucial players and continuing to develop promising youngsters like Singh will also be vital if the Blasters are to bounce back and re-establish themselves as a serious contender in the ISL.



# Ramban flash floods: Rescue Ops in full swing, says DC

Top News Report

RAMBAN, Apr 20: Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Baseer UI Haq Choudhary Sunday said that the district administration is operating under "clear-cut directions from the Lieutenant Governor's administration" to conduct rescue and relief operations on a war footing, following the tragic cloudburst and flash floods that struck Ramban District.

Choudhary while talking to reporters assured that "all kinds of losses—be it life, live-stock, or property—will be compensated as per the law."

Expressing sorrow over the fatalities, he said, "In this unfortunate episode, we lost two children and an elderly person. We stand in solidarity with the affected



families during this extremely difficult time."

He further acknowledged the rapid response and bravery of officials, security forces, and local residents. "Their swift and coordinated action played a crucial role in minimizing damage during this natural calamity," he

noted.

Calling for continued public cooperation, the DC appealed to residents to follow advisories issued by the district administration and the traffic control room, especially in light of continued bad weather.

The flash floods, triggered by incessant rain

and a cloudburst, have claimed three lives and affected multiple areas in the district, while over 100 people have been safely rescued.

The situation remains under close watch as rescue and restoration efforts continue.

The tragic incident occurred in Seri Bagna

village, where the cloudburst wreaked havoc, leaving behind a trail of destruction.

Meanwhile, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh and former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir Omar Abdullah expressed deep condolences over the loss of lives in the incident.

Officials reported that incessant rainfall triggered landslides and mudslides at nearly a dozen locations between Nashri and Banihal along the vital Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, leading to its temporary closure. Restoration work is underway.

Rescue and relief teams continue to operate across affected areas as the region remains on high alert due to forecasted rainfall and unstable terrain.

# Natrang presents hilarious play 'Commission'



Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 20: Natrang presented a hilarious play 'Commission' written by Saadat Hasan Manto and directed by Neeraj Kant in its weekly theatre series, 'Sunday Theatre'.

This play showcases the magic of satire, that how a modern emperor, living in the era of social media deals with his people, and how an emperor can easily escape from his responsibilities by forming commissions after commissions.

The play opens in the modern court room of a modern emperor along with his two head butlers.

The emperor is a satirical being who brags how he has developed a friendly relationship between the goats and

lions in his kingdom to erase their hostilities. The play showcases, the emperor doesn't share a good relationship with his empress and is going through a bad phase in his love life.

The plot twist comes when a 'Fariyadi' comes to seek justice for his workers who have been killed by the sevikas of the empress, who were practicing archery in an open place.

The emperor promotes his head butlers to ministers and asks them to go through the matter and come up with a proper report.

After a two month long process, the newly appointed ministers comes up with a gigantic report of one lakh words and presents the whole story before the emperor. The emperor

on listening about this massacre satirically boasts that he is a better emperor than Jahangir and his philosophies doesn't make sense in modern era and asks his ministers to behead all the girls who were involved in the massacre, but before the culprits are executed, a commission needs to be formed to deliver justice.

The play is full of humour and satire, and the characters are a caricature of mughal era.

Natrang's young actors who performed in the play included Aryan Sharma, Kartik Kumar, Manvi Devi, Adaksh Bagal and Krishay Bhatia.

Lights of the play were operated by Neeraj Kant and presented by Meenakshi Bhagat. The show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen.

# Dr Jitendra interacts with IAS 2023 batch trainees, hails 41% women representation

Top News Report

JAMMU / NEW DELHI, Apr 20: In a thought-provoking and motivating interaction with the Officer Trainees (OTs) of the 2023 IAS batch, Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space hailed the largest women representation in the history of Indian Administrative Services, with 74 women officers, constituting 41 percent of the current batch of 180 officers.

The interaction was part of the ongoing Assistant Secretary programme, wherein the IAS Officer Trainees are attached to 46 Central Ministries for a period of 8 weeks from April 1 to May 30, 2025, giving them early exposure to policy formulation and the workings of the Central Government.

Dr. Jitendra Singh attributed this landmark development to the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, under whose tenure women-led initiatives have gained unprecedented momentum. "The Prime Minister has always been a champion of women empowerment. This record representation is a testament to his unwavering support for inclusive and progressive governance," the Minister said.



The Minister reflected on the inception of the Assistant Secretary Programme in 2015, calling it Prime Minister Modi's brainchild to give young officers real-time governance exposure at the beginning of their careers. "The programme has brought a resurgence of confidence among officers. During the pandemic, many of these officers performed remarkably when called upon for district-level crisis management," Dr. Jitendra Singh added.

As the initiative marks its 10th anniversary, Dr. Jitendra Singh noted its outstanding impact on nurturing capable and confident civil servants. He also celebrated the democratisation of Civil Services, with increasing representation from states like Punjab, Haryana, and the North-East, regions that earlier saw fewer selections.

The Minister took pride in the academic and professional diversity of the batch, mentioning that 99 officers hail from engineering

backgrounds, along with many from medicine and other technical fields. "For years, I wondered why technocrats joined the civil services. But now, I realize the technical nature of flagship Government programmes—from Digital India to Smart Cities—makes their presence a national asset," he said.

"You are fortunate to be in the best of times, when India is rapidly moving towards becoming Viksit Bharat @2047," he emphasized.

In an open-floor dialogue with the young officers, Dr. Jitendra Singh expressed support for a more dynamic and flexible civil service ecosystem, where officers may be allowed to gain exposure outside government for a few years and return as domain specialists—a model that he termed "a win-win for both the officer and the government."

On the issue of bridging the digital divide, the Minister called technology a great lev-

eller, citing examples like the Swamitva Mission, which eliminates the need for revenue officials by leveraging drone-based property mapping. "This has democratised access to land records and decentralised service delivery at the grassroots," he said.

Dr. Jitendra Singh also stressed the importance of grievance redressal mechanisms, urging the trainees to study the CPGRAMS platform, which he described as a global benchmark. "Nearly 26 lakh grievances have been disposed of with a 98% resolution rate, most within 13 days," he shared.

Yet, he reminded the officers that human intelligence and empathy must complement technology. "Despite resolving grievances technically, many citizens still feel emotionally dissatisfied. That's why we have created a 'human desk' to provide emotional closure, proving that governance is not just administrative but deeply human," he remarked. In a moving

exchange, one of the Officer Trainees quoted Dr. Singh's past speech—"One retires from service, not from citizenship." Responding to this, Dr. Singh spoke about initiatives to involve retired civil servants through a Digital Repository of Expertise, allowing India to harness their knowledge. He also highlighted the Anubhav Awards, which encourage retiring officers to document their experiences for the benefit of future generations.

As the interaction concluded, Dr. Jitendra Singh urged the young civil servants to uphold the highest standards of integrity, accountability, and service, aligning their efforts with the spirit of Antyodaya—working for the last man standing.

"This batch of IAS officers is not only the youngest and most diverse—but also the most representative of New India's aspirations. Let your work reflect the hopes of a billion people," said Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister

# BJP delegation calls on CEC, LAHDC Leh



Top News Report

LEH, Apr 20: A delegation comprising BJP Phyang Mandal President Tsewang Thinles and Vice President Tsering Nurboo, Former Mandal President Phyang Sonam Dorje, State Kisan Morcha General Secretary, and

executive members from Saboo called on Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson to raise infrastructure concerns in Saboo village. The delegation urged the CEC to intervene for early resumption of the ongoing PMGSY road construction work in Saboo. They also

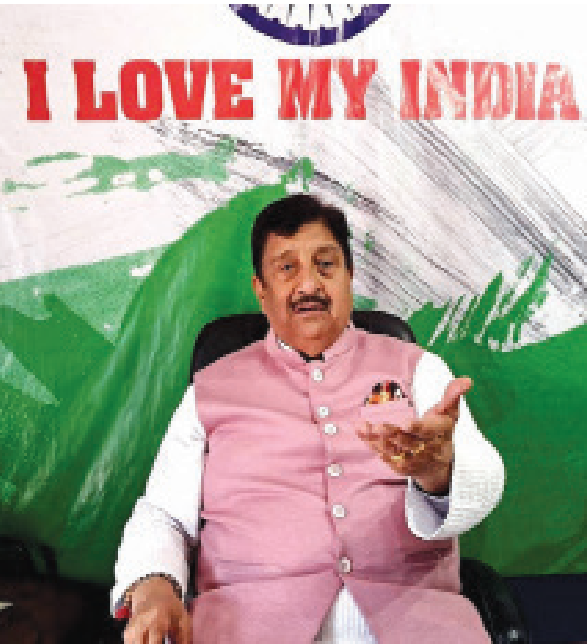
pressed for immediate steps to improve mobile network connectivity in the Saboo Phoo area by facilitating for early installation of mobile tower.

The CEC assured the delegation of full support and said necessary steps would be taken to address them.

# Dimple expresses shock at cloudburst in Seri Bagna village

Top News Report

JAMMU, Apr 20: Mission Statehood President Sunil Dimple expressed shock at the sudden cloudburst in Seri Bagna village on Sunday morning killing three people and unleashed flash floods and landslides that damaged homes, urging Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, and the J&K Chief Minister to inspect the affected areas immediately. He called on divisional and district officials to assess losses on the ground, expedite food and ration distribution, announce on the



spot compensation for families of the deceased and damaged vehicles,

and mobilize resources to repair homes, shops, roads, and hotels.

# We all stand together to help flood affected people: Thakur

Top News Report

RAMBAN, Apr 20: Devraj Thakur, National Joint Secretary of Akhil Bhartiya Rashtriya Shakshik Mahasangh (ABRSM), expressed deep concern over the alarming flood situation in Ramban district. In an urgent meeting with the district unit of ABRSM Ramban, Thakur, along with District President Vippan Sharma and General Secretary Dr. Ram Parshad Singh Manhas, appealed to volunteers and the public to actively support ongoing rescue operations across the district. Expressing solidarity



with the flood-affected communities, Thakur said, "We are always with the people affected by this disaster." He emphasized the Mahasangh's unwavering commitment to support relief efforts, assist

rescue teams, and protect the lives and property of those impacted.

Continuous heavy rainfall in the Ramban, Doda, and Kishtwar districts over the last two days has caused large-scale devastation, affecting thousands of residents. With forecasts predicting further rain, the risk of more destruction looms large.

Thakur noted that Ramban and Doda districts are the worst affected, with thousands in dire need of shelter, food, clean water, and essential supplies.

He highlighted the seriousness of the situation in Ramban, describing

it as "unprecedented," with hundreds of homes, shops, and vehicles submerged—leading to a massive humanitarian crisis.

He called upon the community, especially ABRSM activists, government officials, security forces, teachers, and volunteers, to intensify their relief efforts.

"The generous support of the people can make a significant difference in helping families rebuild their lives," Thakur said.

Visiting several flood-hit areas, Thakur confirmed the complete closure of the highway due to landslides, mud-

slides, and stone falls. He advised travellers to avoid non-essential movement until weather conditions improve.

The inclement weather has severely damaged roads, bridges, and communication lines, cutting off many remote villages.

Thakur also stressed the urgent need to restore communication and power in affected areas to aid rescue and relief operations.

He urged all stakeholders to come together during this crisis and provide immediate and sustained support to those in need.